

Branch Committee – I was wondering whether we could make a decision to donate £600.00 from the Branch welfare fund. While that is not our usual practice, seeing as this is the biggest foodbank in the country, and we can see the Coalition Government's impact on working people in the City, I think we could make a specific exception.

We have a large sum of money in the welfare fund, and even when we promote the fund with our members, we still don't have a significant take up. I believe this donation will do a lot of good. Please see Mick's donation request below.

Mick is a retired UNISON member.

Paul Gilroy
Branch Secretary

Hi Paul,

Thank you. Ok the situation is this:

I work as a volunteer at the CAB in Newcastle. From about the end of April I will be an outreach worker at the West End Food Bank, delivering advice and information to people who can't get into the CAB offices in town.

I am also helping to design and print 1,000 leaflets for the Food Bank in order to attract more food donations. It is the biggest Food Bank in the country, giving out hundreds of parcels every month, and it struggles to get enough food from local sources to meet demand.

We also plan to take some (about 100) photographs of some of the most needy clients of the Food Bank, with their consent of course. This is partly for promotional purposes, again to attract more food donations, but also to offer a simple gift to the clients of a framed photograph, in order to help reduce the sense of shame many of them feel.

We estimate the costs of the two projects (leaflets and photographs) to be at least £600, probably more. Any contribution the Branch can make towards these costs would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

Mick Quille.