

B30 Foodbank is currently operating from The Friends Meeting House, 23a, Watford Road, Cotteridge B30 1JB



Summer 2021

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Hostels from hell: the ‘supported housing’ that blights Birmingham

The private hostels are meant to care for vulnerable homeless people. But as crime soars, users suffer and neighbours despair, questions are being asked



Britain’s second largest city is now the centre of this burgeoning market, which despite receiving millions of pounds of public money every week to help people turn their lives around stands accused of leaving vulnerable people with little or no support. Birmingham has seen the number of bedspaces in these hostels and shared houses double from 11,000 in early 2018 to 22,000 in March this year.

Figures uncovered by The Observer reveal for the first time the 10 biggest independent providers in the country are on course to collect £184m in housing benefit this year – generating on average more than £11,600 every year for each of the nearly 16,000 bedspaces they supply.

[Read the Full Article from The Guardian](#)

B30 Foodbank Statistics: 1st July 2020 - 30th June 2021

Total number of people fed in the last 12 months

6120

Total number of adults fed in the last 12 months

3829

Total number of children fed in the last 12 months

2291

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

100193Kgs

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

89131Kgs

Total number of voucher holder agencies who refer clients

270

Clients receiving food thank the B30 Foodbank

Sometimes we receive texts to thank us for food received.....

"Thank you to you and all the team. Much appreciated!"

" ACE "

"Just thanks from

"I was really desperate.
Your stars."

"My neighbour gave me a tin of beans. I didn't know where to go.....I'm happy now."

Have a good day. you have truly helped me today, I admire what you do.

"Oh my.. Thank you for today. I feel supported. God bless."

And a big thank you also from B30FB Management Team and Volunteers to all our Supporters. We couldn't do it without you all.

A Little Lockdown Run

We two had run throughout the various lockdowns and for the last 6 months had gradually increased distances. Also, since the first lockdown we had been arranging regular street collections for the B30 Food Bank from neighbours in Knighton Road, Badsey Close and Ashfield Avenue. We decided to bring the two things together and raise a little money for the foodbank by running an informal half marathon. Friends and family provided great support and on May 17th we were blessed by perfect running conditions. Northfield Park (Victoria Park), Bournville Park, Rea Valley and quite a few laps of Cannon Hill Park provided the necessary miles (13.1).

Our target time was to beat the total of our combined ages and 125 minutes did that with a little to spare so you can get the idea that we are in the age range who have long since had both vaccinations! The total raised so far is over £1,150 which has been transferred to the B30 account to support the work they do with so many people who are finding it hard to get enough food on the table in this difficult time. As well as raising the money we had a fun time planning, training for and doing the run. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

David Green and Ian Binnie



Third lap of Cannon Hill Park

Essential supplies– Jelly Babies



Life on The Breadline

Life on the Breadline is a challenging new exhibition being premiered in Coventry Cathedral this summer

Date: 3rd July 2021 to 28th July 2021

Time: 10am to 4pm from Monday to Saturday, and from 12.30pm to 3pm on Sundays

Where: Chapel of Unity, Coventry Cathedral

The exhibition features photographs from our Life on the Breadline - grassroots case studies in Birmingham, London, and Manchester which challenge the way we think about people's experience of poverty in the UK and how Christians have responded to poverty during the 'age of austerity'.

The photographs have been taken by the research team and by local residents, volunteers, and staff at the six case study projects (including B30Foodbank).

Please note: All visitors will be required to book a free 'Entry and Exhibition' ticket to visit Coventry Cathedral and view this exhibition, please ensure you book your ticket for a date that is within the period of time this exhibition is on display.

Tickets [Life on The Breadline—Coventry City of Culture 2021](#)



45 Minutes At The Food Bank

Lenny

came to B30 Foodbank in desperate need. He is living in garage. There are no washing facilities and no furniture. Lenny only has a single gas burner to heat food on. He has no money because his benefits were stopped after he missed an appointment.

Lenny was given suitable food and also contact made with a specialist benefits adviser to help unravel the benefits problem.



Dana

Was very agitated and anxious when she came to the foodbank. She eventually explained that she was in serious debt and is scared to answer a knock at the door or the phone. In addition to food, she was offered the support of a debt advisor. Initially reluctant Dana said it's really hard to talk to someone when it's hard to admit how bad things are even to myself. We arranged for the adviser from the Project to text her first so she knows who is ringing her.

Derek

Was very anxious when he came to the foodbank with no voucher referral. He finds it very hard to make his Universal Credit last to the last of the month. He is severely dyslexic and has no phone, so negotiating the benefits system and accessing support is very difficult. We arranged for The Project Support Worker to phone his friend who would then fetch Derek.

Derek left the foodbank carrying 3 bags of food and toiletries. He was much calmer and happier than when he arrived.

