



# Foodshare News

December 2014

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Welcome to Foodshare's Christmas newsletter

We would just like to share with you some of the fantastic things which are happening due to the fantastic support from all of you.

## FOOD SERVED

Last month, we provided food to this amount of people:

Food provided	People	Meals
Homeless Meals	197	197
Foodbank	468	14,040
Sandwich Run	116	116
Community Meals	3,396	3,396
Totals	4,177	17,749

How amazing is that? Thank you everyone.

## MESSAGE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Sue Brett is our founding Trustee. This is her message to us all.

"Wow what a busy few months we have since our last update! Since the last update we have:

Given out -----food parcels

Made and given to the homeless ----- sandwiches

Cooked -----meals for the Thursday meals and community meals

Given breakfast to ----- children via their schools

Quite an achievement, but only possible thanks to the amazing volunteers we have.



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Filming has started on a documentary regarding poverty here in Maidenhead. Many of you will have seen David, Matt and Zach around town and at the various meals filming. If you want to talk to them, please do so. They are really lovely young men who would love to hear from you either on or off camera.

Harvest Festival has been and gone in a flurry of school assemblies. At times the centre has been almost bursting at the seams with box upon box of food, with our regular food donations being supplemented by Christmas donations, school harvest festivals and supermarket collections from Sainsburys, Waitrose and Tesco. Although we have so much at the moment, we need to make sure we have enough stock to keep us going through the winter months when sometimes supplies are very low. The sorters do an absolutely fantastic job making sure the shelves are filled for the packers and that there is room to actually move around.

Christmas is almost here, which seems so hard to believe. December has been manic (my word for December!). It has been a hectic rush of sorting advent calendars, hampers, presents, chocolate selection boxes and gift cards. Wrapping, packing and lists to cover lists! (I really don't envy Santa). To give an idea of the scale of Christmas this year, this is what we gave out:

Gift	Numbers
Advent Calendars	463
Christmas Hampers	426
Chocolate Selection Boxes	270
Children's Presents	657
Gift Bags to the Elderly	120
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,936</b>

This has been a huge task and before Christmas day arrives, 100 gift cards for meat will have been given out together with 24 (and counting) turkeys and tons of fresh fruit and veg! I am so glad that this happens only once a year .

Once again we could not do this without the support of our amazing volunteers. All that is left is for us to do this year is to wish you all a very, very

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merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, joyful and peaceful New Year.

Thank you all for being such amazing volunteers."

## CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR OUR GUESTS

We held a Christmas party for all our Recipients. 500 people were invited. Here are some pictures of the guests and volunteers who came:





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## OUR VALUES

Since our last Newsletter, we have been reflecting on who Foodshare really is and what we want it to be. We have listened, and listed below the values our volunteers, our referrers, our donors and our recipients have shared with us.

The chosen values are:

- Kindness
- Caring
- Compassion and love
- Appreciation (and thanks)
- Trust
- Respect
- Dignity and fairness
- Empathy
- Hope and joy
- Belonging (and friendship)
- Engagement (and acceptance)
- Cooperation and teamwork

This is a combined set of values that everyone helped draw up. Over the coming months, we will work out what it means for us in practice - who we help, how we help them, how we treat people. It is an exciting time. If anyone wants to contribute to this process, please let us have your ideas.

## THANKS

In keeping with our new value of Appreciation, please know how much we appreciate everything you do for our recipients. Some people spend huge amounts of time helping to cook, sort or pack. Some people spend an hour or so outside a supermarket helping collect food. Others make tea and coffee, or sit and chat with our guests. Some people just smile at the right time to someone who is consumed with loneliness or worry.

Whoever you help and however you do it, it can mean the world to the people who need someone to lean on at their times of greatest difficulties. Even if



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they don't have the words to say it themselves, the people we help are really grateful.

Here are just a couple of the comments we received at the Christmas party.

## Thanks For Everything You Do

"It is great that all the volunteers are giving up their spare time helping me and my family out. Thank you for all your help."

*Claire R*

"I've been homeless - not very nice. Now my benefits have been cut, so it's nice to have somewhere like this, where we can get help. (Many thanks!)"

*Anonymous*

"Thank you very much for everything you've done for me and my two boys. We are very grateful for everything."

*Claire S*

## Thanks For Caring

"Thanks for everything you have done for me and my three children. Being around such kind, caring people has taught my children not only to love and respect, but no matter what, somebody will always love them. It's also taught them that not everybody is so fortunate and just a smile or a cup of tea for that lonely man in the street could mean the world."

*Anonymous*

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thank you ALL again for your valuable time and huge hearts and wanting to make a difference to those in need here in Maidenhead.

Sue, Joan, Tommy, Nigel