

A Happy Hamper Christmas



Before the New Year moves any faster, leaving Christmas as a distant memory, we want to thank the many donors who supported us during 2017, and in particular during December.

Orders of over 100 hampers came in this year from agencies and charities, and we worried for a while whether we could meet the demand. Worrying was a wasted energy as it turned out, as the general public took note of the season, and considered those less fortunate than themselves and the giving commenced with an energy that seemed to have no bounds.

For the past three years Ely Foodbank Partnership have shared their donations with other charities by making up hampers to families and individuals who struggle at Christmas. Those receiving a hamper did not need to be using Foodbank to benefit, but our contacts with front-line workers has taken our sharing of what is good, to a new audience. Advent calendars, treats, chocolates, puddings and cakes were gathered into gift bags and delivered to those for whom Christmas needed a touch of sparkle and some love to be shown.

Ely Guides came to help us pack hampers which was of great help and got us through the first 50!

Thank you to all our donors for the support given especially:

AMT Fruit Ltd

Cambridge Commodities Ltd

Centre 33

Cromwell Community College

East Cambs District Council – Housing

Ely College

Ely Police (Cambridge Constabulary)

Neale-Wade Academy

Ward Gethin Archer

Along with so many other organisations, churches, schools and individuals, too many to name.

We thank you all, and look forward to your continued support this year. Without your help the Foodbank could not operate, and we stand in awe as time and again your generosity fills our shelves and ensures people in our communities receive the help they need.

What a Turkey Surprise?

A generous shopper enabled five families to have a Christmas Dinner this year.

Cathy Wright, Project Director delivered the turkeys, and said afterwards, “to knock on someone’s door with a turkey and wish them well for Christmas was such a joy to do. The recipients were overwhelmed as they had no plans for a nice meal and their smiles said it all.”

Cathy said the donor contacted the Ely Foodbank via email requesting to purchase meals for people, however Cathy was uncertain if this offer would be received well, but thankfully it was and showed how a relatively small act can make such a huge difference.

The week before Christmas..

We received 1.7 tonnes of food in and gave 2.8 tonnes of food out – that’s approximately 180 food parcels and 400 people fed.

Offering a Ride Home

Milton Executive Cars (MEC) joined us during the crazy month of December. Offering people a ride home on a cold day in a Mercedes helped bring a few smiles and so much gratitude in being truly spoiled for a while.



A hamper was also given by MEC and thank you to them for their annual support and interest in our work.

A Farewell and a Welcome



After around 3 years of excellent service to the Foodbank, Farida Shirley will be leaving us on 31st January to take up a full time position closer to home. Farida has kept smiling even when the Store is freezing, the builders are blocking our entrance, and all she can see is pasta, beans and soup! The most

common phrase Farida has been heard saying over the years is “we just get on with it”. Cathy Wright says “I will miss her ‘can-do’ attitude and I am sure the volunteers will also. She has brought together a loyal and hardworking team which will stand her successor, Jodie Thoday, in good stead.”

Jodie has been getting to grips with the routines of the Store, and has great potential for continuing the great work of managing the Store. We welcome Jodie to the team and hope she settles in quickly and remembers to put at least two pairs of socks on during the chilly months! Jodie has two small children in school at Stretham Primary. She has experience of the care industry as well as retail. We wish both Farida and Jodie well for their new experiences and many thanks go to them both for their contributions to the work of the Foodbank.

And another Welcome ...

A big welcome and thank you to Gordon Foster, who has recently joined the team as a new Trustee. Gordon has taken on the Treasurer responsibilities from Matthew Lavis, who is retiring this year as a Trustee.

And another Thank you...

Thank you to our many financial supporters - especially our online givers who in December gave over £ 2,000! With Gift Aid this will help us with another £ 400 or more on top!



Giving online is easy -

www.localgiving.org/charity/elyfoodbank/