

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2024

Financial Inclusion Project

We don't just provide emergency food. Since April 2022, we have partnered with Citizens Advice Welwyn Hatfield to give people access to advice and support. Our Citizens Advice worker connects people with longer-term support to make it less likely they won't have enough money for essentials in the future.

In the last quarter: 37 new people have accessed this service; nearly £34,000 financial gains were made for people using the service; and 20 people no longer need to use the foodbank as a result of the support.

**NOT JUST
EMERGENCY
FOOD**



Our Stats (as of 31st December 2023)

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 3,582 | children fed in the last year by Hatfield Foodbank | |
| 773 | people on average are fed by Hatfield Foodbank each month | |
| 337 | vouchers are issued by our partner front-line care professionals each month | |
| 5,800 | kg of food required each month to feed people in crisis | |
| 2,600 | kg of harvest donations given by local schools and churches | |
| 3,000 | kg of Christmas donations given by local schools, churches and businesses | |

Mayor's Charity

We are so pleased that the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Pankit Shah, has chosen us as one of two local charities to support during his term of office. We had great fun taking part in his fundraiser quiz night in December - just don't ask how we did in the quiz!



Guarantee Our Essentials

It's not right that any of us should have to rely on charity to get by. We should have enough money for the things we all need. We don't have to live with hunger in Hatfield. That's why we're working with foodbanks across the UK to build a future where no one needs emergency food. Find out more and join the campaign at www.trusselltrust.org/essentials

**GUARANTEE
OUR ESSENTIALS**

Partners

We are grateful for our partner agencies who help us meet the needs of those in crisis. Over 100 referral agencies work with us to signpost and support people accessing the foodbank.

A full list of our partner agencies can be found on the [Get Help](#) section of our website.

"People here do not judge and are really, really kind. I can talk to people openly about anything... Without the food, I would not eat."

Give Help

We are so grateful for the ongoing donations from the public, organisations and corporate businesses which enable us to keep helping people in crisis. It means so much to us and those who receive the food.



We would like to give thanks to the following organisations who supported our Harvest Festival:
Birchwood Avenue Primary School, Birchwood Methodist Church, Brightside Preschool, Brookmans Park Primary School, Brookmans Park United Reformed Church, Busy Bees Hatfield Road, Busy Bees WGC, Christ Church Little Heath, Countess Anne School, Evangelical Baptist Church, Green Lanes Primary School, Hatfield Community Free School, Howe Dell Primary School, Oak View Primary and Nursery School, Oxlease Methodist Church, Queenswood School, Safari Stars Nursery, St Ethelreda's Church, St John's Church Hatfield, St Luke's Church, St Mary's Church North Mymms, St Michael and All Angels Church, Southfield School, Sunshine Pre-School, Tewin Cowper C of E Primary School and The Ryde School.
We had 2,600kg of food and essentials donated.

At Christmas, these wonderful organisations supported us: Affinity Water, Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School, Blue Arrow, Chancellor's School, Countess Anne School, Cranbourne Road, Old French Lane and Endymion Road Residents, Detector Testers, Digihaul, Hatfield Community Free School, IMO Precision Controls Limited, Links Academy Hatfield, Luvata Welwyn Garden Limited, Monks Walk School, Onslow St Audrey's School, St John's Church Hatfield, Tewin Cowper C of E Primary School, The Red Lion, The Ryde School, The Sibthorpe Arms, University of Hertfordshire Student Union and University of Hertfordshire.
We had 3,000kg of food and essentials donated. Thank you to you all!



Thank you to everyone who donated during our three-day Tesco collection event before Christmas.



In addition to donations from the public, we are grateful for the continued support from Arla, Hatfield Rotary Club, Simmons Bakery and Tesco Extra Hatfield as well as significant donations from Cadbury, Computacenter, the Oshwal Association of the UK, and Tru Earth.

For details of what, how and where you can give (including financial gifts), please see the [Give Help](#) section of our website. Our social media is kept up to date with most needed items.



Don't forget: *Bank the Food* app can keep you updated about what we need.



You can also give food and toiletries via <https://www.givetoday.co.uk/hatfieldfoodbank/>

We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed and we know that together, we can make that happen.

Shopping list

Items we most need are...

- pasta sauce
- tinned vegetables
- tinned soup
- tinned custard
- tinned rice pudding
- tinned fruit
- jam and spreads
- long-life fruit juice
- small jars of coffee
- shower gel
- washing up liquid

Financial donations



Last year we were part of the @Coopuk Local Community Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported this, raising £2,085.50!

We have been greatly blessed by financial donations and grants we have received recently including those from:

Hertfordshire County Council (as part of the Government's Household Support grant), Fodabox, Intel, Old Hatfield Residents Association, Profit Impact, Sainsbury's Helping Everyone Eat Better Community Grant Fund 2023-24, St Mary's North Mymms PCC, The Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund, "The Cookery Swap" organised by Dheeraj Parashar and Aniket Dhivar, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Welwyn-Hatfield U3A.

From our clients...

(*names changed)

Rita*: The food bank has helped me so much not just supplying food but being able to chat to the lovely helpers. The people make me feel like a normal person and listen. The food parcels that are given out are fantastic and come in very helpful when struggling with certain money issues. Thank you once again.

Norman*: In April 21 I was assaulted and suffered long-term injuries. Being self-employed, everything stopped. No money, no support and has been ongoing all this time! We had to learn about what to do. I have been diagnosed with PTSD. To come to the food bank has been a lifeline. I feel really safe and calm.

Do you need help?

We are here for you.

So you can get the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation, we work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher as an electronic code. The local agency can also provide or signpost you to long term support, if needed, to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

A full list of our partner agencies can be found on the [Get Help](#) section of our website.

Hatfield Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Gracemead Church, King's Community Church and Kingdom Light Church

Hatfield Foodbank

Open Tuesdays, 11.30am-2pm
Gracemead House, Woods Avenue,
Hatfield, AL10 8HX

(for SatNav use AL10 8EW)

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