



Designs for Humanity Impact Report Christmas 2020

Overall Impact: support for 352 families (1475 individuals) in need at Christmas by provision of Christmas Food Hampers

Christchurch Foodbank

**Grant: £4500
Families supported: 53
(383 individuals)**

The grant was used to **fully fund** 53 hampers including a full fresh Turkey and trimmings for Christmas dinner, other Christmas food goodies, stocking gifts for all the family, plus a general food parcel including toiletries. Families were given a toy voucher or toys for their children's presents – the foodbank received 400 toy donations this year! Some families were given Fuel credit for the Christmas period, for heating and cooking but there was less need than anticipated due to more local availability of fuel poverty grants this year.

From the foodbank

Many of the families had been laid off from work or were struggling financially due to Covid 19/illness/unemployment. They would have eaten from a foodbank parcel (tinned food) had this scheme not been available to them. Children had been told there would be no presents and no Christmas dinner this year. These hampers brought hope into these people's homes and let them know they are not alone. Our challenge was the sheer volume of work in December, due to furloughing, lockdown, Covid, school holiday hunger and general increase need. We just worked longer hours to fulfil it. 28 volunteers were involved (plus 2 staff), including 14 new driver/delivery volunteers. The grant also enabled us to build relationships with new referrers who were amazed by the amount of things we were able to offer their clients. For those isolating or shielding families having a delivery service was a life saver. It was awesome and so amazing to be part of helping these families. A privilege.

It is always a pleasure to partner with DCF, this grant brings far more than monetary value, it brings hope and lifts burdens from our service users, especially this year when Coronavirus brought so many upsets, this grant enabled us to put smiles back on so many faces, young and old.

Case study

“A young man called K with obvious mental health depression had been visiting us for food about 6 months, he is a young sofa surfer, his mother passed away when he was younger and he bounces from one friend's sofa to another. He ended up on a sofa in a dysfunctional home where he wasn't able to use the kitchen and would spend nights outside sleeping in the park, or just riding around and around. The foodbank+ staff became his family, he would come for food and in return help out and do jobs for the foodbank. When it was time they talked about getting

him into a permanent home and moving forward. Working together a house share was secured and the Foodbank+ moved K into the home and provided furniture and white goods throughout the unfurnished property. All the Foodbank+ volunteers were very emotional each time he came to visit and shared a bit more news about how he is doing in the house, they helped set up bills and balance his money and then together started looking for work. K has a love for bikes and working on them and after stripping down his own bike in the bike shop... using their tools, and putting it back together, he amazingly was asked 'would you like a job'? The foodbank+ volunteers purchased him some shoes and trousers, transported him for the interview, supported him while he waited to hear back and continued being his 'family'. K arrived with a big smile on his face, he got a job working part time fixing customers bikes, this job is now full time and in his first month K received 'employer of the week' twice and a bonus of £50. What a journey, his mental health and self-esteem has improved immensely. K pops in and sees the volunteers at the foodbank+ on his day off each week and still refers to us as his family. We are all 'proud parents' when he tells us about his week. K was blessed by being able to help pack and deliver the Christmas Full Turkey dinners and Christmas goodie hampers (Funded by the Designs for Humanity Grant) and take out to individuals and families in our community. His way of giving back."



Citygate Church, Bournemouth

Grant: £4500

**Families supported: 199
(742 Individuals)**

The grant was used to contribute to Citygate's longstanding Christmas Hamper project in partnership with Bournemouth Foodbank and other referring agencies from the voluntary sector. 199 Christmas hampers were packed and delivered with the help of 200 volunteers (overseen by 2 staff members). The grant supported a £10 toy voucher for every hamper, not possible without this grant funding, plus additional food items.

From the foodbank

The number of food item pledges from the community was significantly reduced from last year as many groups who usually collect food were not meeting. As a result, we had to raise a significant amount of funds from sponsors and a hamper campaign to help fill the gaps. COVID-19 presented a considerable challenge to making deliveries safe. Volunteers were given detailed instructions and PPE to aid them. Our usual venue was unavailable to us due to the crisis. We found a suitable alternative, but the change of plan was costly in terms of the extra administrative load. 199 local families in crisis were able to celebrate Christmas together as a result of the hampers. Thank you so much for all your help.

Case Study

One volunteer driver reported back regarding a client she delivered a hamper to:

"She could barely stand and she was so overwhelmed she was unable to talk, she just cried."

We later received this message from the client:

"Am overwhelmed and so grateful, its been a tough few weeks a long way to go this means so much. So appreciated, x thank you so much. Xxx"

Poole Foodbank

Grant: £4500

**Families supported: 50
(175 Individuals)**

The grant was used to **fully fund** 50 Christmas Hampers for families in need and all included a fresh turkey and ingredients for Christmas dinner, additional food items and Christmas treats such as mince pies and crackers, and also a £25 toy voucher. 10 families also received £50 towards their fuel costs. Hampers were delivered on 21st December and the project was delivered by 3 staff members and 7 volunteers.

