

Donating festive spirit

CHRISTMAS should be a time of happiness and celebration but some Manningham families struggle to make ends meet.

Welfare agency Doncare helps bring Christmas to those less fortunate by collecting toys and food at its office in Doncaster.

Doncare CEO Doreen Stoves said it was amazing the difference the community could make to families unable to cope with the financial strain of Christmas.

"Christmas has become a huge enterprise," Ms Stoves said.

"For families who cannot afford the designer labels or the latest mobile phone or PlayStation equipment, Christmas can be a burden.

"When families arrive [at the Doncare office] they always look like they are carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders.

"Then when you see them walk out with their toys and their hampers they look like different people ... They're smiling, they're happy, it's absolutely wonderful to watch.

"If members of the public who donate to us could see this, they would feel tremendous that they had assisted in a very real way."

Doncare has set up Wishing Trees at the North Blackburn Shopping Centre and the St George Bank in Doncaster Shoppingtown where people can donate gifts for children.

Toys and non-perishable food items can also be donated at the Doncare office, Level 7, Westfield Shoppingtown, Doncaster. Details: 98484433.

Lauren Birch



Little helpers: Doncare manager of information and practical support Christine Ellerton and CEO Doreen Stoves will collect food and toys for the less fortunate this Christmas.

Picture: Darren Howe