5300 People Fed!

Since opening in March 2011, we have now given three days worth of food to 5300 people. Around half of that number are children. This current financial year we have given out food to 1500 people.

The changes to the Benefit system are still having a significant impact on our local community. Benefit changes and Benefit delays are one of the major contributors to local people needing to use our Foodbank. Other factors high on the list are Debt, Sickness, Unemployment, Child Holiday Meals, Delayed Wages, Unemployment and Low Income.

Henbury Outlet Opens!

Our New Outlet in Henbury opened on 3rd May 2013

Our new Friday morning outlet team at Emmanuel Chapel in Henbury are well into their stride. In seven months, we have already doubled the amount of clients we helped from the Henbury area last year.

The outlet opens on Friday mornings between 10am-12noon weekly.

Harvest 2013!

Thanks to a team of volunteers from local churches we were able to visit and take assemblies in 12 local schools and several churches. Foodbank Buzz made a welcome return this year, to the delight of the children. We are pleased to report that a whopping 4229kg of food was donated. Thank you everyone who donated!
New CAP Centre Working with Foodbank

We are delighted that we are now working closely with the new Christians Against Poverty Centre that has opened at St. Edyth’s Church in Sea Mills. Sian Hearsey the Centre Manager is available at our Lawrence Weston Outlet on Thursday mornings to speak to clients who are struggling with Debt issues. Foodbank volunteers at all our outlets have also been briefed on how to signpost clients to CAP. We have already seen a number of Foodbank clients referred to them in just a few short weeks. The Foodbank has also agreed to provide CAP clients with food parcels when needed. Please see CAP press release below:

HELP FOR PEOPLE IN DEBT - Centre now open in North West Bristol

LOCAL people struggling to pay overwhelming debts are set to get twice as much help from an acclaimed charity opening a second centre in North West Bristol

Growing debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has partnered with St Edyth’s Church, Sea Mills to double its in-depth service to the area – rare good news for the UK amid ongoing economic downturn. Bristol North West centre manager Sian Hearsey said: “Some years ago, members of nearby Christ Church Downend opened a CAP centre to help people with spiralling personal debts. They have seen how sorting out someone’s finances can save homes, marriages and restore a positive outlook to the whole household.

Sian Hearsey-CAP Centre Manager in NW Bristol

“There is a busy centre and we know there are many more in North Bristol who need to find a hope and solution of this kind and a second centre should help us to assist people more quickly.” CAP offers people a uniquely in-depth, caring service. Every client is visited in their own home, the charity does all the negotiating with creditors and local volunteers offer support to each person face-to-face until the day they are debt free.

Research shows debts most often become problematic when a relationship breaks down, or someone loses their job – times when people are often least emotionally able to cope with a financial headache. The charity has 239 centres around the UK currently supporting £73m of secondary debts for its clients regardless of income, age, gender, background or faith. The free debt counselling has won a string of accolades including being described as “unsurpassed” by TV’s Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis. To find out more www.capdebt.org or call 0800 328 0006

Thank you to Volunteers from local businesses and schools

We would particularly like to thank groups from QEH School, Props and Halifax who have given their time to help with Harvest food sorting and the packing of Christmas Hampers in the last few weeks. It has lightened the load on our regular volunteers. Thank you!!!!!!
What the clients have been saying...

A client said whilst at the Foodbank. “I have been sanctioned by the job centre, even though I have been attending interviews and ringing up about jobs.... They say it’s not enough. It is affecting our whole family (6 of them children). It affects our food supply and we are getting into rent arrears and are fearing an eviction letter.” (A Health Visitor and Advice worker are involved with helping this family to try and resolve their situation)

Rachel said, “I have always worked. My hours have been cut recently due to funding cuts, so I can’t afford a lot on food. Thanks to the Foodbank for making a difference to my local area.”

At our Supermarket Collection day in July we were amazed and blessed by one customer called Andrea donating a whole trolley of food, that filled six supermarket crates. This is what Andrea said about the Foodbank. “I was made redundant about a year ago and it devastated me and my family. We had a terrible time. I didn’t know about the Foodbank at the time, it would have really helped me. It is great to know the Foodbank is there and other charities helping those in crisis. I am back at work, but my brother has also been made redundant and in a position where he may need to use the Foodbank. I think the Foodbank is great, especially in a time when so many people are finding themselves out of work. It is good to know there are people out there who care.”

Louise said, “It’s a fantastic service, nice to have help when you need it. A lovely warm welcome from the volunteers make it even better. Many thanks for all your loving support.”
A New Administrator and a New Office

New Part-time Administrator
Thanks to kind donations from individual supporters, the Santander Community Plus donation and Simply Health donation we received, we have been able to appoint our new Administrator. Faye Stone started work mid November and is already making a huge difference. Faye is available in the office on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings, and part of Wednesday afternoons.

New Office
We are in the middle of moving into a new office space at Lawrence Weston Baptist Church, alongside our new store there. We hope to be all set up by the beginning of January. We are very thankful to Andy Murray and Rich Clark who coordinated the set up of the office. We would also like to thank a team from Simply Health and the Halifax who painted the office for us.

Please see our website early in the new year for details of our new address and telephone number.

Container for Storage
Thanks to Nisbets, Avonmouth we have been promised a container to help us with our food storage problems. Lawrence Weston Baptist Church have kindly agreed to have it located on the Church Site. We are currently awaiting planning permission. We look forward to this being delivered and ready for use early next year.
**Try our Foodbank Challenge...**
*(Answers at the bottom)*

1) How much food has the Foodbank given out since it started until 1\textsuperscript{st} December 2013:

- 42742kg
- 44571kg
- 55618kg

2) Typically how many baked beans are in a standard tin of Heinz baked beans?

- 495
- 465
- 505

3) How many schools did we visit at Harvest time this year?

- 12
- 10
- 16

4) How many Trussell Trust Foodbanks are there in the UK?

- Almost 200
- Almost 300
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000

5) Which of the following items have been donated to the Bristol NW Foodbank?

- A jar of squid
- Haggis
- Sauerkraut

6) From which decade was the date of the oldest item that has been donated to the Bristol NW Foodbank?

- 1960s
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s

7) In which year did the first Trussell Trust Foodbank open in Salisbury?

- 1998
- 1999
- 2000

**Did you get them all right?**
Bristol Cathedral supports Foodbanks this December

Seven volunteers from our Foodbank braved an early start to help the Cathedral launch its Christmas appeal in support of Foodbanks. They are opening their doors for members of the public to donate food to the City’s Foodbanks during December.

The Evening Post featured us in an article which can be seen via our website. Also go to this address to see what Bishop Mike said about supporting Foodbanks:

http://www.bristol.anglican.org/2013/bishop-mikes-diocesan-synod-address/

Clifton Down Shopping Centre Collecting during December

The Clifton Down Shopping Centre is collecting food items for the Bristol NW Foodbank throughout December. Customers can donate food items at a collection point located in the Centre.

Prayer Requests

• Please pray for our preparations for a new outlet in Hotwells in the new year.
• Please pray for us as we meet many people struggling with the benefit changes.
• Thank God for his amazing provision and faithfulness as the Foodbank continues to grow.
• Pray for the clients who will be coming into our outlets each week.
• Thank God for our new administrator.
• Please pray for our volunteers who give of their time week after week, that they will feel blessed through their work at the Foodbank.
• Please pray that we will soon have a much needed van and driver to help with our food collection and movement between sites.

Contact Us

For further information about the work of the Bristol NW Foodbank and how you can support us please see contact details below.

Bristol NW Foodbank

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