



Supporting people experiencing poverty, homelessness and disadvantage across Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

Thank you schools and colleges!

In the past twelve months, Diocese of Salford schools and colleges have raised money to support thousands of local people in crisis.

Together, you've helped children and young people with empty tummies, families that can't pay their bills, and all of those who have nowhere safe and secure to call home.

The total you have raised is enough to provide:

 **1,585** energy saving measures to help reduce household bills.

 **77,672** showers so that the most vulnerable people in our communities can start their day clean, fresh and feeling confident just like we do.

 **353** weekly food shops. Feeding your family is tough enough when you have no money, but even worse if you're caught up in a crisis such as chronic illness, bereavement or fear of eviction.

 **37** sponsored rooms providing safe, supported accommodation for a year, preventing around 150 people from being homeless.

...plus thousands of practical items for us to give out to people who need them.

Thank you so much.



"The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel."

Pope Leo for the World Day of the Poor 2025

Caritas - putting love into action - is at the heart of our call to love God and our neighbour.

When we offer our love through practical and financial support, we bring to life the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

The support people in your school and wider community give to Caritas Salford, your diocesan charity, really does transform the lives of families, children and individuals locally at a time they need it most.

Caritas ambassadors

If you have Caritas ambassadors in your school we always love to hear what you've been up to.

Why not get in touch with any news or to fill us in on any activities you're undertaking? We'd also love to hear from you if you'd be happy to work with us on news stories or blogs from your ambassadors that we could share on our communication channels.

Please email k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk

If you don't have ambassadors but would be interested in finding out more, take a look at our website for further details: www.caritassalford.org.uk/ambassadors



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Did you know. . .



As Caritas Salford we're proud that our support reaches across **Greater Manchester and Lancashire**.



86

members of staff deliver our work.



217

incredible volunteers support us. We couldn't do what we do without them.



We support

thousands

of adults, young people and children every year.

Fundraising in your school

Did you know. . .

by donating or fundraising in your school community, you'll be making a real, tangible difference to the lives of individuals and families in our area?



£8 donated could pay for toiletries for someone who has come to Caritas for support. This might include a toothbrush and paste, shower gel, deodorant, period products or shaving items.



£45 could pay for a three-course meal for 15 people at one of our day centres



£85 could provide a warm winter pack for those unable to leave their home or bed due to disability or illness



£157 could provide a family experiencing crisis such as chronic illness, bereavement or fear of eviction, with a weekly shop of food and other essentials



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Lent is a time to Pray-Fast-Give. Will you #BeeThere for others this Lent?

Please continue to pray for local adults, families and children who are struggling to pay their bills or buy their food shopping, and for those that have no home.

Whether you give something up for Lent and donate the money you've saved, collect loose change in your St Joseph's Penny appeal boxes, or hold your very own 'Stars in their Hives' talent show and sell tickets to raise money, your almsgiving will transform lives.



As a school, could you raise enough to sponsor a plot or raised bed in our community allotment?

£157 could help feed a family for a week by providing the food support they need at a time of crisis.

Or will your fundraising raise enough to sponsor a room for a year?

Your sponsorship of **£1,500** could help provide safe, supported accommodation for a year for someone, and prevent them being homeless.



Increasing demand for support in your area

According to latest statistics, in the area we work across Greater Manchester and Lancashire:



There are **8,928**

children living in temporary accommodation. This is a staggering increase of **11 per cent** compared with the same time last year.



Numbers of people rough sleeping locally have risen too, with

481

individuals living on the streets with no safe, secure place to call home.

We're seeing a higher than ever demand for our services that help people in Greater Manchester and Lancashire who are experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination.



"My life changed the second I walked through this door. Without this place, I would have done nothing with my life. Thank you."

Person accessing our services

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Supporting Christopher

Christopher (name has been changed) came to Caritas for help when he became homeless following an accident that meant his leg was amputated.

We supported him via our range of services and he is now moving on to his own accommodation, thanks to the kind donations of people like you. He has also offered to return to volunteer his time to help others who are homeless or at risk of becoming so.

