



# Hopeful Families Bring Cheer To Wakefield This Christmas

Christmas is a magical time for families and especially children, who love to get into the festive spirit and join in the Christmas countdown.

But things were different in 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic brought things to a standstill and changed many of the things we take for granted. For families who were already struggling, the pandemic was the last thing they needed and for some, Christmas became a luxury they simply couldn't afford.

Thankfully the Hopeful Families team have been on hand to help families across Wakefield who are struggling, and have been working harder than ever to make sure people were still able to receive gifts and have plenty of festive fun this Christmas! The team worked around the clock to make sure their Christmas events not only brought a smile to participants faces, but offered the support that they needed during these difficult times.

Here are some of the ways Hopeful Families have supported families over Christmas and made sure children could still have lots of fun!

## Winter Wonderland

A Christmas walk was held around Vale Head Park in Hemsworth on 19th December, in partnership with The Friends of Vale Head Park and TLC. The Hopeful Families team created some lanterns by repurposing empty bauble boxes that would have been thrown away, and also created nature friendly reindeer food to give out to children that attended. JC Electrics, a local company, also donated selection boxes for each child that attended.



Hopeful Families offers opportunities to build hope, confidence and skills for people who are not in work. It is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.



### Christmas Reindeer Trail

Working with Park Rangers at Fryston Country Trails and Frickley Country Park, the Rangers created a trail of reindeer positioned around the park for children to search for! It was like a big, exciting game of hide and seek, but also a wonderful opportunity for families to explore the gorgeous grounds in the parks and be surrounded by nature!



### Christmas present for each child on programme

The Hopeful Families team were aware that sadly, some families on the programme would not be able to buy gifts for each other this Christmas, so worked extremely hard ensuring that this wasn't to be the case and that each child on the programme would receive a Christmas present! Many presents were graciously donated by members of the amazing Wakefield community, and an organisation called Hub26 created a giving tree, where employees were able to donate gifts.

### Christmas Activity Pack

Wanting to ensure that participants weren't going without over Christmas, each child on the Hopeful Families programme was given an activity pack to ensure they had some fun Christmas activities to do! Packs included baubles, cards and gift boxes to decorate, with glitter, glue and gel pens all provided to help the children get stuck in, plus hot chocolate and cookie mix!



### Food Parcels

The Hopeful Families team also ensured that every family in need on the programme was supplied with a food parcel, and thanks to Kinsley Fitzwilliam Learning and Community Centre, this was made possible. The centre provided a full bag of goodies and essentials for over the Christmas period!



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## A Gift From The Art House

The Art House in Wakefield wanted to provide families from deprived areas with a gift for Christmas, and provided a number of donations that were curated by artists at the art house! Each exciting box included art materials, activity cards, Christmas cards, and a battery powered candle & paper bag that created a lantern, plus many glorious gifts!



Everybody at Hopeful Families and Groundwork would like to thank each and every person and organisation who has contributed to donating items to participants this Christmas, it will have meant the world to them all.

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