



The Big Give Christmas Challenge



We are truly excited to let you know that the Weston Centre has been selected to take part in 2022's The Big Give's Christmas Challenge, the UK's biggest online match funding campaign. We aim to raise £6000 to set up and run [Duffield Helping Hands](#).

Our project

Many of the services people rely on are disappearing or running beyond capacity. We want to help plug this gap by building on DuCS, which we ran during the covid lockdowns of 2020-21, and set up [Duffield Helping Hands](#). We will co-ordinate and run a support network for older and isolated people in our community to **help people stay safe and independent in their own homes**. We will help with small, everyday tasks such as using technology, making on-line appointments, shopping or assisting with hard-to-reach items at home.



How you can help

1. **Save the date!** Donations open at midday on Giving **Tuesday, 29th November** and remain open until noon Tuesday 6th December.
2. **Donate** If you would like to support this project, we highly recommend doing so during the Christmas Challenge, when **your donation will be doubled** and make even more of a difference. You can donate to us on our campaign page by clicking on the link below:

[Helping Hands for Duffield \(thebiggive.org.uk\)](https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a056900002Nf8J2AAJ)

If the link doesn't work for you, type the following into your browser:

<https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a056900002Nf8J2AAJ>

We have secured £1500 in pledges and a further £1500 from The Reed Foundation. This means that **the first £3000 of on-line donations made between 29th November and 6th December will be matched. One donation, twice the impact!**

We recognise times are hard. If you can't donate you can still help. Please:

3. **Pass on this message** to anyone you think might be interested in supporting us and having their donation doubled.
4. **Volunteer**. We will be recruiting volunteers in the new year for Duffield Helping Hands. For details, contact emma.admin@westoncentre.org.uk

What the money will be used for

We will offer a three day a week service in the first instance which will be run and administered from the Weston Centre. We will use the funds to:

- recruit, check, train and support new personnel
- set up and run a booking and administration system
- run, monitor and evaluate the service
- liaise with other bodies as appropriate.



Evidence of need All names have been changed.

Gerry is in his late 80s. He called into the Weston Centre for help paying a parking fine. He had waited for and caught the bus into Derby, walked to where he hoped to pay only to be told no-one could help and he would have to pay on-line (he had no facility to do so) or by using the keypad on his phone (he doesn't have a mobile). He tried, but couldn't work out how. We guided Gerry through the process and provided reassurance and support. He now calls on us if he needs advice and reassurance with IT matters.

Deborah lives alone and is largely housebound. She had a GP appointment, but couldn't manage the short walk to the practice. She had no-one to help so The Weston Centre was contacted. One of our volunteers gave Deborah a lift to the surgery, secured a wheelchair, accompanied her whilst she waited for her prescription, returned her home and had a social cup of tea afterwards. Deborah was very relieved.

David, in his 90s, also lives alone. His watch battery had run out and he was lost without it. He came to the Weston Centre for help as he can't get to a shop or access the internet. We installed a new battery for him the same day and made him a cup of tea and chatted with him while he waited.

Dorothy lives by herself with no telephone or internet connection. She is eligible for support, but services can't contact her. We were asked to help and now act as a contact point. Dorothy comes to the Weston Centre when she needs to make a call or pick up messages and can enjoy a chat and company at the same time.

Please help if you can

Donate at [Helping Hands for Duffield \(thebiggive.org.uk\)](https://thebiggive.org.uk) or call into the Weston Centre between 29th November and 6th December where we will have Donation Stations and ways to help you make your donation if you can't give online.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at sarah.sdm@westoncentre.org.uk

Please forward this message to anyone you think might be interested in supporting us and having their donation doubled.

Thank you so much for your attention and participation.

#ChristmasChallenge22

