

TOGETHER WE CAN END THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY FOOD

Figures for year ending April 2023:

2220 total people supported (46,620 meals)

44% supported are children.

133 emergency boxes distributed.

452 additional people support with Christmas parcels.

4,702 volunteer hours annually.

Value of food parcels – £99,196.

WELCOME FROM OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER – NICK LEFTLEY

It's desperately sad that foodbanks are required in 21st Century Britain but whilst the need exists, it's a privilege to have the opportunity to contribute to this vital lifeline. As delivery drivers, we have the happy task of handing over provisions to folk who have hit hard times. Often times we are thanked profusely and told of the relief that it brings but I'm always keen to emphasise that we are just the last link in a long chain of kind-hearted souls, from donors to administrators to sorters and selectors, who share my hope and prayer that it will help, albeit in a small way for a short time. Hopefully they will be given a little lift and respite to help them get back on their feet. When I heard that drivers were needed (and still more are!), it was a no-brainer, given that a need has been identified and resources put in place to meet that need, the least I felt I could do was to help with the final mile



CAMPAIGN 'GUARANTEE OUR ESSENTIALS'

The basic rate of Universal Credit should at least cover the cost of essentials like food, household bills and travel costs, but it is not set according to any objective assessment of what people need.

Trussell Trust have launched the Guarantee our Essentials campaign to lobby for change.

By guaranteeing essentials 9 in 10 low-income households on Universal Credit will be able to manage.

Bridging this gap would help to alleviate the need for Food Banks.

Your help can make a difference. We're calling on UK political party leaders to make sure Universal Credit protects people from going without the essentials. You can join thousands of people who are taking a stand and urging party leaders to take action.

<https://action.trusselltrust.org/guarantee-our-essentials-petition>

Around 90% of low-income households receiving Universal Credit are going without at least one essential like food, a warm home, or toiletries.



NANTWICH FOODBANK - 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



The foodbank hosted its 10-year anniversary at The Crown in Nantwich. The event was hosted by the Ceris Esplen.

The event began by recognising the 52 active volunteers who give an amazing 4702 hours every year to the foodbank.

Ceris ran through a brief 10-year history of the Nantwich foodbank:

- 2012 Nantwich foodbank is born under Churches together in Nantwich.
- Part of Trussell Trust – national network of foodbanks.
- Financially supported by local housing association in the wake of Welfare Reforms and impact on customers.
- Partner referral network established and drop-in collections begin at Market Street Church.
- Volunteers increase and we are well supported by the local church and school networks.
- 2014 - Became a registered charity and employed first employee - Jane Emery as Foodbank Manager.
- 2015 – Tesco becomes Trussell Trust partners and donations/ collections begin.
- 2017 – A bumper year for fundraising and a new signposting service launches to help to provide vital support.
- 2018 - Emily Vaughn joins as Storeroom Manager, and Sainsburys Nantwich makes us their charity partner and regular collections begin.
- 2020 – Moved to new delivery model and purchased a van, volunteers work tirelessly and selflessly to support those in need during Covid.
- 2021 – We begin to include fresh food in our parcels and Damien Gear joins and the new Foodbank Manager when Jane joins Trussell Trust.
- 2022 – Caroline Brown joins the team, and the board of trustees welcomes four new trustees.



NANTWICH FOODBANK - 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



In the last ten years the Nantwich Foodbank has:

- Supported 18,493 people locally.
- Distributed 332 tons of food.

Reason	No. People
Benefit Changes	108
Benefit Delays	68
Child Holiday Meals	652
Debt	69
Delayed Wages	36
Domestic Violence	21
Homeless	30
Low Income	932
No recourse to public funds	31
Other	173
Sickness	100

Citizens Advice Bureau	335
Cheshire East Council	233
Wrenbury Primary School	216
Brine leas school	195
Millfields primary school	187
Cheshire and Wirral NHS Trust	144
Nantwich Primary Academy	141
Jigsaw homes (deleted)	134
Malbank School	101
Job Centre Cheshire East	77
Your housing group	72
Nantwich Library	64
Child in need team	45

A big shout out to our referral partners WE THANK YOU

At Christmastime it's very easy to be caught up in buying presents, organising menus and meals, attending parties and preparing to spend time with families in our homes or theirs.

For Christians this time of year is Advent when they prepare to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ and reflect on his return in the future. The Jesus we read about in the Bible spent much of his time with those who were poor or forced by others to the edge of society. This Christmas help us to remember and include those who in today's world are similarly excluded and need our help with food and in other ways.

In the words of a modern Christian hymn: -

Friend of the weak

Give us compassion we pray

Melt our cold hearts

Let tears fall like rain

Come change our love

From a spark to a flame.

This we pray in Jesus Name, Amen.

WE WOULD LIKE SEND A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS





Nikki Harrison

Morrisons community champion (Nantwich)

I have been doing this job for 5 years since the start of covid and lockdown. A lot of people couldn't get out, so we started delivering food to them, basically doorstep deliveries for people who were vulnerable. This is how my role began. After lockdown we continued with a different service called click and collect, where vulnerable people unable to shop in-store could collect their food from us.

My job is to help everyone in the community, and I love it. My area covers Nantwich but all the way to Tarporley too, including schools and nursing homes. We help with things like raffles and summer fare, providing donations to help various causes.

We support the Nantwich RSPCA with cat food bins, and Paw Prints to Freedom, a dog rescue charity.

We assist the Nantwich foodbank with foodbank drives. We have Foodbank pick up packs in store. People can pick up these items and pay for them at the till and they get donated to the foodbank. The other day we raised £500 for the foodbank which was match funded by the rotary club taking the total up to £1000.

I have a group of nutty knitters that knit things to sell in store that raise money for various charities. The knitting group started at the beginning of covid, making scrubs for the NHS, and then got bigger and bigger to form the 'Nutty Knitters'.



More photos on next page





One of their amazing winter knitting projects is called 'Winter Warmer packs'. They produce 100 packs per year that go out to the elderly in Nantwich and the surrounding rural community who are struggling with fuel poverty. The packs include a knee blanket, gloves, a scarf, hat, chocolates, and a Christmas card. The cards are made by school children in Nantwich. The winter warmer packs are wrapped in Christmas paper and are giving to doctor's surgeries who give them out to those in need.

We are also involved in the foodbank reverse advent calendar campaign and have a toy donation station in-store. People buy toys from the store or bring things in from outside and we give them to the Foodbank to give out to children in the community.

There is so much that we do and to share but that's all for now. See you in store.

Nikki