He said: "It's scary to become homeless. Not all of us have a choice. so like in my scenario it just happened - the amputation and becoming homeless even after 25 years of working and bills, never claiming anything.

"In Caritas they consider your thoughts, your ideas and I think you've got more dignity here...Just the warm welcome and you're treated on the same level like everyone around.

"It was like a relief. When I came in here and I saw the Caritas sign, I said I'm in a safe place now, just the name and the reputation of Caritas. So that was something in the back of my head. It's a safe place."



"All my hard work paid off and I did well in my GCSEs - even better than I had expected, especially in maths. I don't think I would have been able to do this well if it wasn't for our sessions, so thank you so much for everything you did for me, I really appreciate it."

Young person supported by our services



"I want to get my own accommodation and be able to support my son who is ten years old and living with his grandmother. I want to get a job as I'm a qualified joiner. I want to change for the better."

Person accessing our homelessness supported accommodation

"My life has changed beyond recognition since coming... without the support I would not have been housed, fed or going to university. Your support gave me hope and confidence in me and I give thanks for all the help and advice to me, my husband and my boys."

Person accessing our services



"Living here has given me so many opportunities to be the best mum I can be to my son...a wonderful support network and you always make me feel heard and seen."

Mum supported by our young parent accommodation team



Did you know?

We have a range of free resources, slides, videos, prayers, and other information available on our website?

Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk to download them or find out more.

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Campaigning for change

A huge part of our work is campaigning for change to the systems, processes and policies that lead to people experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination. Thank you to everyone in our diocesan schools who took part in our survey last year into child poverty in our communities as part of this ongoing work.

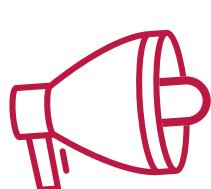


Your contributions have greatly strengthened our ongoing engagement with policy makers. We've been able to meet with multiple MPs and other key decision makers locally and nationally to raise issues and offer solutions and ideas about how the lives of children could be improved with urgency. Some of the MPs have also taken up the call to action and have directly raised questions with the Departments for Education, the DWP and others too.

We've also attended a special round table discussion on child poverty at the House of Lords, designed to help raise awareness and influence changes to the policies and processes that keep families trapped in poverty.

We have a range of free tools and resources for schools interested in supporting our campaigning work and are always happy to discuss ways you can get involved.

Email info@caritassalford.org.uk or visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaigning to find out more about our work advocating for change.



Truly fair? Accessibility, disability and inclusion sessions

We regularly run free 90 minute sessions in schools, challenging thinking about disability and accessibility, looking at the differences between equality and equity, and how we can consider the needs of others. The session is grounded in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

To find out more or book a place,

please email Minna now:

m.moffatt-feldman@caritassalford.org.uk

"This food will help so much, my family are going through a really hard time at the moment... so we're really grateful for the help you provide."

Parent accessing our service



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Can the Caritas school service help you further?

Our school service improves access to learning by working directly with pupils, their families and their school community.

The team has decades of experience working in social care, counselling and art therapy and understands how to support schools through crisis and safeguarding situations.

Whether through one-to-one interventions or group work with children, young people, families or staff, we work alongside your in-house team to create bespoke solutions to ensure the best outcomes for everyone involved.

Contact Helen Chambers for more information: h.chambers@caritassalford.org.uk



Free webinars

We run a termly free webinar for schools on a wide variety of topics including health and wellbeing and poverty.

Register for our free e-newsletter now to keep up to date with the webinar series, when the next one will take place, and much more:
www.caritassalford.org.uk/newsletter

Every Step



Will you take on an Every Step challenge?

Every Step is a campaign which challenges you take on something in 2026 which will push you out of your comfort zone - be it a mental or physical challenge.

From running to sponsored walks, taking part in a school big sleep out, knit-a-thons to bake-offs, there's something for everyone.

Why not take a look at our website and choose a challenge for the new year? Or, if there's nothing that you fancy from our list, you could make your own tailored challenge. Anything goes!

Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/EveryStep for more information or contact fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk and we'd be happy to chat more about the steps you might take in 2026!



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