



## OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK- A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF.....

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will shine in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday " Isaiah 58 9-10

### Volunteers

We have 50 serving volunteers across all our food bank projects. Wow! This includes the team at our main Oswestry site in Beatrice Street, the team at the satellite food bank in Ellesmere, the storage container team, the admin office team, our website support, the CAP Job Club team and the CAP Debt centre manager. and of course our wonderful trustees. There is a significant waiting list of folks wanting to join us.

Most of our volunteers have a very strong skill base - from medical ,legal, educational, local authority, social services, admin, finance, business and advice services Additionally ,many of our volunteers represent 18 of our 40 support churches across the wider community. All of them without exception are amazingly hard working- with compassionate and generous hearts.

### The Trustees

We are grateful to our Trustees who regularly meet together to dot the 'i's and cross the 't's! They are David ( Treasurer), Kath ( Secretary), Richard, Tony and Russell ( Chair)



## A huge 'Thank You' to our donating community!

On behalf of all the people who visit the food bank for help, we would like to say a huge **thank you to all our lovely, amazingly committed and generous donors.** You have enabled the food bank to assist so many throughout the year. Through your incredible giving this last year, we have received enough money to continue to pay our overheads and plenty of food and other items to give away each week. Our regular financial givers who have set up SO's now number 21. Fantastic!

**Last financial year we received from you over 27,000kg of food and toiletries and we gave away 23,000kg.** You donated 4000kg during harvest alone. We packed 188 Christmas hampers which weighed over 1000kg, excluding all





## CAP Job club & Debt Centre

**The Job club** has run 3 courses over the space of the year. 16 people have benefitted from the club and 3 have since found paid employment with most other job club members having experienced volunteering situations, completed CV's, had practice and real interviews and have continued to be part of the community. Some have joined churches.

We are actively looking for experienced and resilient volunteers to join the Job club team.

**The Oswestry and Ellesmere Debt Centre** has been running for a year. David, our debt centre manager has been fantastic. 2 people have now gone debt free with 4 others to be debt free by the end of the month. David has had 21 referrals in total this year.

David is supported by a group of volunteer befrienders. More are always welcome!

**Your financial giving to the food bank also benefits the Debt Centre and Job Club.**

the wonderful new toys and games which we were able to give to the families most in need.

26 of our support agencies responded to the Christmas hamper give away and referred their neediest families to us. The agencies also came to collect all the hampers and had the pleasure of delivering them all over the county and even across the border.

Last financial year saw our **Sainsburys, Oswestry** customers donate 6274.52kg and **Tesco, Ellesmere** customers donate 3950kg of food.

We gave away 2311 emergency food parcels last year - this year will exceed that number. The first half of the financial year 2018/19 has seen a 13% increase in food bank use.

### Give thanks:

that, thus far, we have always been able to fulfil the needs of our clients through: enough food, enough volunteers and enough funds.

For the amazing support of the community and the increase in giving we have experienced.

**Pray:** for the Government to use their power wisely in helping the most vulnerable in our society.







## Who's Who?

### Our Donors

**Donors can donate both food and money.**

The donors are made up of approx 40 churches, 16 schools, 7 businesses, 5 supermarkets, 5 charities, and many individuals.

### Our Referral Agencies

**Referral agencies can issue red food bank vouchers:**

5 GP surgeries, 5 Housing Associations, Citizens Advice, Children and Adult social services, The Community Mental Health team, Health Visitors, HMP Berwyn, West Mercia Probation Service, Shropshire Recovery Partnership CHALK CIC, A4U, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Team, Enhance, YSS, British Legion, Walking with the Wounded, Ellesmere Age Concern, The Ark, Chirk Community Agent, The Centre Oak Street, Oswestry and Ellesmere Debt Centre, Integrated Community Services, Family Nurse partnership, North Shropshire College and all local schools. Shropshire Council.

**The Foodbank can refer to the agencies for specific help and advice for a client. We work closely together.**



Oswestry and Borders Foodbank have joined with **CAP** (Christians Against Poverty) to enable us to run the Job club and the Oswestry and Ellesmere Debt Centre. ST&R Housing, Shropshire Council and the Foodbank have helped financially to launch both of these new projects.

**FareShare** have enabled the food bank to receive bakery and pastries each week along with fresh produce that would otherwise be thrown away.

**ASDA** have joined the fight against poverty by providing funds for 3 years available for Trussell Trust Foodbanks to apply for needed equipment.

The Foodbank have been part of **Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance** in helping to map poverty across Shropshire over the last 18 months. You may have seen us in the summer on BBC Midlands with some of our clients being brave enough to tell their stories on national TV!

If you want to join us in becoming a donor either through giving food or funds - both are needed - please ring us, visit us or see our website:

[oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk](http://oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk)

You can donate directly via [wonderful.org](http://wonderful.org) - a free giving platform

