



# WHAT *WE* DO

*HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK AND NEED OF  
ARENA COMMUNITY*



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A letter from  
**KRISTIAN THORPE**

*Senior Pastor and  
Founder of Arena Community*



*Dear Friend*

*Thank you for your interest in the work of Arena Community. This charity was formed out of Arena Church to carry out practical help and works to people in our local communities. People of every age, colour, demographic and background truly matter. With a particular focus on helping those who are living in dire poverty, loneliness, dysfunctionality and addiction.*

*We have a foundational truth that runs through Arena and the staff and this keeps us anchored to our mission: the statement is “EVERYBODY is SOMEBODY at Arena.” We place value on every person and will always seek to strengthen, support, hold, help and lift people up! Through a small staff team and a large volunteer team over the past decade we have accomplished this through work amongst*

children and young people, starting after schools clubs for children and families facing challenging times, through our foodbank that has helped 1000's of families and people with food. We have given away tents, sleeping bags to the homeless and also provided showering and laundry facilities. Provided rooms and support through our Supported Living Programme. We've taught life classes, how to cook on a budget and handle finances. We have worked with over 45 partners to serve singles, families, the elderly, the prisoner and the addict.

Our work is messy because there is much mess and dysfunction in our world. It's hard because the problems run deep and can be complex. We work in high pressure environments where the stakes are high, emotions are fragile and despair and sadness is ever present. But we work

with HOPE for a better day for children, families, single parents, ex-offenders, the lonely, isolated and elderly. ALL this is ONLY possible through people who shop in our charity shops and those who regularly give their time and money.

In the future we want to continue the great work which has been running since 2006 and with increasing needs puts financial restraints on the work we are able to do. We would humbly ask that you continue to help us in financial giving, volunteering and donating so we can continue to make a difference. Will you please continue to join with me in this quest to "Make a Difference" in the lives of our communities?

A thousand thank yous is not enough but here is one heartfelt thank you from me to you.

-Kristian Thorpe

# OUR LOCATIONS

The towns where we currently have a Community Outreach Centre:-

- Belper
- Ilkeston
- Mansfield
- Nottingham

# OUR VISION

To make the community liveable again. To bring life, peace and hope to broken homes, lives, families and streets.

# OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Everybody is somebody at Arena Community

# OUR OBJECTIVES

To help thousands of people and families each month through our Community Outreach Centres and beyond to continue the objectives of Arena Community:-

- Provision of food and practical resources.
- Provision of quality housing via supported accommodation.
- Training, education and rehabilitation.
- Provide affordable and quality goods, furniture and clothing
- Making communities liveable.







# **TESTIMONIALS**

“We support many families who are vulnerable, especially during the Covid-19 crisis, and I’d like to thank Arena for all their help. Arena has proved invaluable in helping clients with generous and thoughtful food parcels and have always given willingly.

Arena are always more than happy to help, friendly and willing and have supported many families to feed their children. We’ve had lots of lovely comments from those families who’ve been thrilled with the food parcels, especially the little extras for the children, such as sweet treats which have really uplifted them.

This has been such a valuable support service for local families during these difficult times. Thank you!”

***Di Shaw, Team Coordinator, Children’s Social Services,  
Derbyshire County Council’s Erewash Area Office***

“For those arriving with minimal possessions, we endeavour to meet these needs in-house; by providing clothing, food, furniture and the material needs. More skilled professional help required is met by connecting them to specialised services including those for addressing substance dependencies and mental health concerns. Our support network also offers a vital avenue for emotional support, reaffirming their worth and providing avenues for communication and connection. Although the job at times can be challenging, it can also be extremely rewarding to see someone who has hit rock bottom of life to slowly start to change and improve their life”

***Testimonial from one of the staff at Care for a Coffee  
- Mansfield Community***

## **TESTIMONIALS FROM A CARE FOR A COFFEE REFERRAL AGENCY**

“I support 2 people to Arena Church on Wednesday mornings. Being able to attend Arena Church with my 2 service users they have been able to build friendships and independence. Since supporting both service users they have started attending Arena Church by themselves and meeting with friends whilst there.

