

## News Release

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December 9, 2013

### **ROYAL MAIL DELIVERS GOODWILL THIS CHRISTMAS WITH CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

- Royal Mail Group has donated £50,000 to three charities to support communities across the UK
- The money will assist the charities' work in supporting vulnerable people, such as the homeless, the elderly and seriously ill children
- The charities were selected as they are based at the heart of communities and provide a network of support and services to people in need in urban and rural locations
- The donation forms part of Royal Mail's support of communities across the UK. In 2012-13, Royal Mail contributed £9.5 million directly to charities, good causes and schemes for disadvantaged groups

Royal Mail Group has donated £50,000 to three charities this Christmas to support their valuable work over the festive period.

The company has made the donation to the charities as they are based at the heart of communities and provide a network of support and services to people in need across the UK.

The funds will assist the charities' work in supporting seriously ill children, the elderly, and people affected by food poverty in villages, towns and cities nationwide.

#### **Our charitable donations:**

##### **Together for Short Lives**

Royal Mail Group has donated £25,000 to Together for Short Lives, the leading charity for the UK's 49 children's hospices. The hospices care for children who have life-limiting or life threatening conditions.

The donation will give families the chance to celebrate Christmas together, without additional stress or worry. With the support of their local children's hospice, families can enjoy Christmas lunch together and make precious memories.

##### **Abbeyfield Society**

The Abbeyfield Society has received a donation of £10,000 to help support elderly people over the festive break.



The donation will support the charity's Coping at Christmas campaign, which will see 580 supported sheltered houses and care homes open their doors to older people who otherwise be alone over the festive break.

From 24<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January, the homes will be offering a festive lunch or dinner, or even an overnight stay to help combat the isolation some people may feel over the Christmas period

**FareShare**

A donation of £15,000 has been made to FareShare, which fights hunger and food waste in the UK.

FareShare has 17 depots across the UK and supplies food to more than 1,000 local charities. The funding will support the charity's work in transporting surplus nutritious food to a network of charities who provide not only a meal but invaluable support to vulnerable groups, including the homeless, the elderly, and children.

The donation will help FareShare transport 285 tonnes of food to local charities, enough for 680,000 meals nationwide.

**Lily Heineman, Head of Corporate Responsibility and Community Investment for Royal Mail Group said:**

"We're really pleased to be supporting these three charities this Christmas. These charities are based at the heart of communities and support vulnerable people across the UK. Their work is making a real difference to people's lives and we hope our donation will help those in need have an enjoyable Christmas.

"The donation is part of Royal Mail's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities we serve. In 2012-13, we contributed £9.5 million directly to charities, good causes and schemes for disadvantaged groups."

**Steve Ballantyne, Director of Fundraising at Together for Short Lives added:**

"We are delighted to receive such a kind donation from Royal Mail. The funding will help families caring for a seriously ill child the chance to enjoy the festive celebrations and spend time together as a family".

**Lindsay Boswell, FareShare, CEO commented:**

"Thanks to Royal Mail's generous donation, we will be able to transport surplus food that would otherwise go to waste to hundreds of local charities across the country, like luncheon clubs for the elderly, breakfast clubs for children and day centres for the homeless, just in time for Christmas.

**ABBNEYFIELD QUOTE:**

**Ends**

**About Royal Mail Group:**

- In 2012-13, Royal Mail contributed £9.5 million directly to charities, good causes and schemes for disadvantaged groups.
- Royal Mail has also supported £3.2 million of colleague fundraising for charities and good causes across the UK. And, in July 2012, we further increased our support for colleague fundraising by introducing a penny for penny matched giving scheme for our new Charity of the Year programme.

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