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Press Release: Response to Hope COVID-19 - Food Partnership 20th April 2020

Cre8 Macclesfield, the award-winning young-people's and community charity based on the Moss Rose Estate, has been running a membership- based grocery redistributing surplus food since May 2019 funded by the National Lottery. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, grants from Cheshire Community Foundation and Macclesfield Town Council and the support of Cheshire East Council and Healthbox are making it possible to enhance this surplus food offering with other essential items for a wider range of local people in need.

Cre8 Macclesfield, supported by Hope in NE Cheshire, the local Churches working together, is now co-ordinating the Hope COVID-19 Food Partnership based at St Barnabas' Church. This is bringing together the Foodbanks and other providers of surplus food in the area including The Core Community Hub (Upton Priory), The Hope Centre, Silk-life Food Bank, Streetwise, Hope Central and FareShare Greater Manchester.

Through the generous donations of TK Maxx, Aldi, FareShare Greater Manchester, Weston Park Care Home and Marks and Spencer as many as 500 Easter Eggs were shared throughout the area over the Easter weekend; the volunteers were inundated with thanks and smiling faces! The Hope COVID-19 Food Partnership is also grateful to the many other retailers including the Co-operatives, Sainsburys, Tesco and Waitrose for their generous support and commitment. Cre8 is thankful for all our funders, to mention a few, Oliver Valves, Love Music Trust, Youth Music, and The Rank Foundation who are all continuing to fund our projects, we are able to deliver in new and innovative ways using on-line platforms, and continue to support our local community.

Key to Cre8's operations is Betty the Boxer, a refrigerated vehicle which makes it possible each week to collect surplus food in pallet-loads from FareShare in Greater Manchester. This is sorted for delivery during the following week. FareShare Greater Manchester is able to supply a greater range of food than can be sourced locally, including much-needed chilled and frozen food.

Ameera Fletcher, the Director of Cre8 Macclesfield told us, 'During this difficult time, we are so grateful to be able to come together as individual charities throughout the Macclesfield area to provide a unified service for the benefit of those in need in our communities through the Hope COVID-19 Food Partnership, chaired by Pip Mossdrop, Co-ordinator of Hope in NE Cheshire. Sharing information and resources we are organising the food deliveries to make the most of the surplus food to people who would otherwise be struggling.'

Attachments: Poem and photos

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