I have other service users that are interested in attending Arena Church which I will be supporting too soon”

**Megan, NHS OT- Mansfield Community**

“I have supported a number of people in the past. It is a fantastic safe place and the people who attend really would miss this social group when social groups are very hard to find. The Arena makes a huge contribution to the Mansfield community and also people further afield and long may that continue. The staff are amazing and accept everyone with open arms. I really hope they manage to get the funding because they really deserve to for the incredible work they do”

**Angie, Notts C.C. PIW worker**

“I’ve been coming to Arena for 18 months. I like to play pool with my friends. Having Care for a Coffee gives me something to come out of the house for and a chance to meet others. The staff are friendly and helpful, and the free refreshments are good too.”

**Nadean, Care for a Coffee service user**

“I have used your service for a number of years now. To help and support people of all ages who I work with this is a vital service I use and many others to help get people with mental health and substance issues to be more engaging into the local community who I work with to build their confidence and self-esteem back. I have had nothing but amazing feedback from people who did not even know about this place until I started to work with them..From their comments about the happy pleasant staff the hot drink and toast as well as the great cakes they give out. They enjoy playing pool and being able to sit down and have a chat over a hot drink in a calm, safe and relaxed environment.

Thanks for a great and vital service in Mansfield if only this could run more days a week and longer times to help people in the local community as I know me and others in the team would use this.

Thanks Again”

**David, Notts CC PIW worker**

“Volunteering for Arena Community enables me to serve a charity and community that I am passionate about. I enjoy meeting local people and have the privilege of listening, sharing, encouraging and hopefully making a difference in someone’s day.”

**Sue Buckley, Arena Hope Volunteer**

“2-2.5 years ago, I fell on hard times and lost my job. Since then, I’ve been using Arena Foodbank every so often, and they have been amazing. Their support has been crucial during tough times. I would be lost without them when I’m short. Thank you for all the help.”

**Robert Stevenson, Foodbank service user**

“Over the past couple of years, I’ve used the Arena Food Bank many times, which has helped me when most desperate. Always happy to help, the volunteers serve with a smile. Without this support, I would have struggled more with depression and mental health issues. I would like to say a big thank you.”

**Lee Cunningham, Foodbank service user**

“I’ve been coming to the Food Club for a year now. Living on my own for quite a while, the Food Club helps me manage my money. The food I get can feed me nearly all week. There’s a really good choice that changes every week, and it’s excellent value for money.”

**Food Club service user**

“My first impressions are that this [Food Club] is a really unique venue with brilliant facilities, run very efficiently by the friendly team. We have been made very welcome today, and the refreshments have been great.”

**Andy, professional**

“Stay and Play has been an opportunity for me as a mum to have the space to get to know other parents and children and to watch friendships grow as children played. We particularly enjoyed story time and group activity, lovely to see smiles and laughter from everyone”.

**Stay and Play service user**

“Before I moved into Arena Shared Housing, I was homeless for 10 years. I had stayed in other shelters and properties, but none of them worked out. Since moving into Arena, I have been able to commit to a more stable life.

I’ve had help with important appointments, which I wouldn’t have managed on my own. The ongoing support from different workers who genuinely cared and wanted to help me has been invaluable. I’ve recently joined various study and craft groups and started volunteering by painting furniture at The Project. Living with Arena has changed my life, and I can see the difference in myself.”

**Neil Weston, Supported Living service user**

Buddies is truly a Godsend to seniors in the local community. I have been a widower for 12 years and my loneliness worsened when Covid came along. When the Covid restrictions were lifted, I decided that I needed to get out and find a social group to attend and hopefully meet new friends. This was over 2 years ago when I found the Buddies group in the Arena Church and I have attended every week since then.

