



The Food Bank

Feeding the hungry in Milton Keynes

Dear Supporter,

I hope you have enjoyed your Christmas break so far and are looking forward to another few days of festivities to take you into 2012!



The Food Bank has had an amazingly busy end to 2011, both with demand for our service (7371 food parcels so far!) and thankfully, an amazing increase in food donations. Much of this I know is attributed to some great publicity on both TV with a great piece on Inside Out which was aired on 12th December and an ITV Anglia news story that went out on 16th December. We have also had airtime on both BBC 3CR breakfast shows and articles in the local papers during December. I am hoping to get the TV clips to put on our website for early January so watch this space!

We also had support from [MK Dons](#) who teamed up with ASDA (who already have a permanent Food Bank trolley in store at Bletcham Way) and Tesco to raise awareness and support our work. I hope that we can build on this relationship for 2012!



A massive THANK YOU to Russell Rose who ran the Bedford Half Marathon to raise money for The Food Bank on a very cold Saturday in December! His efforts raised £126 to support our work.

Arnie and I are still in training for the MK Marathon in April 2012 - our first time! The Food Bank still has one charity space up for grabs, so if you would like to run and raise money for The Food Bank do let me know ASAP.

The Food Bank has also had some good news with regard to funding applications - more details further through the news letter.

In This Issue

- Christmas Update
- Funding Update
- BLG 2012
- Food Bank 1000 & Business Buddies
- Post Christmas Clothing Collection
- Volunteering Opportunities

If you would like to join our mailing list then please click on the box below and send me your details - it will be great to have you on board!

foodbank.sue@mkcc.org.uk

Find us on Facebook 

URGENT FOOD SUPPLIES REQUIRED !!!

Please buy an item from the list below. The items shown in **red** are currently most urgent:

- Baked Beans
- **Long Life Juice**
- **Long Life Milk**
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tea Bags
- Dried Rice & Pasta
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Spaghetti
- **Tinned Rice Pud.**
- Biscuits
- Breakfast Cereal

2012 also brings our second BIG little Give which will take place from 11th - 18th March, so please check out how you can get involved.

Thank you for your continued support - together we really can make a difference...

Sue Wall
Project Manager



Christmas Hamper & Goodie Bag Update

This year's Christmas Hamper programme was a great success, with all 148 families nominated for hampers by our referral agencies, given a Christmas Hamper to help make Christmas special.



At one point our warehouse had over 100 hampers on the shelves and with all the beautiful wrappings it looked more like Harrods than The Food Bank!

We were also able to give out over 250 Christmas Goodie Bags to families or individuals who were referred to one of our serving centres in the two weeks prior to Christmas and who weren't nominated for a hamper, to help make their Christmas special too.

I hope you had as much fun and joy in making and giving your Christmas items, as I know the families who will receive them will experience.

I would like to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone who took part in either the Christmas Hamper or Christmas Goodie Bag programmes, as your generosity really does help to make Christmas special for families who are struggling and shows that someone really does care.

- Pasta Sauce
- Soup
- Sugar
- Jam
- Carrier Bags

Your food donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

9 Hollin Lane, Stacey Bushes
Weekday mornings 9.30am - 1pm (except Thursdays)
Tel: 01908 322800

ASDA Store Bletcham Way MK1 1QB

Trolley currently at the George Entrance but likely to move back to main entrance early 2012. Accessible during shop opening times.

Milton Keynes Christian Centre,
Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook.
Weekdays 9 - 4pm

Please call 01908 322800 for alternative times if necessary.

Thanks for your help - every item makes a massive difference.

Quick Links

www.mkfoodbank.org.uk

Funding Update



The results are finally in for The NatWest CommunityForce initiative, however unfortunately The Food Bank did not get enough votes to be in the top three for our area - we missed out by 40 votes - hopefully we will be able to get more votes another year - thank you to everyone who did vote!



The Food Bank has been fortunate to receive a grant from Comic Relief specifically to help fund the launch of our Mobile Food Bank which is something that has been on our hearts to do for over 12 months.

We are acutely aware that our service is not accessible to many people, whether due to where they live in relation to our existing Serving Centres, or that they are elderly, disabled or housebound.

The funding, spread over two years, will enable the setting up of a Mobile Food Bank - which will operate in a similar way to a mobile library - calling at prearranged locations, at regular times, so that people can redeem their Food Bank Vouchers more locally. It will also enable us to provide a bespoke delivery service to those who are truly housebound.

