



real people making  
a real difference

November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hi to you all on this dry but cloudy morning, so I thought I would brighten your day.

Teams4U charity is growing in numbers of warehouses nationally despite the virus. Most of our warehouses are doing well and several including Burton are open throughout this lockdown as we are Covid secure and so can operate as normal with a reduced number of volunteers in the warehouse at any one time. Again this year we will be the export warehouse for the lorry to visit later this month. Exact date yet to be confirmed as Brexit may delay the export, we await more information from head office. Boxes are coming in from all corners of the area and already we have almost 2000 boxes in cartons and ready to go. Derby and Nottingham warehouse are transporting their cartons to Burton ready for the lorry. We hope that we can achieve a full load of 7500 by export day.

Never has the need been more urgent than this year to export to countries in Eastern Europe who are in a much worse state than the U.K. Our priority is to export to Rumania, Macedonia and Belarus first followed by Georgia and Moldova.

Christmas is going to be different this year but the message is the same to every child who receives a box. To every child it is the knowledge that someone far away who they will never meet cares enough to send them a gift at Christmas. Often it is the only item they can call their own and it is priceless to them. At the warehouse we are humbled by the amount of goodwill there is in our community both for children abroad and also locally. Our team has already packed over 200 larger boxes to be distributed by our trusted partners to local children in East Staffordshire, part of Leicestershire and South Derbyshire. We have just received a request for another 25 boxes which are being assembled this week.

I understand that many of our usual volunteers cannot help in the warehouse this year due to the virus. I feel sure that next year the virus will just be a bad memory and we can welcome our friends back to a busy warehouse. Those of us who are able to staff the warehouse this year really miss you and look forward to seeing you again next year. We can only have a maximum of eleven in the warehouse at any time so it is rather quiet, not to say you are all noisy!

To you all, a peaceful and happy Christmas and a New Year where we can return to normal again.

Best wishes and keep safe

**Clive.**

Clive Lawton. Regional Coordinator Teams4U Burton upon Trent.