Many of those attending would be sitting alone and miserable at home, like I was, if they did not get the opportunity that Buddies offer to get out and meet old and new friends for a laugh and a chat every week. We all appreciate the lovely ladies who not only look after us every week with tea and biscuits but also arrange some special seniors events during the year where a lunch or afternoon tea are provided.

It’s a BIG THANK YOU to Arena and staff for providing us with the Buddies group.

**George Dixon, Buddies attendee**

Six years ago I saw a leaflet advertising a drop in coffee morning at (Buddies) Arena Church. A little anxious, I popped my head in and was greeted by “Hello, have you come to join us?” It was a lovely lady named Sue from the Arena Church. Buddies has given me massive support in my darkest days after losing my daughter in 2023 to cancer and more recently the passing of my sister.

During the Covid pandemic, Buddies really was a lifesaver for so many already experiencing loneliness and isolation. We were able to meet as a support group. I facilitate a peer support group for local people through Rethink Mental Health. The majority of the members are elderly who have been referred via GPs or mental health services. I am pleased to say that many of this group now attend Buddies and to quote one 83 year old gentleman “I’ve got my mojo back!”

Buddies has made a huge impact on people’s wellbeing, not only receiving the support from Christine and the wonderful team but also people giving back to the community and each other by fundraising for the charities and food bank.

The feedback I get from everyone is they feel motivated to come to Buddies where they feel safe and able to share their feelings and worries.

On a lighter note, the senior events and social gatherings are so much fun and we are all truly spoiled.

Long may Buddies continue!

**Sandra Kimbley, Buddies attendee**





# STORIES

Here are just a few stories of the many we could share of individuals and families who have been impacted by the work of Arena Community:-

## A YOUNG MAN

The young man had received a short term custodial sentence. He was addicted to drink and drugs. He himself had been raised in a home suffering from addiction issues amongst other long term problems.

Arena met with his mother at his property to assess the need. There was no gas or electricity being provided to this property because of debt.

There was no bath, only a shower which was broken even if there had been any electricity to turn it on. There was insufficient furniture to meet his basic needs. The only clothes he had were the ones he had gone to prison wearing.

Arena worked with the mother to completely redecorate the property. We provided furniture, window coverings, floor coverings and many more things down to the smallest detail of picture frames (family provided pictures) and plants to give it that homely feel.

The electricity and gas was reconnected and the shower fixed. We hung clothes in his wardrobe and paid for new shoes upon his release.

We paid for the young man to attend a course to enable him to secure full time employment.

This young man went from a lifetime of drug addiction and criminal offences to full time employment and holidays abroad with his new partner.

He ALWAYS had dreams and hopes for his future but he never saw them as a possibility

With some support today he is living within some of those dreams.

## A MOTHER OF THREE

The second story involves a single mother of 3 children.

This mother was suffering from depression and anxiety due to many different issues within her life and home. She lived a very isolated life that could mean days would pass without any conversation with another adult.

The team spoke with the lady at her home and it became obvious she had become overwhelmed with both the garden and the house. Because of her anxiety she was unable to reach decisions on which items to keep and which items to throw away or donate so the house had become quite chaotic with “stuff” making it extremely hard for her to keep it clean and tidy.

The garden was another area that needed work to enable the children to play outside.

The team first attended to the garden. We levelled it, we put bark down, we painted the fence and we provided outside toys for the children to play with.

The mother was so pleased she herself purchased out of the little spare money she had garden ornaments and plants. The children loved the space. It was hard work but extremely rewarding.

Next was the house.

Alongside the mother the team worked on every room to declutter and repaint and reorganise. The children also helped. We provided new floor covering in one room. We provided items of furniture where required.

This is what the mother said in her own words after the work was completed;

“By the end I could see how much I hoarded stuff. It was overwhelming at first but then the result in the end was so good I was overly pleased.

I can now keep on top of my home to make it nice for me and my children. My children have a new routine and it's great to see them taking their pots to the sink (and sometimes even washing them). It has made my mental health a lot better as having a messy home and garden wasn't good for me or my children.

