



## **Thornbury Foodbank Newsletter Summer 2023**

In June this year we marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Thornbury Foodbank. We didn't celebrate this anniversary as we will do when the need for Foodbanks has gone! We did, however, arrange a thank you lunch for our volunteers. It was good to catch up with those who were with us from the beginning and others who are journeying with us now.

The number of clients coming to us has remained fairly constant over the past 6 months. From 1 January to 30 June 2023, we fed 410 adults and 328 children. We issued 8.02 tonnes of food and other essentials, and received 5.8 tonnes of donations. Compared with the same period last year, number of adults fed is up by 18% and the number of children is up by 20%. The food and essential items issued is up by 6.5% and the donations received are down by 14%. Cost of living rises continue to have an effect on the numbers of clients and also on the amount of donations, as it affects all of us. We are drawing more donations from the warehouse in North Bristol but can also supplement these by buying in more items, especially fresh food. We are grateful to those who grow fresh food at Daggs Allotments who kindly donate any excess they have to us on a Friday, which clients can help themselves to when they come in for their appointment. This link was established by one of our faithful volunteers who has an allotment and approached the other growers. Our clients have very much appreciated this addition to their parcels.

Whilst donations from our community are down, we continue to be thankful for them. Every item we receive, in kind or financially, is gratefully received as we seek to show love and care to those in need in our community.

Your continuing financial donations enable us to buy fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese, bread, spread, baby milk and nappies and essentials when our stocks are low.

We are most grateful for the support we get from local businesses as well as individuals, schools, churches and organisations. Harvest is on the horizon and two of our volunteers will be going in to schools to share about Foodbank. These talks were enthusiastically received last year, so please let us know if any of you would like them to come and talk to your organisation about Foodbank.

We continue to have a good number of faithful volunteers who work with us on a Wednesday morning when we weigh and date all the donations and restock our 'shop' ready for Friday, and on Fridays when there is a morning and afternoon shift. The morning team put together the basic parcels and the afternoon teams have two roles. One team will welcome and speak to clients in order to establish other ways we can help them, signposting them to other organisations where appropriate. The second team add extras such as toiletries and other essentials to the made-up parcels. We are so encouraged by the volunteers' enthusiasm and their desire to be part of this wonderful opportunity of helping those in our community who are in need.

In exceptional circumstances where clients are unable to come to the Foodbank due to illness or other reasons, we are able to deliver their parcels. We are grateful for the support of our drivers who come in and help us with this on Fridays.



**Thornbury Outlet**

But we do encourage all clients to come in so that we can discuss other ways we, and other organisations, can help them. Hopefully providing them with the means to help get them out of food poverty.

On behalf of all of those benefitting from your kindness, generosity and concern, and always in the hope that one day Foodbanks will no longer be needed, we want to thank you again for making life a little easier for those in need of our help. We couldn't do it without your support.

Wishing you all continued health, peace and hope in the coming days.

Mair Vaughan

On Behalf of Thornbury Foodbank Management Team

[thornbury@nbsg.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:thornbury@nbsg.foodbank.org.uk)