



Newsletter – February 2023

B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank is ten years old this year – a cause for celebration?

April 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the start of B30 Foodbank, now known as B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank.

While we are proud of the work we have done, and continue to do in an ever-changing world, sadly we don't feel our increase in size and the rapidly increasing demand, is any cause for celebration.

We've witnessed a 56% increase in client numbers between January 2022 and January 2023. This is a tragic situation. Out of all tragedies though, come some positives and the support of our local community, businesses and schools is wonderful to see.

Our volunteer team too continue to be outstanding. We're proud that week after week they apply themselves professionally, with dedication, and most importantly, with kindness. From the start when we had a team of six volunteers we now have over 120 volunteers on the books and we rely on at least 32 people to cover every session, including the amazing warehouse squad. If you want to help us continue this important work take a look at our website to see how at B30.Foodbank.org.uk.

Our warehouse team are setting the standard.



A request from the Trussell Trust to bring some important visitors to our impressive warehouse is a great compliment to the hardworking team of volunteers – who run it like professionals.

Foodbank Treasurer, Peter, explained how the visit went. He said: "We met at the warehouse with senior representative of the Trussell Trust and food industry logistics professionals, discussing alternative and possible ways of accessing food supplies from supermarkets and wholesalers etc. They were

very impressed with our operation in terms of warehousing, purchasing and control of supply requirements and we had a very good discussion on all aspects of logistics. The Trussell Trust are also negotiating with wholesalers for preferential arrangements with foodbanks."

Congratulations to our superb warehouse team for demonstrating how we care for each and every donation.

The easiest ways to donate:

The easiest way for you to donate food items is via one of the many donation bins around our area. The website has a full list of bin locations. Local shops and various community hubs have our bins, which are regularly emptied by badged volunteers. Donors are also welcome to visit our warehouse on Tuesday or Friday 2-4pm. Address and directions also on the website, together with details of how to donate financially.

Remembering Susan and Myra.



Sadly, we lost two long-term and dedicated volunteers towards the end of last year. Until just weeks before her death, Susan Orlick was answering client questions on a dedicated phone line and sharing her expertise on safeguarding.



Myra Dean was forced to stop volunteering in 2020, due to the pandemic and her personal health. She is pictured here in a familiar

pose, sorting stock at our previous foodbank home. Both Susan and Myra are greatly missed.

Street and community collections are making all the difference.



We are extremely grateful to the many local residents in South Birmingham who continue to donate on a regular basis. Streets and roads from Selly Oak to Bournville regularly collect and deliver to our warehouse.



Recently the local Labour Party also organised a collection in Stirchley and dropped off a wonderful donation. Our stocks always drop in January and February and these regular donors help to keep us topped up just when we need it most. Thanks to everyone who donates.



The figures – B30 Foodbank statistics Jan 2023:

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|--|--------------------------------|
| Number of people fed: | Total: 1427 On 662 vouchers |
| Food donated to us: | 9,412 kg |
| Food given out to clients: | 12,478 kg |
| Number of agencies/referrers we work with: | 250+ |

Keeping up to date with our ‘most-needed’ items.

Our volunteers are regularly asked about what goes into a food parcel and what items we need people to donate most. It goes without saying that in these difficult times we are grateful for every tin, packet and carton we receive on behalf of our clients.

We do not have the facilities to store fresh and frozen items though, so tins and cans and dried items form the basics of our clients’ bags. Every couple of weeks the website is updated with our ‘most needed items’, which may vary from time to time. These always include though tins of meat, soup, pasta sauce, breakfast cereal, long life milk and basic toiletries, including sanitary towels. If you can include any of these things in your donation, they will make a big difference to someone in need.

To see the latest lists of most needed items and find out about other ways you can donate and help, check our website at B30.foodbank.org.uk/donate.

Local businesses continue to give their support.



Local businesses, large and small, have been showing their support for the foodbank and local community consistently and we are so delighted to have built up such good local support.



Just some of them are pictured here, including CTB Alarms, Fieldstone Solutions, Jaguar Landrover, Davisons Solicitors, Mondelez and O,Brien Contractors.



Where to get help with utility bills:

<https://www.nea.org.uk/get-help/>

<https://www.britishgas.co.uk/.../help-if-youre-struggling...> (and not just for British Gas)

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/.../how-to-get-help-if.../>

Know someone in need?

Local people in need of emergency food should contact:

- Their social worker
- support worker or
- a Foodbank Referral Agent - to get a referral to the foodbank.

Alternatively, they can call:

- Birmingham City Council Advice Line 0121 303 1116
- Citizens Advice Bureau (Foodbank Helpline) 0808 208 2138.

Contact us:

B30 Foodbank operates from The Warehouse, Unit 17, Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Park, Birmingham, B30 3HZ and The Friends Meeting House, 23a Watford Road, Cotteridge, B30 1JB.

For donations – our warehouse is open on Tuesday and Friday 2pm – 4pm. Call 07985 629201 to contact the warehouse during these hours.

For client enquiries - call 07582 143972 or email info@b30.foodbank.org.uk or check our website at www.b30.foodbank.org.uk

We are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tiktok - search for B30 Foodbank.