If it wasn't for the team at Arena I couldn't have achieved this by myself and would still be in the same position. I cannot thank Arena enough.”

## A SINGLE MOTHER

At the Christmas season toys or gifts are collected, any that are remaining are stored to use throughout the year for families that have a child's birthday and cannot afford to purchase them a present.

One example of this was a mother who could not access her money from her bank account in sufficient time to provide her 4 year old with a birthday present. This could be resolved given time but the mother had no other money to access.

We provided the mother with vouchers to purchase a few presents for her child and vouchers to shop at a local supermarket to enable her to provide a birthday cake and small tea party.

As the mother could not access her money she could not provide electricity or gas on her top-up meters so we at Arena Community provided sufficient top-up on both to last until her bank problem could be resolved.



# **CURRENT STATISTICS**

## FOODBANK

- Inception in 2011 to date - started with a pallet at the front of our church services and people bringing their food donation
- Now need to support the need by donations of £500 per month to purchase food
- 2023 - 813 parcels given out, 398 people/including 169 families on our database,
- Since start of 2024 - 469 parcels given out, 183 people added to database

## FOOD CLUB

- January to April 2024 - 236 food parcels have been sold to those in financial need,
- 20 people or families are regular attendees. The clients and the need for food is increasing.
- 70% of our regulars are single males.
- NHS staff and Notts CC support workers will introduce their clients to the Food Club.
- Current costs are £350 per month deficit

## CHRISTMAS 2023

- Giveaway 1350 selection boxes
- 170 hampers
- Christmas Toy giveaway every year helping around 90 families

## SUPPORTED LIVING ACCOMODATION

- We rent 4 houses and 1 flat
- Currently housing 10 tenants

## ARENA SENIORS

- Providing a befriending service - regular calls, follow up, help with appointments where necessary
- Buddies with 50 regular weekly attendees
- Events around 100 regular attendees providing food, a warm welcoming environment, games and giveaways.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM - *BELPER*

- Helping children who are struggling to purchase their school supplies

Arena Church Belper created the Olivia fund to help parents who could not afford shoes or uniforms for their children. It has proved to be valuable to help struggling families and their children to know they are not forgotten but special and loved.







**ARENA  
COMMUNITY  
DEPARTMENTS**

Arena Community is the charity arm of Arena Church and it has actively served the community for nearly two decades. It exists to reach and help the needs within its communities. We work across the East Midlands but predominantly in Belper, Ilkeston, Mansfield and Nottingham where we have physical bases. Our central office and team work from Ilkeston.

Arena Community is made up of many departments; each department meeting a specific need, some public facing, others are more private in nature but as powerful in impact. This document will list and give a brief explanation of each department.

Arena Community has dozens of volunteers, a skeleton staff and costs of £7,000 per week to run the charity.



**ARENA COMMUNITY**  
*IN ILKESTON*

## FOODBANK

Located at The Project on Bath Street, Ilkeston, Arena Community Foodbank was established to address the needs in Cotmanhay and Ilkeston, where many individuals and families struggle to afford basic necessities.

Initially operating from The Arena on Rutland Street and supported by Arena Church donations, the foodbank has grown from a small operation to a full warehouse.

Arena foodbank has existed for many years and has been and continues to be in high demand by people in need in our community. These range from people on benefits to workers on low income, from single people to families with children. There are many outside organisations/agencies who refer to our foodbank including, but not limited to social services, local schools, GP surgeries, probation services, local police service, and other organisations that work directly with families with children.

We give out approx 50 food packs per week along with toiletries, nappies and baby milk (where required and available).

We collect weekly donations from local bakeries and give out this produce alongside the food pack.

### ***Operating Hours***

- Open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

### ***Services Provided***

- Food parcels with a 3-day provision through a means-tested interview.
- Provision of homeless packs
- Help with furniture

### ***Impact (2011-2023)***

- Distributed over 20,000 food parcels, with 47% going to families of three or more.
- Serve an average of 85 meals weekly, increasing to over 100 during Christmas.
- Collaborates with local housing charities, social services, schools to assist tenants in urgent need.

