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CHESTERFIELD FOODBANK NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2024



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

RSPCA, PETS AT HOME, BLUE CROSS, TESCO, CBC, VOLUNTEER CENTRE, TESCO COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS, CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE, CHESTERFIELD ROYAL HOSPITAL, NORTHWOOD, AUTOWINDSCREENS, ELECTROSTEEL, FOUR WINDS ENERGY, SIMONA PEAK PIPES, LIDL, FOUNDATION DERBYSHIRE



October 2024

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter! As we step into autumn, we are eager to share our foodbank news and updates with our readers, and acknowledge collaborations and community events that have been taking place in support of our foodbank's work.

Harvest Season is Here!

Harvest assemblies and foodbank talks are in full swing! We're busy delivering assemblies for schools, and presentations for community groups and churches. This is always a special time of year for us, as it highlights the generosity of our community. Harvest Packs and Posters are available here:

<https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/harvest-2024/>

Our School and Youth Groups Assembly booking page is here:

<https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/online-notice-board-main/assemblies-for-schools/>

(Right: Lenthall Infants School's beautiful harvest display)



Focusing on Pets

We were thrilled to collaborate with the RSPCA, who brought their mobile vet clinic to Loundsley Green Foodbank Centre offering free pet health checks, and lots of other goodies and treats for local pets and their owners. The session was a huge success helping pet owners receive advice and reassurance throughout the day. As a bonus, RSPCA also donated a large amount of dog and cat food to our foodbank too! Special thanks to RSPCA staff, volunteers and their sponsor Smart Energy GB. We'd also like to give a special mention to one of the RSPCA volunteer drivers who spends his spare time driving up and down the country delivering pet food to foodbanks, come rain or shine. This is when he is not rescuing animals or doing house visits. Listening to volunteers, their lived experiences are both heart-breaking and heart-warming.

You may also have seen Chesterfield Foodbank at the Ravenside Retail Park, thanks to the support of Blue Cross and Pets at Home, in connection with Feeding Chesterfield, allowing us to raise awareness about the need for pet food at foodbanks. Special thanks to Jane, our Tesco Community Champion, for going above and beyond as always and securing some pet food for us too when our supplies hit a dry spell!

Referral Pathways and Outreach

We're as committed as ever to strengthening our referral pathways and expanding our outreach to better serve our community. By working closely with our local referral agencies, we're ensuring that the information collected on our electronic foodbank voucher system helps us understand the reasons people are in crisis. This allows us to identify

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root causes and offer more tailored support through our signposting. Aggregated data collected by Trussell is invaluable and supports ongoing efforts to campaign for the end of the need for foodbanks. Our Guest Agencies timetable is continuing and can be found here: <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/online-notice-board-main/agency-leaflets/> Thank you to our referral agencies and guest agencies for your time and support.

Here is the newly published independent evaluation report of Trussell-funded foodbank-based advice services: <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/2024/10/16/independent-evaluation-report/>

In addition to our ongoing work with local schools, churches and community groups, we've recently connected with more statutory agencies to enable more frontline healthcare professionals to issue foodbank vouchers, ensuring patients and community members in need get the support they require. We had a very special time at the Chesterfield Royal Hospital Annual Members meeting, where we connected with the Macmillan nurses and NHS staff who send in referrals for patients to our foodbank through our electronic voucher system. We heard some very moving stories from leaders, staff, patients and apprentices, and were dazed by the extraordinary work going on behind the scenes at the hospital. It was also fantastic to attend Chesterfield College Freshers' Fair, where local partners and alliance organizations including Citizens Advice, The Volunteer Centre, CDC Ray Club, Derbyshire Constabulary, and St John's Ambulance all jostled to recruit new volunteers from the college's talented cohort of young adults to continue their incredible work.



A Warm Welcome to Our New Volunteers

We're thrilled to welcome our newest volunteers! We've recently had the pleasure of meeting lots of lovely local people who have pledged to help our foodbank by donating their time at our foodbank in various roles including at our foodbank centres and as a driver, an admin assistant and even a trustee! Every new recruit goes through a full induction, including a warehouse visit and safeguarding training. Your dedication makes all the difference, and we can't wait to see the positive impact you'll have. Good luck in your new roles and welcome to our Foodbank Team!

If you know anyone who is interested in joining our volunteering teams, please feel welcome to share this link with them to join our waiting list. <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>



Meet the Trustee

A very warm welcome to our new Trustee, Ian Hayes.

I moved to Chesterfield area just over 20 years ago.

When I started my own e commerce business around 5 years ago I had the opportunity to juggle my diary to suit and felt in a position to contribute to the local area.

I started by carrying out volunteer shopping during covid then I joined the volunteer Team at CFB in 2022. Originally I helped in the warehouse and at Compass @Blend on Wednesday.

