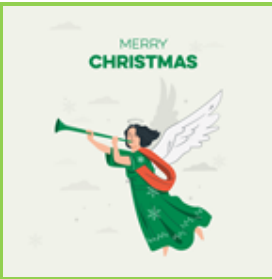


We look forward to seeing donors again from the 5th January



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Winter 2020



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Thank You to all of our Volunteers, Donors and Supporters



B30 Foodbank Statistics: 1st January 2020 - 31st December 2020

Total number of people fed in the last 12 months
7972

Total number of adults fed in the last 12 months
4616

Total number of children fed in the last 12 months
3356

Total number of Kgs of food received in the last 12 months
90460

Total number in Kgs of food given out in the last 12 months
85494

Total number of voucher holder agencies who refer clients
259

UK food bank trust says half of users repaying universal credit debts

Food bank users more commonly in debt to government than to friends or payday loan firms



*Article copied from the
Guardian Newspaper
1st December 2020*

It is now more common for people using food banks to be in debt to the government than to family and friends or payday loan companies, the Trussell Trust has said.

The UK's biggest food bank network said half of all households visiting food banks struggled to afford essential goods such as food and clothes because they were repaying universal credit debts.

The organisation said monthly deductions taken from claimants' payments – in most cases to pay back a universal credit advance loan – could reduce household incomes by up to a third.

The trust has called on ministers to freeze all universal credit deductions to give struggling families a financial breathing space. It argues it is unreasonable to expect them to be able to repay debts when they cannot afford basic essentials.

The most common deduction made by the Department for Work and Pensions is made in repayment of advance loans issued to tide claimants over during the minimum five-week wait for a first universal credit payment. Deductions are also made for benefit overpayment errors.

A record 5.7 million people were supported by universal credit in October – a near doubling since March, when lockdown began to take its toll on the economy. About 1.3 million new claimants were issued with advances between March and June.

“Our welfare system should increase people’s security, not suffering. But right now the government is taking money from the benefit payments of many people using food banks,” said the trust’s chief executive, Emma Revie. “Taking money off payments to repay these debts makes it much harder for people to afford the essentials and can impact on people’s mental health – this isn’t OK.

“With the pandemic continuing to hit people’s incomes, the government must pause taking money from benefit payments over the winter months until a more responsible and just system that offers security and support is in place. This would help people on the lowest incomes to keep every penny of their benefits to help afford the absolute essentials, instead of needing to turn to a food bank for help.”

A government spokesperson said: “We have announced a £400m package of support for this winter and beyond, including £170m to help families stay warm and well fed, millions in support for food aid charities and £220m to help children through the holiday activities and food programme.”

17 Marathons for the Green Heart Runners

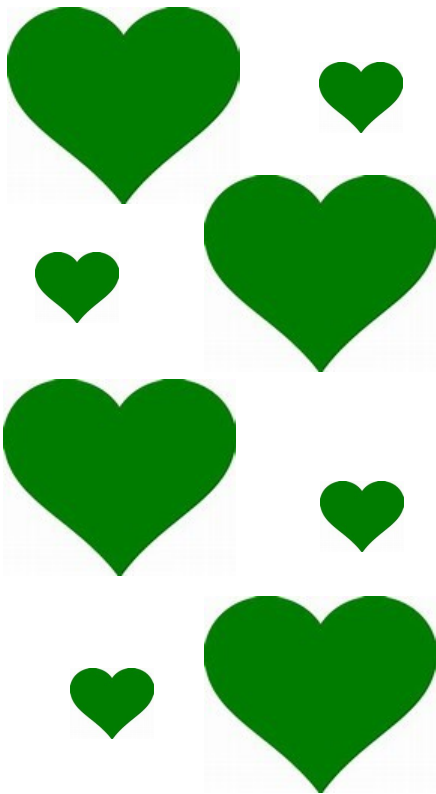
Green Heart Runners stunned us with their latest record breaking feat in support of B30 Foodbank. Hasan, Jess, Robbie and the group of Birmingham University runners set themselves the challenge of running 12 marathons between them. During October and November they all pounded the pavements and paths (individually to meet Covid guidance) and were sponsored for B30 Foodbank fundraising.

At a Zoom Meeting with B30FB it was announced that they had run the grand total of **17 marathons** between them -yes that's right - **717kms or 446 miles**.

Truly staggering !

Oh yes and the other important update is that the massive total of £4,240 has been given.

Thank you for every step run and every pound raised.



Heartfelt thanks from clients

These are some of the feedback we have recently received from clients.

“I would like to say thank you for my food parcel last Friday. I felt very humble... I will be starting a new job in January but if you need volunteers, I will be willing to do whatever to help. Thank you. “

“Thank you , Thank you. I didn't know what I was going to do. I hadn't eaten for 2 days.”

“My universal credit won't be paid for another 4 weeks. I can't get any other help. You've really helped me and my kids. Very grateful.”

NHS teams just keep on giving !



As if they didn't have enough to think about, the wonderful Patient Transport Services Team at West Midlands Ambulance Service decided to make a staff room collection in aid of the foodbank.

Kirsty Williams, pictured, organised the collection and said she was very touched with how much came in. Kirsty delivered the donation to our warehouse. Thank you so much to everyone for their donations and the brilliant work you do

Whopping donation from University of Birmingham Students

Five members of the University of Birmingham's Geography Society arrived at our warehouse with two car loads of food and essential toiletries.