## **FURNITURE BANK/WAREHOUSE**

We employ two people who deliver and collect furniture through donations. This furniture is taken to our warehouse where it is stored and sorted. Although most of the furniture is distributed through our two shops to generate income for Arena Community and to give access to affordable furniture, some of the furniture is set aside in a furniture bank to meet the needs of people who cannot purchase that item no matter how cheap the cost.

This furniture bank will also be accessed for any home refurbishment programme we at Arena undertake.

## **FURNITURE RESTORATION**

All of our donated furniture is restored, reinvented or redesigned. It is distributed for sale through our two shops or sold online.

We also undertake commissions from the general public, whereby a piece of their own furniture is given to our restoration team and is redesigned aesthetically, ie painted to the customer's specification.

## HOME AND GARDEN RENOVATIONS

We have many opportunities through our various services to connect with members of our communities and establish if this person/family is in need of support within our garden/ home programme. The connection may be made through a conversation with a member of the team in the foodbank or even one of our church services. If a team member feels that they may benefit from Arena's help a member of the team will visit the person/family and establish in what ways if any we can help them live in a more helpful environment within the home.

Although our team are not qualified painters, decorators or landscape gardeners, we do have a few people on the team who can mow a lawn, paint a wall, clear out cupboards and rooms and help a person/family create a better living environment.

## ARENA SENIORS

### ***Buddies***

Buddies is our weekly friendship group which meets every Wednesday morning. There are 65 people on our register. We enjoy refreshments and a good natter plus delicious cakes to celebrate birthdays!

Occasionally we invite outside agencies to come and give help and advice to our seniors. A large proportion of our group live on their own and so this, and other meeting places, are essential for their wellbeing. People who initially came on their own have made some good friends and they meet up outside of Buddies. Most of the people who come would say that Buddies is a highlight of their week, they feel loved, cared for and that they belong to a very special friendship group.

### ***Seniors Events***

Twice a year we hold our Seniors Lunches, one in summer and then our Christmas Party in December. We host around 100 people and

enjoy food, fun and friendship. We enjoy various forms of entertainment including sing-a-longs, dancing, quizzes and games... our Christmas party always concludes with our own lively rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas!

## ***Home Visits***

We are in the very early stages of developing a team who visit seniors in their homes (most of whom are housebound). Unfortunately there is a growing epidemic of loneliness, particularly among seniors and we are hoping to grow our team to help address this need in our local area.

# **SUPPORTED LIVING ACCOMODATION/ HOMELESSNESS**

## ***Who We Are***

Arena Community began a supported housing program in late 2014 to assist vulnerable individuals in our community. Many of our clients arrive at the foodbank homeless or seeking a fresh start but unsure where to begin. We provide 5 shared supported houses, each with 2-3 bedrooms, and one 'move-on' flat, which accommodate either male or females.

A person who needs support in this area has the most obvious priority of first needing help to secure safe accommodation whether that is short term or long term.

## ***What Support Do We Provide?***

After completing the assessment process and being offered a room, we arrange a move-in day for the individual. We assist with setting up housing benefits and provide essentials such as bedding, toiletries, and food parcels. In the initial weeks, support workers meet with the

tenant to create a personalized support plan. This plan may include:

- Applying for benefits
- Registering with a local GP
- Attending appointments
- Developing skills or interests

Our tenants receive 10 food parcels a year and ‘well-being’ money, which can be used for hobbies, beauty treatments, or clothing purchases.

### ***Our Criteria***

We accept referrals for single individuals who are classed as low-medium risk. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate individuals with complex mental health issues or provide wheelchair-accessible housing.

If, for whatever reason, Arena is unable to accommodate that person the team will assist in trying to secure accommodation elsewhere. We will then meet any immediate needs such as food and clothing.

