



A big THANK YOU. To all the individuals, schools, churches & faith groups, and local business's for supporting Letchworth, Hitchin and Baldock foodbank this Christmas. Your donations have made a **BIG** difference to local people in crisis.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we have a full warehouse: Our sincere thanks to our supporters who have helped to fill our warehouse this Christmas. We have had donations of food and cash from schools, churches and faith groups, businesses, individuals and from specific fundraising events beyond anything we expected.

Space will not allow us list all who gave so generously other than to mention one very special boy, Christopher Allen aged 11 from Wilbury School. Christopher gave up his Christmas presents to help other children have something nice on Christmas Day. He also started a GoFundMe page on social media with his family to make Christopher's donation even bigger.



Christopher Allen

In the last 3 months 14 tonnes of food was donated to our Foodbank. The phenomenal Christmas donations amounted to 3.3 tonnes.



Local family bring Christmas donations

The amount of food donations this year has enabled us to work with other agencies to help more people who are less fortunate.

Due to the generosity we have donated mince pies and other Christmas items to other local causes in the community; including lunch clubs, the homeless shelter to ensure the food is distributed within use by dates.

We worked with the Hitchin Community Team Christmas Hamper Scheme; to deliver 114 hampers to needy individuals & families in Hitchin, many of whom have been clients of the foodbank.

We also linked with the Euston Foodbank in London, sending them surplus food nearing use by date. Euston is a large foodbank which is often short of supplies as it is open 5 days per supporting many needy people.

Again, our thanks to all our supporters

Finally; thank you to all our volunteers: Our warehouse team of volunteers worked extremely hard to sort, shelf and pack the food for distribution. Volunteers at the Distribution Centres and our drivers made sure clients were made welcome and received their food parcels.

Father Christmas even lent a hand at Hitchin Distribution Centre!



Foodbank Update:

The need for the Foodbank continues. As many people are aware there is much debate about Universal Credit particularly regarding the 6-week delay before payments commence. Benefit delay and changes to benefit continues to be the main reason for clients needing to use the Foodbank.

During 2017:

1158 vouchers were fulfilled by the foodbank.

3363 people (1686 adults & 1677 children) were provided with food.

71% of the referrals over the year were **due to benefits delay / changes and low income.**

26 tonnes of food were distributed.

National statistics from the Trussell Trust show the same increasing need; a record number of emergency food parcels were distributed in 2017 with the main reason for people seeking help being low income and benefit delay / changes leaving not enough money to cover their living costs.

The warehouse is full, but if the need continues as we expect, we will need to maintain supplies.

The generosity of the public is what enables the foodbank to function. Without this support we would not be able to help our clients who are affected by benefit changes, increased bills & family crises, all of which put extra pressure on already stretched budgets.

Supermarket Donations:

Thank you to the local supermarkets for their ongoing support in allowing us to have collection points in the supermarkets.

Morrison's Letchworth

Waitrose Hitchin

Sainsbury's Hitchin & Letchworth

Donations via the supermarket collection boxes contributes 33% of the donations.

Trussell Trust Award:

The Trussell Trust, with which our Foodbank works in partnership, received an award for Outstanding Achievement from the Observer Food Monthly at the end of last year. Awards are voted by readers and a judging panel.

On receiving the award, Elizabeth Pollard the Chair of Trustees said, "we are so proud of how hard everyone works to stop people going hungry, and grateful to every donor and supporter who contributes to making that work possible".

For more information on the work of the Trussell Trust and if interested receive the Trussell Trust newsletter visit: www.trusselltrust.org/newsletter

Did you Know?

A tin of Heinz kidney soup dating back 46 years with a 10d price sticker on it was donated to Cardiff foodbank. A person from Heinz said, "should be in a museum not a foodbank"

FOODBANK QUARTERLY STATISTICS

Summary for October 1st– December 31st 2017 No. of referral vouchers fulfilled: 323

Number of People supported: 929 [Adults: 500 Children: 429]

Reason for referral	%
Benefit changes & delays	43
Low Income	36
Debt & delayed wages	7.5
Sickness (affecting income)	5
Other	8.5

Distribution Centre	No. of Vouchers	No. of Clients
Letchworth (Howard Memorial Hall)	156	482
Hitchin (Scout Hut Our Lady Church)	122	326
Baldock (St. Mary's Hall)	28	64
Other	17	57
Total	323	929

Newsletter Feedback

Please email Susan Kostrzewska, Foodbank Newsletter Editor. susan.kostrzewska@hotmail.co.uk