

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WINTER PANTRY APPEAL



Mon 15 April 2013

CAPTION: John Kent and Rob Jamieson from St Peter's Weston Creek collecting food for Anglicare.

With cold winter temperatures fast approaching and cost of living soaring, many Canberrans are struggling to afford food. In response, the annual Anglicare Winter Pantry Appeal will be up and running from May 13 with all items collected given to those in need.

Although the Canberra community was very generous last winter, most of the food is now gone.

“The levels have dropped to worryingly low; we want to encourage everyone to buy a little more with their groceries and donate to support a family in hardship” says Sarah Hubert, Project Officer at Anglicare.

Volunteers from local parishes, such as John Kent and Rob Jamieson from St Peter's Weston Creek (pictured), are at the heart of the appeal and are essential to its success. Currently Anglicare has had a great response from volunteers to ‘man’ the Winter Pantry stalls in shopping centres across Canberra but more are still needed. Shifts are still available in Woden, Gungahlin and in particular Westfield Belconnen.

Volunteers are required to take a two hour shift at a stall and let people know why they are there, offer them a ‘shopping list’ of useful food and hygiene goods to buy and then accept the donations.

"A great experience" say volunteers

Volunteering is a rewarding experience and many people have volunteered for the appeal year after year.

As one previous volunteer mentioned: “Volunteering is a great experience, and it feels good to give out stickers to the children. In the end there is a feeling of accomplishment and success.”

“You feel useful, you make a difference, you meet interesting people, you meet old friends, your face aches from smiling, your heart breaks from sad stories, you learn to overcome butterflies, you get to explain about the appeal to small children and then thank them when

they, very seriously, bring you something that they have helped their parent to buy for the appeal, it's a great way to pass a few hours with a friend, it makes you feel good for the rest of the day".

If you would like to volunteer on a food stall or would simply like to find out more information, please call Sarah on 6245 7122 or email via Sarah.Hubert@anglicare.com.au.