



Dear

## **2020 HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL**

The last few months have been a challenging time for us all, not least for those without a place to call home.

At Spires, we have seen people in really desperate situations; women suffering domestic violence, families told to leave their accommodation because jobs have been lost and they can't afford the full rent and, as always, those who live on the streets for whom Spires is a lifeline. This Harvest we are asking our supporters to help feed local people in crisis, made worse than ever, by Covid-19.

Throughout the Covid Crisis we have remained open, albeit, with a reduced service. Our "Social" groups had to stop, but we continued to offer a breakfast to rough sleepers every weekday morning and established ourselves as a hub for the local Streetlink Team. Together, we got 50 people off the streets and into hotel/ B&B accommodation. Many were without recourse to public funds and Spires provided food parcels to keep them going during Lockdown when they were unable to work.

We maintained contact with many of the vulnerable women who use our services. We provided emotion support to those who were isolated and lonely and practical support, by way of regular food parcels, for those at the highest risk from a Covid infection. We set up a Freephone number (0808 164 5246) to make it easier for those in need to make contact and arranged socially distance assessment and key work meetings. I am proud of the work the team have done over the last few months; giving up and furloughing staff was not an option we felt able to consider.

We don't know what the next few months will bring, but the last 30 years has shown us that, when things get tough, it is the most vulnerable in our community that suffer the most. We have no doubt that Spires' services will be in high demand in the months ahead. We expect unemployment and eviction rates to rise and need to prepare for those who turn to us in need.

Meeting people's most basic need for food is essential but Spires can do so much more. Our staff work with individuals on a one-to-one basis, complete a full assessment of their needs and agree a plan that gives them the opportunity to take back control of their lives and regain their security.

If you would like to collect for Spires, I have enclosed a list of the most useful items as a guide. It would be really appreciated if you could let us know when you will be delivering your items.

## **A LIFELINE FOR HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

Registered address: The Spires Centre, 8 Tooting Bec Gardens, London SW16 1RB  
020 8696 0943 | [info@spires.org.uk](mailto:info@spires.org.uk) | [www.spires.org.uk](http://www.spires.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1076888 and company limited by guarantee no. 3785409 registered in England and Wales.  
Patrons: Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, Anglican Bishop of Southwark and Chuka Umunna MP



If you would rather make a financial contribution, or would like to help in any other way, do get in touch.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this appeal, and we hope to hear from you in coming months.

Yours sincerely

**Nigel P Carpenter**  
**Chief Executive**

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