The students explained that they haven't been able to do their usual charity events over the last term, so decided to support the local foodbank instead. And what a donation - it weighed in at over 250kg!

Pictured from left to right Caitlin and Amelia (who share a bubble) Caitlin, Mali and Coca. Thank you to them all and everyone who contributed and supported this wonderful donation.



Mask making scientist raises over £300

Jess from Cotteridge is a PhD student at Liverpool University, and in 'normal' years helps out at the foodbank during holidays and at Christmas.

She's not been able to be hands-on this year but wanted to do what she could to help us out. So crafty Jess got sewing when not in her plant science laboratory. Having made about 120 masks, she is selling them to fellow students and colleagues in Liverpool and has raised a total of £359 for the foodbank.

What a star! Thanks Jess!



Our warehouse volunteers were overwhelmed when our supporters at Elmhurst Ballet School came in with their Christmas collection.

Long-term foodbank supporters, the staff, parents and pupils at Elmhurst outdid themselves with three full car loads of food and toiletries.

The collection was led by Head boy and Head girl Shea and Alice, pictured, who staff said were brilliant at encouraging donations. Thanks to them and everyone involved in organising and contributing to this wonderful donation.

Ballet school donation would make your heart dance !



What a result ! Chris raises almost £2000 for the foodbank!

Chris Hurley From Bournville completed a running challenge and raised an astonishing £1,929 for B30 Foodbank.

Chris explained: "I was aware of the foodbank having lived in Bournville most of my life and have previously supported through food donations. I think the foodbank does fantastic work through the year and I wanted to raise money to help out in what has been an awful year with the pandemic."

We thank Chris for all his efforts and the wonderful donation, which will make a great difference to the work we can do!



Boot– busting donors !

John delivered his grandson's Christmas present! Grandson James just asked that John and his wife donate to the foodbank instead of buying him anything. What a lovely idea!

Bridget, a regular donor, came along after looking at our website for what we needed. Perfect!

Abi and Evie came with the regular donation from the residents of Featherstone Road, who have been as generous as always, thanks to you all.

John Fletcher made a delivery on behalf of the United Reformed Church and their neighbours in Weoley Hill.

Youngsters help mums to help us !

It was great to see several young people coming with their mums to donate at the foodbank warehouse.



Jayne came from local company Euro Packaging UK with a donation of food from the very generous finance team and also 1000 fantastic new bags for us to use

Five-year-old Josh came along with mum Vanessa to deliver a donation from Cofton Park Drive in Rednal. Vanessa had added quite a few items to it after selling some of her own Christmas decorations to fundraiser.

Arthur came along with mum Lucy after helping to organise a street collection in Grange Road, Kings Heath. Together with sister Hester and friend Gil, the children created flyers which they distributed along the road, making three follow up collections. The result did them proud!



More wonderful donors

Chris, in pink, arrived at our warehouse with a donation from the residents of Hamilton Court in Northfield Road. The donations were prompted by the residents' newsletter and the experience of Chris's daughter, who is a nurse and a foodbank volunteer. Thanks to everybody there who donated so generously.

Pictured also are Steve and Caroline delivering the third donation from Merino Avenue in Turves Green. Steve and Caroline have been donors to the foodbank since we started seven years ago and are now encouraging their neighbours to be as generous!

Janice is pictured delivering a personal donation from her and her dad. The boot load was very welcome and will make a great difference to local families and individuals this Christmas.



More donor inspiration!

Amie, a doctor at Birmingham Women's Hospital brought another donation in last week. Amie has been donating for a while and says she knows through her work, and living locally, just how tough life is for many people at the moment, which is what inspires her to donate.

Kerry and Sadie also came with donations collected once a month from their neighbours in Dickens Heath. Kerry explained the local community are very keen to keep on collecting and support the foodbank.

Peter arrived with a large donation bought by his wife Hazel. Peter said they were partly inspired by seeing the other stories on our Facebook page, which was really nice to hear.

Vicky came along with a large donation of unused PPE. Vicky, is also involved with Central City Roller Derby Girls, who are also supporters. She explained the gloves, masks, gel packs and wipes had all been provided for her work, but as she is mostly home based now, she was not using them up. We were very glad to have them to keep both our volunteers and clients safe.





Local people in need of emergency food should contact their social worker, support worker or a local Foodbank Referral Agent to get a referral to B30FB.

or a local Foodbank Referral Agent.



Alternatively ring either

Birmingham City Council Advice Line

0121 216 3030

Citizens Advice Bureau (foodbank line)

0808 208 2138

The Project 0121 453 0606





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Keeping in Touch

“One way to keep in touch with what’s going on at the foodbank, as well as seeing pictures of volunteers and donors, is through our three social media channels.

The foodbank has pages on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and now **Instagram**. We try and keep them simple, bright and positive. So, if you’ve got the tech, a smart phone, laptop or tablet, why not have a go at interacting with one of the foodbank pages? Just search for B30 Foodbank on any of the platforms and hopefully you can see what we’ve got going on.”



To see more of our fantastic donors follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**

PIC-COLLAGE

B30 Foodbank, The Cotteridge Church, 24 Pershore Road South, Cotteridge, B30 3EJ
The Warehouse , Unit 17, Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Park, B30 3HZ
B30 FB Warehouse is open Tuesdays and Fridays 2pm –4pm



07582 143972 Client inquiries

07985 629201 Warehouse phone



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twitter.com/foodbankB30



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