



## **Designs for Humanity Impact Report Christmas 2021**

**Overall Impact: support for 364 families (1291 individuals) in need at Christmas by provision of Christmas Food Hampers**

### **Blandford Foodbank**

**Grant: £2250**

**Families supported: 32  
(112 individuals)**

The grant was used to **fully fund** Christmas food parcels for 32 families who have been through or are receiving direct help from our financial team working with Faithworks Wessex Community Money Advice. Some of the grant was used at a local butchers to provide us with MEAT vouchers enabling our families to receive a fresh piece of meat for Christmas.

We had £285.84 left over and after seeking approval from DCF, we used this to purchase food items to support our stock levels for a very busy winter period.

### **From the foodbank**

Many of our families come to us with high levels of stress and mental illness. Receiving a Christmas Hamper brought hope and comfort knowing that they were valued and that the food bank was here not only to get people through their financial difficulties but that we cared. Our families were thrilled to have received such a wonderful gift of a Christmas Hamper and Meat voucher.

It has been a privilege to be part of such a wonderful and very generous scheme from Designs for Humanity. The food bank was blessed to have been able to reach out to each one of our 32 families with the offer of an exceptional Christmas Hamper to help them celebrate Christmas just like any other family in the country. Our very grateful thanks for such a wonderful gift.

### **Case study**

A single mum had just gone through a huge operation on her throat and was not even sure she would be able to talk ever again. The operation took place close to Christmas when she was very unwell, not only did she have the stress of this operation but wanting her children to have a wonderful time. The food bank was able to give her one of the Designs for Humanity funded Christmas Hampers which contained everything that was needed in the way of food for a Christmas Day meal and lots of lovely extras to get the family through Christmas. The single mum was in tears when we gave her the Christmas Hamper. Hope, Care and Compassion at work. Amazing!

## **Christchurch Foodbank**

**Grant: £2250**

**Families supported: 52  
(181 individuals)**

The grant supported over 50 hampers to families in Christchurch, Burton and Mudeford, identified to us by social services, the family center and schools, with a full Christmas dinner and all the trimmings to cook for the Christmas period. We were also able to give Toy vouchers, to be spent at Smiths Toys/online for gifts for their children. Some of these families over the Christmas and New year holiday were also given monies onto their electric and gas meters to guarantee heating and cooking facilities. We also received funds from tRound Table and private donations.



### **From the foodbank**

Families were really blessed by this grant. For some this was their Christmas, they would have eaten from foodbank tins without it. Children do nothing to end up in low income homes, having toys and a Christmas dinner the same as their friends helps stabilise their mental health when they return to school and reduces stress for many of the parents.

3 of the mums have begun volunteering for us and one of the families started a donations funding box at her place of work.

It is so wonderful to be able to access the grants, our work is so important and such a lifeline for many of the families and individuals we serve and help on their journey out of crisis. It is lovely to be able to give treats and extras rather than essentials. Thank you so much.

### **Case study**

A young mum of three, whose partner left her during covid due to the stress of losing his job, came to us for help at Christmas time, Mum had told the children that Christmas was postponed and she would try to make it up to them later in the year. She said that on Christmas morning they woke up to presents and a lovely Christmas dinner and goodie hamper, mum told them how the kind people of Christchurch had made Christmas happen for them. Mum has started volunteering for the foodbank while the children are at school.



## Citygate Church, Bournemouth

**Grant: £2250**

**Families supported: 200  
(714 Individuals)**

The grant was used to contribute to Citygate's longstanding Christmas Hamper project in partnership with Bournemouth Foodbank and 50 partners from the voluntary sector who refer identify families most in need. Other funding for the project was raised by a sponsorship campaign and other small grants. 200 Christmas hampers were packed and delivered with the help of 200 volunteers (overseen by 2 staff members).

### **From the foodbank**

This project better enables 714 people to celebrate Christmas together as a family. It draws together a community of partner agencies, charities, community groups and businesses who share ownership of the project. It also gives a great opportunity for volunteers to give one day a year when they can't afford to make a regular commitment.