I now only help on Wednesdays and enjoy working as part of the Team. In most cases clients are really appreciative of the food parcels they receive and it is great to

be a part worthwhile cause. It is a little too early for me to say much about the Trustee role however I have over 40 years' experience working within large organisations and hope that I can use that experience to some good.

It would be nice if people in need are made aware of the support that is available to them and have the confidence to seek support during difficult times and to get them back into a positive position.

VIP Visit from Nottingham Foodbank

We were delighted to welcome Helen from a neighbouring Trussell Foodbank, who spent the best part of a week over summer observing our operations here at Chesterfield Foodbank warehouse and our 6 distribution centres. It was wonderful to exchange ideas and share best practices, and we'd like to say a big thank you to Helen for all her enthusiasm and help as she dived in and embraced our foodbank activities for the week! Best of luck to Helen as she takes on the challenging role of managing East and West Nottingham Foodbank and its 14 satellite hubs!



IN MEMORY

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Helena, a much-loved and valued volunteer at our foodbank. Helena dedicated many years to helping those in need, volunteering at our foodbank centres in Brimington and in the Town Centre. After taking time away to care for her beloved husband, Brian, before his passing, Helena returned to the foodbank to continue her selfless work.

In addition to helping with the careful setup of each session, often bringing donations of her own, Helena had a deep passion for signposting foodbank clients to additional support with a friendly ear and a compassionate, reassuring smile. Helena truly went above and beyond to make a meaningful impact on countless lives, and her kindness and dedication will be greatly missed by all of us.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family during this difficult time.

November Food Drive at Tesco

Mark your calendars! Our next food drive is from 28th-30th November at Tesco Extra on Lockoford Lane. We're gearing up for a fantastic event and appreciate any and all support you can give.

Fresh Futures Care Pack Bundles Update

We've been working hard on building and distributing Fresh Futures Toiletries Care Pack bundles, thanks to grant funding from Chesterfield Borough Council, and of course our amazing volunteers who took on this huge challenge! A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed to making the bundles project a success, directly helping local individuals and families to access essential toiletry items with dignity. In total, our fabulous Care Packs volunteer team made 1272 bundles over 3

separate sessions, comprising various selections of shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, deodorant, and shaving gel. The packs are still being distributed in our centres while stocks last.



Stats

So far this year, Chesterfield Foodbank has provided food to 8955 people, 6813 Adults and 2142 children. Thanks to each and everyone who has supported us to make this possible including our teams of committed volunteers, our donors, partners, referral agencies and supporters. More Stats are available on this page: <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/stats/>



TESCO
Every little helps
Tesco Winter Food Drive
Thurs 28th Nov to Sat 30th Nov
9am-5pm
Tesco Chesterfield
Lockoford Lane
Chesterfield
S41 7JB
chesterfield foodbank

Thank You messages

Thank You, Links CVS

We'd like to extend our gratitude to Links CVS for their invaluable funding training. This knowledge is essential for our charity's future as we continue to seek sustainable funding options.



Foundation
Derbyshire

Massive thanks to Foundation Derbyshire for grant funding awarded to help with our core costs from Sept 2024 to Sept 2025

Huge thanks to Four Winds Energy for their donation of £7000 to help support our work



Donor Thanks:

We'd like to say a massive thank you to **Auto Windscreens, Electrosteel, Northwood, Simona Peak Pipes, Lidl, St Andrew's URC, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Whitt Moor Methodist Church and their respective Cubs, Scouts, Beavers and Squirrels**, who have been collecting food donations for our foodbank **and to all the churches and schools** who have been organising harvest festivals in support of our foodbank.



Voluntary Sector Awards

Exciting news—Chesterfield Foodbank and Chesterfield Citizens Advice were shortlisted for a Partnership Award at the Voluntary Sector Awards on 8th October at The Winding Wheel! Huge thanks to [The Volunteer Centre](#) as always for their efforts to make this a memorable event for all nominees.

2024 Autumn Budget

Trussell have made it simple to ask your MP to write to the Chancellor calling for immediate action in the upcoming Budget to protect people facing hardship. You can use [Trussell's tool](#) that pre-populates an email to your MP whilst giving you a chance to personalise why this is important to you. [Email your MP](#)

Keep in touch

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up with all our latest news. Our Online Notice Board has been updated and now includes the following sections: Updates, Support Services, Local Events calendar for free events, workshops and activities. <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/online-notice-board-main/>

Subscribe to our Newsletter

You can subscribe here <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/online-notice-board-main/newsletters/> to have our newsletters delivered to your inbox.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

We couldn't do any of this without you! Whether you're a volunteer, partner, donor, or supporter, your help is invaluable. We're grateful for everything you do, and we ask you to keep cheering us on—together, we make a difference! Thank you for being part of our journey, and here's to an incredible autumn ahead!

Warmest wishes, from the Chesterfield Foodbank Team

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