

Clevedon District Food Bank

Welcome to our new look newsletter

Reflections on 2015- Christmas Hampers-Distributor Update-Warehouse Update-Pick up a Lunchbag

Distribution points

- Clevedon** 37 Old Street Clevedon
Opening hours Monday
and Friday 1.30-3.30pm
Contact:07722769529
- Nailsea** Southfield Church 85
Southfield Road
Opening hours Friday
12.30-2.30pm
- Portishead** Gordano Valley Church 4
Combe Road
Opening hours Friday
12.00-2.00pm
Contact 07790 508069

Reflections on 2015...

2015 was another busy year for Clevedon and District Foodbank. As the need for the Foodbank in our area does not appear to be dissipating we have taken on a lease of a local warehouse to provide a secure and safe place to manage, organise and store the generous donations of food from the local community.

We are very grateful to the Salvation Army who provide us with a comfortable space each week to meet clients and offer a friendly ear.

In 2015 we have built on our good relationships with Tesco, Clevedon and Waitrose, Nailsea who have collection boxes in their stores allowing the local community to donate to the Foodbank. We are also excited to add Sainsbury's in Portishead to the list of supporting supermarkets and very grateful to the Portishead Lions for managing these donations.

Autumn 2015 saw us launch our latest project to support our local community. On the first Friday of the month the Foodbank is offering a drop-in service to anyone in the community who would like some help and support with money management and budgeting. This service is based on the Christians Against Poverty Money Management Course and walks through the basics of preparing and managing on a budget.

September saw us celebrate the continual support and work of our very dedicated team of volunteers. This was a great day where agencies and other supporters from our local community got together to share experiences and honour the work of the Foodbank volunteers.

Clevedon and District Foodbank is a community project and 2015 has seen the community pull together to help relieve food poverty in our towns and villages. As we move into 2016 we will be looking for new ways to reach areas of our local community where we know there is a need.

Thank you for your support in 2015 and we look forward to your continued commitment and encouragement in 2016.



'Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee, withersoever thou goest.' Joshua Ch1, v9



distributors/voucher holders and

we

Christmas Hampers – bringing festive cheer

A community effort to pack and distribute nearly 250 hampers in our district

During the Christmas period last year, we ran a Christmas Hamper program for the first time and delivered around 200 Hampers to families on low income in the Clevedon area.

This year we saw an increase in demand and delivered nearly 250 Hampers covering 347 adults, 391 children, so 798 individuals in total. The combined weight of all of the food and other items in the Hampers was well in excess of 2000 kilograms.

All of this was only possible because of the generosity of our donors and the hard work of our volunteers. Large quantities of mince pies, puddings, and other Christmas fare

started to appear in our regular collection points in Tesco, Clevedon, Sainsbury's, Portishead and Waitrose Nailsea from the beginning of December. Many of our partner organisations made extra collections of seasonal goodies including schools such as Clevedon Comprehensive, St John the Evangelist and Mary Elton Primary. Many local churches also made collections. In addition to food donations, we also received large financial donations from several partner organisations which allowed us to address any shortfall in the supply of food for the Hampers.

The Hampers were assembled over the course of 3 days utilising 3

"production lines", set up in the Hall at Christchurch Clevedon. Many of our regular Foodbank volunteers took part as well as volunteers from local businesses including Lloyds Bank, Nailsea School and Avon Manufacturing. Our thanks go to Christchurch for kindly making their facilities available over the 3 day period.

Once again our heartfelt thanks to all of those donors, sponsors and volunteers who made the Christmas Hamper program possible.

Distributor update....

The increased need for food during November and December and the active support for the 'Pick up a Picnic' programme over October half term and the Christmas/New Year holiday has resulted in many organisations running low on food vouchers in the last two months. In addition, we continue to recruit new

distributors/ voucher holders and we welcome.

Clevedon Quakers, Ravenswood School Nailsea, Tickenham C of E Primary School, Archcare Services, Community Rehabilitation Services to our team of partners.



John Clarke – our warehouse and distribution manager

Warehouse Update

The period from October to December is the busiest time of year for the Warehouse. During the Harvest Festival period we received a very large amount of food from schools and churches in our catchment area, to the extent that we had to use our administrator's office as a temporary storage space. Because all of this food had to be weighed, dated and sorted before putting on our shelves, we started opening the Warehouse on Wednesday mornings to help get through the backlog of work. By the end of November, the Warehouse was more or less back in an organized state, just in time for the Christmas rush.

In November we received a visit from the British Pest Control Association as part of national "Pest Control" week. We were pleased to hear from the local BCPA representative, Howard Taffs of Good Riddance, that we are free of pests and that because of the high standard of our warehouse premises we are at very low risk.

December was a period of high activity in the Warehouse as we supported the Christmas Hamper program and the Christmas "Pick Up a Picnic"/school lunches activity, as well as making up our regular food parcels. In addition, we continued to see large deliveries of food from our various partner organizations. Once the dust has settled, we will need a few more Wednesday morning sessions to get back in order (watch for a request from Kelly, our administrator) to help with this



Lunchbags

Back in July 2014 we wanted to do something to help families on tight budgets who normally got free school meals, but who then had to find the extra money to pay for lunches across the summer. Our first idea was 'Pick up a Picnic', which we organised (just in Clevedon) in what felt like ten-seconds-flat, ready for the end of term, and which provided a simple picnic style meal. We handed out 64 that first summer. At October half-term 2014, we thought youngsters would be out-and-about less, so we decided to offer parents a 'lunchbag'. Clevedon schools knew exactly who would need them, and came on board with enthusiasm.

At half-term this year we broadened the scheme to cover all of our area, including Nailsea, Portishead and surrounding areas; and we asked schools to make vouchers available to all pupils over 7 who get free school meals, as well as to those under 7 who were in need. Take-up is increasing each holiday; we have handed out something like 110 one-week lunchbags for this Christmas fortnight, which means we've helped 55 pupils.

The lunchbags achieve more than just this, though. People seem to find less stigma in dropping in to see us for a lunchbag, so the scheme brings in people who otherwise wouldn't come to us; and while we're talking to them, we can signpost them to help if need be, and add an ordinary food parcel too if they need it. We also hope that families who've had lunchbags will feel braver about coming at other times if they need our help.

Prayer Point...

Please continue to pray for us, in particular for:

- ❖ Clients who come to us needing support;
- ❖ The funding to continue to manage this project;
- ❖ Relationships – as we begin to work more closely with local support agencies.



Registered charity number: 1163153 | Registered in England & Wales

Please note that the Foodbank has changed its charitable status bringing it in line with recently introduced legislation, this follows a successful application to the Charity Commission. We are now an incorporated Charitable Organisation referred to as the Clevedon and District Foodbank CIO, registration no 1163153