Shaz

Is an Asylum Seeker having escaped persecution in Iran. He lives on £35 per week allowance and is not entitled to other benefits. B30FB ensured he got both food and support from 'Migrant Help'.

Bumper Donation from Asda

Our thanks go to a local Asda store which recently provided a grant that was enough to buy ten three day food parcels for clients, together with seventeen toiletry bags.

Foodbank volunteers Peter and Roger accepted the bumper donation from Katey at Asda. Thanks to everyone involved in making the donation possible.



Generous McDonald's staff deliver amazing donation!

Staff from Kings Norton's McDonald's restaurant, known as Ronald's Rangers, held a collection for B30 Foodbank recently. The community-minded team managed to collect an astonishing 110kg of donations, including food, nappies and toiletries.

Thanks to manager Kieran and all the staff for thinking of our clients at this time, your donation and generosity is just wonderful.



The Shed



Thanks you to the lovely volunteers at The Shed community cafe in Cotteridge Park who recently asked if they could host a foodbank collection bin. The bin is now in place and ready to take donations of long life food and toiletries.

If you're passing and need to know what we need, check our website B30.foodbank.org.uk for the latest list of most-needed items or search your App Store for the Foodbank App from Redemption Media and insert B30 Foodbank.

Thanks for long-term support from retiring teacher Jill!

Every couple of weeks our volunteer team at the warehouse get a visit from Jill Oldfield, delivering the wonderful collection made at King Edward VI High School for Girls.

Jill packs the donations into boxes and delivers them in her own time and our donations manager has calculated that she has now delivered a whopping 878kg of much needed food and toiletries.

Jill is retiring from her job at the end of this term so we send the best wishes and thanks of all of the volunteers, clients and supporters of B30 Foodbank.



Community donations still making a big difference.



Thanks to a Northfield nursery for a fantastic donation.
Amy and Dawn arrived at our warehouse with a wonderful collection made at the First Steps Rathvilly Nursery.

Thanks to everyone there who donated and organised the collection.
Every tin of soup, pack of nappies and bar of soap make a big difference to our clients.

In a year when some collections options have been lost, we have been really grateful to the many street and community collections still taking place.

Recently our donors included Claire, who arrived with both food and cash donations from neighbours on Beaumont Road, and Kyra with her collection made on Highbury Road.

Thanks to them both and everyone who has donated recently. We can't continue without you.



Individual or group - all donations make a difference!

Donations come from people who come along week in and week out, people representing their community and individuals coming for the first time.

Included in these are Jennie and John who bring a large and very, very generous donation every week. Jennie and John are quite publicity shy, but were persuaded to have a picture taken - thank you to them both!



Also pictured are Peter and Linda who brought in the donation from Oak Farm Road. Local street and road collections are now contributing significantly to our stocks and have made a big difference over the year when we couldn't send volunteers into supermarkets. We are hoping this will change soon and you'll see our volunteers out and about again.

Thanks again to everyone who donates. If you want to do the same check our website for how and what to do, B30.Foodbank.org.uk.



Mercedes staff deliver great donation!

Our thanks go to staff from Mercedes Benz in Solihull. During a very busy session, which is why we didn't get their names - sorry, members of the Mercedes Benz team delivered a whopping 120kg of food to the foodbank warehouse this Tuesday!

Thank you so much for your donation, it will make a very big difference to a lot of people!



The generosity of donors is always amazing

Among the many donations received were these three, brought directly to our warehouse. The generosity and organisation that goes into some of the donations is awe-inspiring and we are so grateful to everyone involved.

Pictured here are Pauline and her proud grandson, delivering the latest collection from Pauline and Derrick's corner shop on Midland Road. Also pictured is Laura, with the regular donation from the residents of Franklin Road and the neatest ever and super-generous personal donation delivered by Jessica.

Thanks again to all our donors - we wouldn't be here without you!





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 B30 FB.



Alternatively ring either

Birmingham City Council Advice Line

0121 216 3030

Citizens Advice Bureau (Foodbank Helpline)

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.”

Multifund Birmingham do it again!

We are very grateful for the continued and ongoing support from local fundraisers at Multifund Birmingham (check them out on Instagram @MultiFundBham.)

Established at the start of the pandemic last year by a young local woman wanting to help a number of charities in any way she could, Multifund have made several collections and several large donations in aid of B30 Foodbank - the most recent also being a celebration of Ramadan.

Thanks to all the camera-shy donors, collectors and organisers, we are very grateful on behalf of our clients.



B30 Foodbank, at The Friends Meeting House, 23a Watford Road, Cotteridge, B30 1JB

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

 info@b30.foodbank.org.uk

 www.b30.foodbank.org.uk

07985 629201 Warehouse phone

 [Facebook.com/B30foodbank](https://www.facebook.com/B30foodbank)

 twitter.com/foodbankB30

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