The grant also helped us promote our services through an article in the echo:

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/19806348.hundreds-benefit-christmas-hamper-appeal/>

### **Case Study**

*"Thank you so much to everyone involved from the bottom of my heart. You are making so much difference to people that have nothing at Christmas. My client was absolutely in tears to receive the hamper. She has 2 children to feed and had no food at all."*



## Poole Foodbank

**Grant: £2250**

**Families supported: 30  
(134 Individuals)**

The grant was used to deliver 30 Christmas Hampers for households in need, benefitting 134 local residents. In the second half of 2021 we have found it easier to engage at a deeper level with those who make use of Poole Foodbank. We have therefore been able to identify those who would really benefit from a Christmas Hamper, including more more single people. We have also been able to offer more of a bespoke food hamper with an element of choice around the ambient goods and choice of shop to purchase fresh food. We have been able to provide 30 Christmas Hampers that include: Christmas goodies (ambient foods and treats), voucher for purchasing fresh meat / veg / cheese, & toy vouchers for families. 10 volunteers and 3 staff members were involved.

### **From the foodbank**

Beneficiaries were overwhelmed by the generosity of the donation. A large percentage of the recipients had told their children that Christmas was cancelled this year because they had no funds to buy Christmas food / treats / toys. Writing a paragraph on a form goes no way towards expressing the difference this grant has made to the lives of 30 households. It is a privilege to be able to administer this on behalf of the donor.

The grant was less than we anticipated and arrived later than we anticipated. We overcame this by issuing vouchers for fresh food to be purchased from local shops (we asked the recipients in advance where they would shop). This saved time & logistical issues for the Foodbank staff. We were able to divert £1049 of other grant funding to subsidise this project so that there were no disappointments. Due to the reduced budget this year, no funds have been taken for overheads.

This is an amazing project and changes lives over the Christmas period.

### **Case study**

*"This is incredible - I can't believe it. Overwhelming!"*

*"This is the best place I've been in my life.*

*You've made me happy"*

*"You've saved my Christmas"*

Quote from a single parent who has suffered domestic abuse

*"Thank you very much... Every little helps, every little gift make this time more magical. I was worried how I'm gonna prepare this year Christmas for me and my little boy, but with help what we received is much easier and we really appreciate it. Thank you very much for support."*





(Volunteers knitted 'hats' for Pringles!)



## **Wimborne Foodbank**

**Grant: £2250**

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

We created 50 Luxury Christmas hampers to give to the neediest families. These included a Christmas bag full of Christmas food & treats, napkins, a game, a teddy, crackers, a voucher to buy their fresh food such as a Turkey, Potatoes & vegetables & a Toy Voucher for a local store for them to buy a present for their child / children. The Food Bank added £1000 to the grant so that we could still give out 50 hampers. 5 volunteers and 2 staff members were involved.

### **From the Foodbank**

This grant has made a huge difference to the receipts & their families. Most of these families would not have had a Christmas without it and they were so relieved when they did not have to tell their children that they could not have a Christmas this year. A lot of these families have had a traumatic year & the pressure of Christmas on top of struggling to get by, is a lot to deal with. Families were overwhelmed & so grateful for this support at a very challenging time of year.

We discussed some of our clients situations with our referrers & contacted the clients who were receiving hampers to ensure that they were received before Christmas. Our clients are so grateful of this support & trust us to go the extra mile during special times of year - this grant builds upon that trust as it makes such a difference.

I cannot thank DCF & the donor enough for the support in being able to create & give out Luxury Hampers at Christmas. Every week we see families going without & struggling to pay heating bills etc.. & Christmas is a time when memories are made as a family. This grant enables our clients & their children to have something that they would not have experienced otherwise, something that many families take for granted; a hot meal, a Christmas present & Christmas treats. We cannot put in to words the difference that this makes and I know the families are forever grateful for the support & love that goes in to them. Thank you for thinking of others during a stressful time of year as we at the Food Bank see the difference that they make and it means so much.

### **Comments received from recipients**

One family that we have been supporting have been really struggling to get by as the mother is a carer for their middle child & the father had a serious accident & requires back surgery. They had a long wait for benefits to come in and needed the Food Bank's help in many ways such as Food, School Uniform & Clothing. We gave them one of the Christmas Hamper's and this is the feedback that we received on the help that they had received from the food bank.

*"Thank you for all the support and kindness you have shown our family throughout the last 6 months. We have been really anxious with Christmas approaching, and with three children who have risen to all the challenges that they have faced this year, we were bracing ourselves to tell them unfortunately that they had to miss out on Christmas this year. Your help means that our babies will have presents to open on Christmas Day and we are forever eternally grateful. Something that without your help and generosity would have never been possible. Thank you"*

PHOTOS



For more information please contact:  
Ellie Maguire, Grants Manager  
[ellie@dorsetcf.org](mailto:ellie@dorsetcf.org)  
01202 670815