

## Christmas with The Connection 2020

### Donate to The Connection

Please consider donating to The Connection This Christmas

*"I thought I would die on the streets, but thanks to The Connection, this year I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas in my own flat"*

During the pandemic we supported hundreds of people off the streets and into emergency hotel accommodation. During their stay people continued to receive support from our specialist staff to ensure they had access to health care, support with substance misuse and advice and practical help finding accommodation. In Westminster the hotels were closed in July but no one returned to the streets. In an extraordinary achievement everyone who was in the hotels found accommodation. Our staff remain in touch with them to support them to make the transition. This Christmas hundreds of people will be celebrating in their own homes, safe and warm.

This winter we are aiming to raise £250,000 to support people to celebrate this Christmas, and many more to come, in the comfort and safety of their own home.

**£5** could cover the cost of a phone call to make sure someone feels ok.

**£50** could cover the cost of providing the essential items someone needs to make a house a home this Christmas

**£100** could cover the cost of a session with a specialist mental health worker.

### Christmas Presents

Our online eco store, Show Your Connection, is the perfect place to buy gifts for friends and family this festive season, all from the comfort of your own home!

We have a great range of Christmas cards and gift wrap, designed by people who access our services, as well as drinkware and clothing that make the perfect gifts.

We are passionate about being kind to the environment as well as helping people facing homelessness. That is why everything you find on our store is made from sustainable or recycled materials, is ethically produced and all profits support the work we do, helping people to move away from the streets.

Can't decide what to buy? We've got you covered with our bundles! Check out all we have to offer [www.showyourconnection.co.uk](http://www.showyourconnection.co.uk)

## Mince Pies

This year it is going to be harder than ever to be together around Christmas, but we will not let that stop us celebrating in our own way. As such, we have developed a range of mail-order mince pies that can be sent through the post to be made by you at home.

All our mince pies will have vegan shortcrust pastry and a classic mincemeat filling, and you can order either an almond frangipane topping or a delicious marzipan crumble topping. The mince pies arrive in a recyclable box with failsafe instructions for how to put them together in the comfort of your own home. Each box contains enough ingredients for 12 mince pies and costs £10 (which includes shipping nationwide). ( This is not live yet but will be available to order in November)

[www.showyourconnection.co.uk](http://www.showyourconnection.co.uk)

## My Santa Run

Go solo or get a team of up to six together and run a 5k or 10k dressed as Santa! Throughout December dress as Santa, run 5k or 10k, and fundraise to support people rough sleeping this Christmas. You can pick a time and date to suit you!

You can sign up on our website [here](#) for £30, which will include your My Santa Run medal and Santa Suit delivered to your address. If you don't fancy feeling festive on your own, get a team together local to you! ( as long as you're following Government or Local lockdowns!).

If you have any questions or concerns about My Santa Run, please get in touch with [adele.atiyah@cstm.org.uk](mailto:adele.atiyah@cstm.org.uk) . Anyone who does sign up to My Santa Run will also be invited to take part in the Santa in the City Race in December if it is safe to go ahead, which will be a 5km fun run in the City of London.

## Hold a Collection for The Connection

You can help people rough sleeping by donating the items that they really want and need from the list below.

### Everyday items

You can provide these everyday essentials, and give people a helping hand when they are staying in our hotel accommodation or when accessing our day services. We would preferably like new items, but we will accept pre-used items if they are of reasonable quality and condition.

If you would like to donate pre-loved items please consider using Ziffit. Ziffit will arrange a courier to collect your items and donate the value to a charity of your choosing. You can find out more on our website here: [www.connection-at-stmartins.org.uk/fundraising-solo/](http://www.connection-at-stmartins.org.uk/fundraising-solo/)

85% of our clients are male. We need the following, all year round:

- **Men's Socks**
- **Men's Underwear**
- **Women's Socks**
- **Women's Underwear, sizes M & L**
- **Plain black T-shirts / plain black shirts / plain black trousers**
- **Comfortable casual shoes, sizes 6-12, preferably black**
- **Leather belts**
- **Earplugs**
- **Radios**
- **Magazines**

### Make a house a home

You will be donating these packs to clients that are accessing accommodation. Our clients will be starting with nothing, so anything to help people to settle in and make their new place into a home will be so much appreciated!

You can choose to donate an individual item, or put together a pack:

- **£20: "Tea Set Pack"** – kettle, mug, teaspoon, teabags, sugar
- **£100: "Ready Steady Cook Pack"** – a set of cutlery, a set of pots and pans, baking tray, oven-proof dish, colander, Tupperware, chopping board, chopping knife, wooden spoon, scissors, plate, bowl, mug, tea towels
- **£60: "Home Comforts Pack"** – a single duvet with bedding, pillow, a radio, a towel, a laundry bag, a clothes horse
- **£20: "Clean and Tidy Pack"** – basic cleaning items, like sponges, cloths, washing up liquid, detergent

We're sorry that we are unable to accept second-hand electrical items. If donating second-hand, please ensure the items are of a good quality.

Please do not donate anything not on the list as it wastes time and resources having to dispose of items that we cannot use! Thank you.

### Christmas Gifts

This year, **please donate retail vouchers**. Our staff can then use these to purchase gifts with guidance from our clients, so that everyone can receive what they really want and need.

**The best vouchers to donate are Primark / Boots / Tesco / Argos/ Amazon**

If you would really like to donate a gift however, please ensure it is new (no used items please!) and from the list below:

- **Retail Vouchers £5/£10: Primark / Boots / Tesco / Argos/ Amazon**

- MP3 players and headphones
- Chocolates, biscuits, and mince pies
- Aftershave
- Perfume, make-up, or nail varnish
- Leather belts and watches
- Socks, gloves, hats and scarves
- Men's jumpers: sizes M, L & XL (sports-wear preferable, not too garish please)
- Men's sports and casual wear: tracksuits, jeans, T-shirts, trainers (sizes 6-12), baseball caps.
- LYNX for men, and mini toiletries
- Activity Books
- Rucksacks

Please leave your gifts **unwrapped** and deliver to The Connection as a bulk delivery, or you can alternatively purchase items online and get it sent to our address. Alternatively, you could set up a wish list on Amazon for staff to purchase and donate directly to ourselves.

The Connection, 12 Adelaide St, London, WC2N 4HW

However you decide to help, you will be putting a smile on someone's face this Christmas.  
Thank you!

*From all of us at The Connection,  
Thank You for continuing to support us and we wish you a...  
**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!***



For any further information, contact  
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