

Dignity boxes collect basic toiletries from the community and companies and redistribute the products monthly to organisations that work with people in poverty or areas of deprivation.

A Dignity Box contains 20 products a month and is situated in a discreet part of specific organisations so people in need do not have to ask or thank anyone when they take a product, in the hope this goes a little way to preserving their dignity.

We have donation boxes in local businesses such as a hairdresser, nail bar and dentist but aim to increase the reach by expanding what we bring in. SKY, GAP Outlet and other companies such as Morrisons supermarkets and more recently OfCom, Lloyds and Clydesdale Bank have come forward to support us this year. We also recently partnered with the Student Award Agency Scotland. The charity now approaching one year old, officially registered in Dec 18 and has increased rapidly. We are clearly filling a gap and now have a waiting list for those requesting a Dignity box beyond those we already give below. Most of the organisations have a website if you wish to know more about them individually. Dignity Boxes and donation boxes currently reach across West Lothian and the City of Edinburgh.

Organisations we work with in Edinburgh include Social Bite café Rose Street, Street Soccer, The Willow, Access Practice, LIFT (low income families together), Student hardship Edinburgh Napier University, Throughcare and after care (young people who have been in the care system), The Welcoming in Gorgie and more recently the Grass Market Project. A box will also be given soon to Streetworks and Granton is Greener project based in Granton Parish Church.

Organisations in West Lothian that currently receive a Dignity Box include Daisy Drop In Livingston, The Dale in Armadale, Broxburn Family Centre, Bathgate Partnership Centre, Youth Action Project, Start Scotland, Ladywell Neighbourhood Network, Almondbank Housing Association, Polbeth Hub, Women's Aid, Weslo Housing Association and Kidz n Kin. We also give travel products made up in Dignity bags to mimic a toilet bag to drug liaison nurses to give to patients with a drug problem admitted overnight to St. Johns and RIE Hospitals. These patients often have nothing, and the hospitals no longer supply toiletries. We also give these bags to the Advice Centre in Bathgate for crisis packs. Some products such as razors that are not part of our routine boxes and go to the Foodbank HQ in West Lothian.

We always have a waiting list of organisations that work with people who would benefit from a Dignity Box. The more donations we receive the wider the reach we can make but we must be able to sustain the boxes we already have out. 25 boxes equates to 500 products per month or £500 per month as many products can be purchased for £1. Our target had been 20 boxes for year one but we are already at 25 and will be 27 by the end of October.

You can find out more about us by using Google search.

We are having a website built currently which will be ready in October, and are also very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who collect donations for me or refill Dignity boxes although with each new organisation I need new volunteers.

I hope this summary has been informative but please make contact if you have any questions. For the moment you can find us on **Fb – Dignity Boxes Community Organisation** or email isabel@dignityboxes.co.uk

Kind Regards Isabel Dosser (Founder/CEO)