This is an exciting new venture at a time when our Community really does need our support more than ever and we are truly grateful to Comic Relief and the Milton Keynes Community Foundation who acted as administrators for the grant process.



The Food Bank is also pleased to be a partner in the Surviving Winter Appeal being run by the Milton Keynes Community Foundation. Other partners are Age UK, SSAFA and the YMCA. The programme is a lifeline to The Food Bank over the winter months, when demand for our service rockets and we run out of key items of food having to resort to purchasing. The Surviving Winter fund gives us a monthly allowance to draw on, just for essential food items, should the need arise.

The Surviving Winter Appeal is a national programme launched in 2010 by people who wanted to donate their Winter Fuel Payment - a universal benefit paid to everyone over the age of 60 - to help someone less fortunate than themselves. Further information can be found via the following [link](#).



MARCH 11th - 18th 2012!

The Food Bank is aiming to collect **50,000 items** of tinned, dried and long life food during the week of the BIG little Give - and also to raise much needed funding through a number of initiatives that will make you think about what it is like to be hungry or to go without.

How you can take part?

- Set up a Food Bank Collection Point at your School, Church, Club or work place and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to buy an item of food from our "Shopping List" to donate.
- Raise money for The Food Bank through Sponsorship:
 - Adults - could you be sponsored to fast for a day to help those who go to bed hungry?
 - Children - could you be sponsored to give up sweets for the week of the BLG to help children who can never afford sweets - **St Monicas School** did last year and raised **£305!**
- Hold a "wear your own clothes day" or similar and donate the proceeds to The Food Bank - **Shenley Brook End School** did last year and raised **£532!**

Last year's event was a great success, with over 16,000 individual items of food being donated during a single week. This year's Harvest Festival collection saw almost 29,000 items of food donated, however for BLG 2012 we are setting our sights high and are challenging our city to increase this to **50,000 items** - this would be half way to a world record that we plan to attempt in 2013.



Think of it - a WORLD RECORD coming to our great City of Milton Keynes - a record that would go a long way to meeting the rising need in our City - a record that would really make a difference!

So go on - what's stopping you? Give me a call on 01908 322800 or drop me an [e-mail](#) and I will send you out some information that you can use to get set up!

The FOOD BANK 1000



Will you spare just **£3 per month?**

The Food Bank needs 1000 people to donate just **10p per day** to ensure its sustainability.

So why not [sign](#) up now and see the difference your **£3** can make to our local community.

Business Buddies

The Food Bank is keen to partner with local businesses that are interested in making a positive contribution to their local community.

Our Business Buddies initiative enables companies of all sizes to make a regular monthly contribution (minimum £50 per month) to support the work of The Food Bank.

We can create opportunities for groups of staff to come along for a "team building" event at our warehouse, where they can get some hands on experience of our work and see what a difference their companies support is really making to the community.

Businesses could also benefit from having their logo on our Mercedes Benz Sprinter vehicle which is regularly used around Milton Keynes and the surrounding villages - what a great advert!



Sign up today by completing our [Business Buddies](#) form or go to the following link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/thefoodbank/donate>

Together we really can make a difference.....

Raise money for The Food Bank from your Unwanted Items!



Will you be having a post Christmas clear out to make way for all your new presents? Can you help The Food Bank with any of the following items that you no longer need?

- Clothing, shoes, belts or handbags
- Household textiles such as sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers, towels (NOT Duvets or Pillows)
- DVD's or CD's (NOT videos)

Your unwanted items could help us to raise much needed funds to support our service!

If you can help, please either drop them off at our warehouse during our normal opening times or alternatively please give us a call on 01908 322800.

Volunteering Opportunities

The Food Bank relies on volunteers to enable us to provide our essential service to our community.

We are currently looking to recruit volunteers who would be interested in getting involved in our soon to be launched, Mobile Food Bank programme.

Volunteers should be interested in working with people from all backgrounds, be able to drive a Mercedes Sprinter LWB vehicle, lift weights of up to 15kgs and be able to give a few hours each week during normal working hours on a regular basis.

Please give Sue a call on 01908 322800 or [e-mail](mailto:sue@mkcc.org.uk) Sue to find out more about this exciting new opportunity.

I do hope you enjoyed this newsletter.

Please think how you can help support us with the BIG little Give in March as we really do need everyone's support, as every tin and every penny makes a difference.

If you have any feedback on this edition then please e-mail me at the following address:

foodbank.sue@mkcc.org.uk

Wishing you, your family and friends a very peaceful and prosperous New Year!

God bless,

Sue
01908 322800