Once accommodation is secured, whether with Arena or alternate providers, the team will continue to help in any way possible that assists the person to build a stable foundation which will provide a more secure future.

### ***How To Refer***

To refer an individual, please contact us at 0115 944 1462 or email [info@arenacommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@arenacommunity.co.uk).

## **YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN**

Our Stay and Play parent and toddler group has been a welcoming space for the past 18 months, running twice a month and attracting



around six mums who bring their children and babies. During each session, the adults enjoy coffee, tea and meaningful conversation while the children play with the toys provided and engage with one another. We also include a story time and sing songs together, creating a joyful and nurturing environment. One mum shared her experience with the group. “Stay and Play has been an opportunity for me as a mum to have the space to get to know other parents and children as well as watching friendships grow as children played. We particularly enjoyed story time and group activity, lovely to see smiles and laughter from everyone”. Led by our dedicated Ilkeston Children’s Pastor, this group has become a staple part of our monthly calendar.

Arena Students is our youth programme based currently in the Ilkeston and Mansfield community. At Arena, we believe that our young people are world-changers, and our goal is to empower them to make a positive impact on both their lives and the wider community.

We achieve this by providing a safe, fun and inclusive space where students can participate in a variety of activities—from games that encourage teamwork and leadership, to meaningful discussions that build confidence and promote personal growth. Our team is dedicated to ensuring every young person feels valued and supported, giving them the tools they need to thrive both inside and outside of the programme.

Through this approach, Arena Students not only enriches the lives of its members but also fosters a culture of care and responsibility that benefits the local and wider community.

# RETAIL SERVICES IN ILKESTON

## ARENA HOPE CHARITY SHOP

### **Location:**

Market Place, Ilkeston, DE7 5QA

### **Opening Hours:**

Tuesday – Saturday: 9:00am – 3.30pm

### **About Us:**

Established in 2009, Arena Hope Charity Shop is located in the heart of Ilkeston, offering a wide range of quality new and used items at great prices in a warm, friendly environment.

### **What We Offer:**

- Products: Clothing, jewellery, books, bric-a-brac, toys, homewares and more.
- Aim: To provide clean, quality second-hand goods at reasonable prices.

### **Support Us:**

- Donations: We rely on the generosity of others for our stock. Donations can be dropped off behind the shop.

### **Contact Us:**

- Phone: 0115 932 3653

Visit Arena Hope to find great bargains and support a worthy cause!

# THE PROJECT

## **Location:**

Bath Street, Ilkeston, DE7 8FE

## **Opening Hours:**

Tuesday – Saturday: 9:30am – 2:30pm

## **About Us:**

Arena Community took on the lease for the former Woolworth's building on Bath Street in late 2014. After refurbishment funded by grants, The Project opened its doors in January 2017.

## **What We Offer:**

- Retail Area: Features restored and upcycled furniture, 'pre-loved' clothing and soft furnishings.
- Coffee Shop: Serves delicious cakes, snacks, and drinks at affordable prices.

## **Future Plans:**

We are seeking funding to refurbish the first floor, which will be converted into a workshop and classrooms. This space will provide training, education, and employment opportunities in furniture restoration and renovation.

## **Our Aim:**

To connect and serve the community, fostering strong bonds while offering training and employment opportunities.

## **Contact Us:**

- Phone: 0115 944 1462
- Website: [www.theprojectilkeston.co.uk](http://www.theprojectilkeston.co.uk)

Visit us to explore our offerings and support our mission!



**ARENA COMMUNITY**  
*IN MANSFIELD*

## CARE FOR A COFFEE

Care for a Coffee operates twice a week serving the needs of over a 100 people each week who are lonely, homeless and vulnerable in Mansfield. In recent times we have been asked to take some ex-offenders also. In our coffee lounge we serve hot and cold drinks and light refreshments. There is also easy access for wheelchairs, prams and mobility scooters. We have pool tables, table tennis, darts and various weekly focuses such as craft workshops, sports, food tasting and other special events.

