

Brockville Kindergarten Support

On March 22nd an article in the ODT outlined the struggles of kindergarten Head Teacher Julie Baird to find official support, such as KidsCan, to meet the needs of their vulnerable families. Some children, aged 2-6, were coming to kindergarten without breakfast, with no snack boxes and often inadequate clothing, particularly shoes and warm jerseys.

Many kindergartens have fundraising committees, but this is not possible for them. Their staff cares deeply about their families, but were bearing a heavy load.

Our study group was part way through the Eric's Lenten Study at the time. The need struck a chord. We have committed to supporting them until the end of 2021 at least. We supported Brockville in many ways when their community church was functioning. This is another opportunity.

The response from church members has been rapid, though many of you won't know of it before now. Within a week we had delivered food and clothing. Over April this has continued. A meeting with Julie made us clearer how best we could help. Now she wants you to know how grateful they are, uplifted and supported.

A request for spreads for their donated bread received a heart-warming response last month. Thank you!

Where to next?

Sunday 2 May was *Bring a can day*, now past. Another later.

Fruit and fresh vegetables donated go straight to needy families via the kindergarten koha table.

If you are able to make a donation, this will be used to buy shoes, help with other needs and to contribute to a bus trip for the children, probably to an animal petting farm, a currently impossible treat and educational opportunity. If you are able to, one-off or monthly, please give your donation to Margaret or deposit directly to our St Johns account 03 0903 0390783 00 with Brockville as the reference.

Could you knit a small jersey or vest for a 2-6 year old? Do you have wool that you won't use yourself? Is there someone who could co-ordinate this?



Handiperson help Are you able to fix things, paint, garden?

Grandparenting There are several families far from family support and in need of simple advice normally found there. Some are refugees. Would you like to help?

Facilitators to re-establish the Brockville Community garden Is there a couple of people who could do this? The kindergarten was very involved with this earlier and many benefitted.

Need further information? Speak to Noelene Evans, Edith McLeod, Phil White or myself.

For the team, a growing number,
Chris Carrell

