



Local Focus

Bournemouth Foodbank

In this issue we talk to a family who have used Bournemouth Foodbank.

“We used the Foodbank around the end of 2011 via a voucher from Shelter. My husband, two sons and myself had been through a harrowing time due to a family break-up and loss of our family home. We had to find private rented accommodation and we needed a 3 bed house due to my son’s Asperger’s Syndrome.

We had to scrape and borrow deposits. Then my husband and I were assaulted and had to move again. We had no money for food and we had 2 parcels over 3 weeks from the Foodbank that literally saved us from being undernourished.



A family receiving a food parcel

Recently, when my husband and I were in Sainsbury’s, Foodbank volunteers were handing out shopping lists and leaflets. We went back and did a staple food shop to donate and give back to those who helped us when we needed it!

I was so moved by the thanks that we got (we are both disabled) and my husband was in a mobility scooter with the 4 bags we had bought! No, we are not rolling in money but our financial situation has improved, so it was the perfect way to say thank you!”

“It is hard to ask for help, I am very grateful for this service and those who donate time, food or money! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

FOODBANK FACTS

- 3 new Foodbanks are opening each week in Britain in response to rising prices and growing unemployment as well as cuts and changes in the benefits system.
- Bournemouth Foodbank was set up towards the end of 2007 to ensure that families did not go without food. To date they have helped over **11,000** people.
- Doctors, the Job Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau and housing associations are able to issue people with 3 vouchers a year, each of which can be redeemed for 3 days emergency food from local distribution points.



A Foodbank Volunteer

- All the food distributed is donated by individuals, churches, businesses and schools.
- A recent Supermarket Collection in June at Sainsbury’s in Castlepoint raised 758.9kg of food donations which was enough to feed 109 people for 3 days.
- In recognition of their work, the Mayor awarded Bournemouth Foodbank the Voluntary Group of the Year Award at the annual ceremony.



For more information call 01202 900979 or go online www.bournemouth.foodbank.org.uk