### **Location:**

66 Leeming Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 1NG

### **Operating Hours**

- Tuesdays: 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Wednesdays: 10:00am – 12:00pm

### **About Us:**

It's a calm and positive environment and is a great opportunity to meet new people and spend time doing something different during your week.

Our facility is easily accessible for wheelchairs, prams, and mobility scooters.

### **Our Services:**

- Facilities: Pool tables and table tennis free of charge

## FOOD CLUB

In recent months 236 food parcels have been sold to those in financial need; 20 people or families regular attendees. The clients and the

need for food is increasing.

70% of our regulars are single males. NHS staff and Notts CC support workers will introduce their clients to the food club.

### ***Location:***

66 Leeming Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 1NG

### ***Operating Hours***

- Tuesdays: 10:30am – 12:00pm

### ***About Us:***

Launched in 2021 at our Mansfield Campus, the Food Club was established to address the evident needs within our community of food insecurity. Thanks to grants and donations, we've equipped a new kitchen and storage space, enabling both the Food Club and Care for a Coffee to thrive. We currently have 80 on our membership. The Arena Mansfield Food Club and Community Shop provides essential food and other items to those in need at extremely discounted prices. We welcome everyone from our community.

## **ARENA SENIORS**

We host a seniors friendship afternoon as part of Arena Church's Serve Day activities. We enjoy food and friendship... and a game of pool! Throughout the year we hold services for our seniors. These include Easter, Harvest Festival and our Carol Service. We include traditional hymns, prayers, readings and an inspiring word. Our services are followed by a complimentary tea. Seniors from our community enjoy meeting together and we have an average attendance of 25.



**ARENA COMMUNITY**  
*IN NOTTINGHAM*

## SHOWER HOUR

### ***About Us:***

Arena Community Nottingham is committed to supporting and uplifting our local community through various initiatives and services. One of our key programmes is Shower Hour, designed to provide dignity and support to the homeless population in Nottingham.

### ***What is Shower Hour?***

Shower Hour is a weekly service offering essential amenities to those in need. This programme provides access to shower and laundry facilities, as well as light refreshments, ensuring our homeless neighbours have a chance to refresh and rejuvenate in a safe and welcoming environment.

### ***Details:***

- Location: Arena Church Nottingham, High Cross Street, Nottingham, NG1 3AX
- Services Offered: Shower facilities, laundry services, light refreshments





**ARENA COMMUNITY**  
*IN ALL LOCATIONS*

## **CLOTHING BANK**

We accept donations of clothing from our community which are then sorted and stored within the clothing department. This is then distributed to our two shops for sale in order to generate income. A contingency is set aside in a clothing bank to meet the needs of anyone that cannot afford to purchase these items for themselves or their children at any cost.

## **DEATH AND RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWNS**

These are two areas that can have the same emotional impact on a person who has suffered a death or relationship breakdown. The emotional impact is often initially so devastating a person cannot fully process what has happened whilst in some cases they are still responsible for keeping things going such as looking after children, holding down a job etc

People who receive support in this area receive it in various ways according to their individual needs. In many cases, in the early days, they often just need a non judgmental person to listen. They may require practical help such as in the case of a death they may need a house clearance or help sorting out the deceased person's property/ belongings.

They may need assistance dealing with the deceased unresolved debts or signposting elsewhere for further help. This may be a GP appointment that a member of the team will also attend if support is needed.

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

This is one of the more private departments/services that works behind the scenes. This service covers quite a wide range of support to people within the community whether it be single people struggling, couples or families. This is not restricted to people on low income/benefits but supports people in the working sector also.

Here is a list of some of the areas that people have received support in.

