

60 SECOND INTERVIEW

WITH **COSTEA RADU GEORGE**
OF LONDON

For Mutual Aid Food Willesden (MAFW)

A food hub offering emergency essential boxes locally during Covid-19



PHOTO:
Costea Radu
George
distributing
food aid for
MAFW



He initially contacted Mutual Aid Food Willesden for food help. He is connected with the Hope for Romania Church and has volunteered to pass the food forward to other people.

Q Can you tell us about yourself?

For 15 years, I volunteer and help as I can with doctors. We go to different countries and we help poor families for free.

Q How did you hear about Mutual Aid Food Willesden?

I use Facebook to talk to friends and family who speak from a distance. I messaged Mutual Aid Food Willesden and asked for help with food because I didn't have it. A little later I was answered by a lady and it turned out to be Jutta who then called. I told the problem and the next day she sent food to my location.

Q Have you noticed any changes as a result of Covid-19 lockdown?

We were expelled on the street during this period of COVID. I waited for my money from universal credit and those property owners, they didn't have patience to wait and he told us to leave. We were kicked out to look for another room. ... Through hard times in which I did not eat for 3 days.

Q Can you tell us how you're involved helping provide essential aid?

I thought to share that I was helped by Mutual Aid Food Willesden with other people who are on Facebook too. People followed and liked it and write to me in private on Facebook, saying that they need help. I share and give them food. I was happier that I was able to give them what I received from food Mutual Aid Food Willesden.

The message I give is: If you don't have a place to work, you don't have money, you don't receive any help and you have run out of supplies, PLEASE DON'T GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT EATING! Write to me in private, without embarrassment, from what Mutual Aid Food Willesden donate I would be happy to share with you! As a child I was taught that where one eats, two can eat! We will cross this moment, everything will be fine. We must remain united!

Q Are there any stories that you could share?

That day was a joy that I can have something to put on the table. At the time I no longer had money or bread and I was looking to talk to my friends to give me money to buy food.

Q How would you sum up what Mutual Aid Food Willesden does?

I thank Mutual Aid Food Willesden who advised me and was with me and helped me in the hardest moments I went through this period. An angel jumped to the rescue and so many times when I needed it and will remain in my heart. I now help other people as well with the food donated.