From the foodbank

Words cannot express the difference this funding made in the lives of the beneficiaries. Most recipients were either in tears or speechless at the generosity shown. I think that the biggest difference is that the families have been supported in feeling 'normal', in as much as they have been able to 'have a Christmas' - like everyone else. This is the reason that I feel that tackling social exclusion for economic reasons is one of the key successes of this project. Those of us who can afford a Christmas dinner and afford to put the heating on felt truly humbled to be able to offer this on behalf of someone else - so a massive thankyou!

Amongst others, we worked alongside pastoral care workers in schools who have first-hand knowledge of families that are in need of support. So, a secondary gain was the support offered to key school workers, who, themselves are feeling so isolated at the moment. These were challenges that we were able to deal with. We have grown our relationships with local schools and support services, so we are able to work more closely with them in support of vulnerable families on a more regular basis.

A lot of work was involved in gathering together the items needed and creating the hampers. In these difficult times, we had to be additionally safe in the way that we arranged collection or delivery of the hampers.

Amazing! What a privilege to be able to support families in this way and to be the people on the frontline witnessing the joy that this brings. The application process, deposit of funds, communication and everything connected with DCF was delivered to a very high standard, making the whole process really straightforward. Thankyou.

Case study

“One mother who was overwhelmed by the initial invitation and then by the contents of the hamper told us that she had been 'dreading Christmas' but now she could go home and start to plan Christmas for herself and her children.”

Wimborne Foodbank

Grant: £4500

**Families supported: 50
(175 individuals)**

The grant was used to fully fund a Luxury Christmas Hamper for 50 families in need, organized, packed and delivered by 10 volunteers overseen by 1 staff member. Hampers included a £25 toy voucher, a butchers voucher, a greengrocers pack plus luxury items like Christmas pudding, mince pies, chocolates and savory snacks.

From the Foodbank

The grant made a huge difference to our clients & their families. Some would not have had a Christmas without it. Our clients were very emotional & overwhelmed by the Luxury Hampers & everything else that they received. We have a great team & it worked well. Lots of extremely grateful clients and less stress for parents knowing that they had things covered for Christmas that they could not afford otherwise.

We cannot thank you & the private donor enough for the kind & generous donation and for the thought behind it. This grant has helped improve 50 families Christmas experience which is about 150-200 people. These families would not have had a Christmas otherwise and would not have been able to enjoy Christmas dinner or Christmas food. It is such a privilege to be in a position to give families this gift at such a loved time of year & take a bit of stress away from them at quite a traumatic time in their lives. This makes a HUGE difference & I cannot express enough the difference & impact that this has had on those families. Thankyou

“On behalf of every volunteer at Wimborne Foodbank, Thank you so so much for your Christmas Hamper donation, this has a huge impact on our clients & literally turned their Christmas experience around. It is a privilege to be able to give them to families & see the difference that it makes. THANK YOU”

Comments received from recipients

“Honestly, thank you so much Sharon. You have brought me to tears with how lovely you’ve just been with the luxury hamper and gifts for the girls and gift cards. I honestly can’t thank you enough. You’ve made our Christmas so much brighter. Merry Christmas to you all. I hope you have a lovely one Xx”

“Hi. I just wanted 2 say a big ty 4 the generous food parcels & Xmas things. I was a bit overwhelmed at the amount of items, thoughtfulness & generosity. It means a great deal 2 receive this help & the kindness & consideration shines thru, making those of us who r struggling feel like human beings. All u do & how u r is deeply appreciated, ty & wishing u all a wonderful Christmas xx”

“I’ve been in complete shock all afternoon, all you amazing people have literally made Christmas for me & the kids and I am forever grateful. You have made such a huge difference; I honestly can’t thank you enough. Thanks so much for everything x”

“I am so overwhelmed with all you have given me I’m in shock and very grateful to you all for making mine and my kids Xmas special after such a hard year and struggling. I want to say a big thank you to you all and Merry Xmas “

"I would like to thank you all for your kind wishes and food parcel. I am so grateful and I really can't thank you enough. You have made my Xmas worth it now. The hamper and all the food was so greatly appreciated. I would like to wish you all a merry Xmas. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. You are all so kind. Thank you again from my family and me"

"We would just like to say Thank you sooooo much for our wonderful gifts and hamper full of goodies. It really is special xx Also a special thanks to the private donors & the Present Company, Gulliver's Bookshop & the Coop for our vouchers. Thanks Everyone, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

"Thanks to you I know have all Christmas food shopping done, last minute stocking fillers and a gift from Santa (present company is AMAZING!) Thank you so much. I don't like to think about 'what if's' too much but I dread to think what our Christmas would look like if it weren't for you and your help! I will be forever indebted to you."



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