- Court cases/trials
- Deaths
- Relationship breakdown
- Debts
- Homelessness
- Home/garden

Like most support needs it may be more complex or involved than it initially appears, for example supporting in a court case does not simply mean attending court on the day of trial, it can involve conversations with their legal team to ascertain what we can do to help and what brought the person to this point in life. If it was an addiction then we will work with the person to deal with the root cause. We will signpost/refer them to an organisation that specialises in helping people get free and stay free from addiction. We support them with any courses that may assist them.

Mental/emotional distress is a common symptom a person can suffer as a consequence of an impending court case and any consequences that will affect their family members also. For complex needs we signpost to other services and support; we work with around 45 agencies.

## SEASONAL CAMPAIGNS

### ***Christmas Giveaway:***

#### **Christmas Appeal Costs = £10,000-£15,000**

- Dinner packs: Organising Christmas meals for underprivileged families referred by schools and social services.
- Hampers: Distributing food hampers and parcels for families and the elderly, prepared by our dedicated volunteers.
- Toys/Gifts: Partnering with local schools and Social Services to deliver quality gifts to vulnerable children, bringing joy to those who might otherwise receive very little.

### ***Easter Giveaway:***

- Easter Eggs: Sharing Easter joy by giving an Easter egg to every child in participating local schools.

Through these projects, we strive to make a positive impact and bring happiness to our community.

## SERVE DAYS

Serve Day is an amazing opportunity to show love and care to our communities. On this day, we as Arena will go out into our communities and give any help where needed. Many projects practically serve our communities from litter picking, goodie giveaways to our local businesses, police and fire rescue services to say thank you for all they do. Dressed in red t-shirts, this community of volunteers work through our locations restoring gardens in homes and schools, free car wash, visiting local seniors homes, helping with individual special projects and much more.

## **TOY BANK**

The toy department accepts and fund raises for donations of new toys/vouchers.

The team at Arena Community run a toy appeal in the weeks leading up to Christmas to enable us to meet the needs of children within the community who otherwise would receive very few or no toys at Christmas.

Organisations/agencies such as local schools, Social Services and others contact us with a list of children in need at Christmas time and we endeavour to meet the needs of ALL the children on the various lists. The age range is from newborn to 17 years.

Any toys or gifts that are remaining are stored to use throughout the year for families that have a child's birthday and cannot afford to purchase them a present.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS**

- School holidays for children in our Ilkeston and Mansfield Locations
- Day trips for children
- Restart an after schools club in Ilkeston
- Care for a Coffee in Ilkeston and Nottingham
- Supported living accommodation in Mansfield





**GIVING TO  
ARENA  
COMMUNITY**

There are several ways to help –  
you can give financially any of the following ways:

### **CONTACTLESS GIVING**



Scan the QR code to make  
a payment; credit/debit  
cards, Google pay and  
Apple Pay included

### **STANDING ORDER**

NatWest Bank  
Ilkeston, DE7 8HF  
Sort code 60-11-37  
Account no 23049669

### **PAYPAL**

[paypal.me/arenacommunity](https://paypal.me/arenacommunity)  
PayPal will incur a small fee  
for Arena Community.

### **CHEQUES**

Cheques made payable to  
Arena Community can be posted to:  
1 Rutland Street, Ilkeston,  
Derbyshire, DE7 8DG.



## **GIFT AID**

If you are a UK taxpayer don't forget your giving could be increased through Gift Aid meaning Arena Community will get even more support!

For every £1.00 you donate Arena Church receives 25p through gift aid. Simply follow on this link to complete the Gift Aid Form and your giving will make an even larger impact.

[www.arenachurch.co.uk/communitygiftaid](http://www.arenachurch.co.uk/communitygiftaid)

All the information above is also available on our Community Website page:- [www.arenacommunity.co.uk/giving](http://www.arenacommunity.co.uk/giving)

If you need any further help please email [info@arenacommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@arenacommunity.co.uk)

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Arena Community. Through your generous gifts and donations you are helping Arena Community to impact thousands of lives each year.

We believe at Arena Community that "he who sows generously also reaps generously." Believing for great success in your life and business.



ARENACOMMUNITY

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