



Go to page 3 to find out more about our plans to respond to local food poverty

## An Inspiring Volunteer Celebration



It was really inspiring to spend the evening with lots of the wonderful people who have given so much time towards making Foodbank what it is today. A fantastic collective achievement. Thank you again to everyone who supports us in so many ways and a huge well done to all those who received an award.



West Cheshire Foodbank is a charity working with people of all faiths and none. Our inspiration is drawn from the life and works of Jesus.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Mathew 25*

Our vision is for a world where people of all backgrounds are included and have the opportunity to live life to the full with hope for the future.

### At West Cheshire Foodbank:

- We provide three days of emergency food to people in crisis
- We work with frontline care professionals to identify those in need
- We provide emergency food that is nutritionally balanced
- We signpost visitors to organisations best able to help address the underlying causes of each crisis
- All the food we give out is generously donated by the public
- We work to raise awareness of the causes of food poverty and encourage local people and policy makers alike to take action against hunger

## Justin's Story

*"I had been in a relationship for 13 years with two kids. My relationship broke down and I lost everything that I'd worked for during the 13 years. I ended up homeless and was put in a shelter. Now I've got a room in a hostel. The Foodbank helped me in a big way providing me with the essentials I needed to keep going until I sorted out my benefits. I have never been in this situation before and didn't know what to do. Without the Foodbank, I wouldn't have anything at all. Thanks."*

Please visit our blog to see what else people visiting the Foodbank are sharing: [www.westcheshire.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.westcheshire.blogspot.co.uk)



## Overwhelming Generosity

We've been hugely blessed by your generosity over the last few months. Our warehouse team have been inundated with work, sorting and packing food over the harvest period, following our supermarket collections and throughout Christmas. **We cannot express just how grateful we are for your continued donations and for the work of our volunteers.**

Thanks to you, we're now in a strong position regarding our overall stock levels. A challenge that still faces us however, is to make sure that we have the right items we need to provide people visiting us with a nutritionally balanced quantity of food.

You can help us to manage our stock balance by donating the items listed as urgently needed on the homepage of our website. If you're ever unsure what we need most, please do get in touch: [warehouse@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:warehouse@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk). At the moment we'd most appreciate **tinned meat**. We would also appreciate instant pasta or noodles which we sometimes provide to people with limited cooking facilities.

## Can You Give Your Time To Support Local People in Crisis?

**Are you considering volunteer work? Do you want to make a difference to people's lives?**

We're looking for more volunteers across our operations. We'll provide you with training and support. If you're interested and you'd like to find out more you can call us on 0151 355 7730 or email us: [volunteer@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk).

More details and the forms you need are also available through our website and CharityJob: [www.westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/volunteer)

**Session Volunteers:** help out at one of our distribution centres in the centre of Chester, Ellesmere Port or Neston.

**Administrative Volunteers:** help out at our admin office, processing vouchers, answering calls or supporting people who donate food.

**Warehouse Volunteers:** help out at our warehouse, sorting or delivering food.

**Supermarket Co-ordinator:** provide administrative co-ordination of volunteers for our supermarket collections under the guidance of our Trustee with this responsibility.

**Communication Team Volunteers:** we're looking for people who enjoy using social media to help us update our Blog, Facebook and Twitter accounts. If you could help with this, please do get in touch.

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## How Can We Respond To Food Poverty In Our Community?

Local communities continue to grapple with the hunger on our doorsteps and the issues faced by local people don't seem to be going away. As volunteers who have taken some responsibility for supporting local people in crisis in West Cheshire, the Trustees at Foodbank take the challenges related to food poverty very seriously.

We have spent some time listening to different voices and considering how Foodbank can most effectively serve the local community. As Trustees, we wanted to share some of the questions that have arisen as we consider how best to do this:

- How can we better listen to Foodbank visitors, volunteers, supporters and local community leaders?
- Why do people need to come to Foodbank in West Cheshire?
- Is our Foodbank here to stay?
- Should Foodbank plan not to be needed in the future and what would need to happen for that to occur?
- What does it mean for us to understand food poverty as a human rights issue?
- How can Foodbank be 'with' and not 'for' hungry people?
- What are the criteria for establishing additional distribution centres?

For the future, the staff and Trustees are working on two documents:

1] A **Development Plan** which looks to the future for West Cheshire Foodbank - volunteers and trustees are being consulted in this process which considers 2015 and beyond. We'll make this public soon.

2] An in-depth study on why people in West Cheshire are going hungry - local academics and service providers are working on a report which is based on local and current statistical evidence and stories of people living with food poverty. The **Research Report** detailing the findings of this study will be published in March 2015.

We share these thoughts whilst wondering, what do you think? What are your concerns and what do you think the local response to food poverty should be? Without your support, time and commitment, Foodbank could not serve the community in the ways it does. We'd really value any input you have - we want to know how best to serve our local community. Please do get in touch. You can email [devofficer@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:devofficer@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk) or send us a message on Facebook [[wcfoodbank](#)] or Twitter [[@westcheshirefb](#)].

Once again, a huge thank you for all your support - The Trustees at West Cheshire Foodbank - January 2015

## Supermarket Collection Update

We're really thankful for the hard work and commitment of the people who made the success out of the supermarket collections on Thursday 27th, Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November 2014. And another huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously. Across the two stores, a grand total of 3840 kilograms of food was donated!



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**Key Statistics: In December 2014...**

458 people received emergency food from West Cheshire Foodbank. This represents an increase of 17% in the numbers of people referred compared to the same month last year.

Local people generously donated 14195 kgs of food to us, keeping our committed team of warehouse volunteers very busy indeed! The overwhelming generosity of our supporters is humbling and, thanks to them, we have not only met existing demand, but we also have strong reserves of stock going forwards into the New Year.

**We have lower stocks of:**

**Tinned Meat**

**Instant pasta or noodles** - for people with limited cooking facilities

And finally... a huge - and early - **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to **Kath Stephenson** who will be 80 in March. Thank you for all your dedication and commitment to Foodbank and for the love you demonstrate for others Kath.

**Get Involved!**

**Fundraise**

We need to pay the rent, fill up our van with fuel and lots of other little things. It all adds up, and any contribution you can make to support our work would be immensely appreciated. If you can give, please fill in the form opposite, or contact us.



**Collect Food**

Get in touch and sign up to host a collection box. This could be at your workplace, church, school or any other location where people can give food. We rely on public donations to provide people in crisis with emergency food.



**Pray**

We'd really value your prayers for each person in our community who is struggling to feed themselves and their family.



Visit our website for more ideas on how to get involved!

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Email:

I enclose a gift of £

(please make cheques payable to West Cheshire foodbank)

I would like to start a standing order, please send me a form



Please sign below to add an extra 25p to every £1 you give at no extra cost to you

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made to West Cheshire foodbank:

Today  In the past 4 years  In the future

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me more information on West Cheshire foodbank

Thank you!

Tick if you would prefer NOT to receive further mailings from us

