



Designs for Humanity Impact Report Christmas 2022

Overall Impact: support for 412 families (1493 individuals) in need at Christmas by provision of Christmas Food Hampers

Blandford Foodbank

Grant: £2250

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

The grant was used to **fully fund** Christmas food parcels for 50 families. Some of the grant was used at a local butchers to provide meat vouchers enabling families to receive fresh meat for Christmas. 16 volunteers and two members of staff were involved.

From the foodbank

Many of our families come to us with high levels of stress and mental illness. Receiving a Christmas food hamper brought hope and comfort during the festive period and meant they could have some treats at this special time of year. Each family who came to pick up their Christmas food hamper were over the moon with what they received and have fed back to us what a difference it made to their Christmas.

Thank you so much for providing this grant. We were able to reach out to 50 families who were able to celebrate Christmas with a wonderful food hamper. This would not have been possible if we had not received the grant. Our very grateful thanks for such a wonderful gift. Knowing that we are able to apply next year will help us to plan how many more families we might be able to help in 2023.



Case study

A single mother found herself unable to work for 3 months due to a complicated back problem, which meant she was becoming financially stretched. Due to the Christmas food hamper she was able to enjoy Christmas with her son and it meant she was able to use what money she had to heat the house instead.

Christchurch Foodbank

Grant: £2250

**Families supported: 102
(382 individuals)**

The grant fully funded 102 hampers. 40 households had a hamper including full turkey dinners and Christmas goodies. 62 households received a Christmas goodie hampers with toy or book voucher. Utilising some other funding we received we were also able to provide 100 full turkey dinner trays that could be popped in the oven as a whole for a Christmas meal. All these families would otherwise be eating beans and pasta for christmas. All families were based in Christchurch, Mudeford or Highcliffe. 36 volunteers and 2 members of staff were involved.

From the foodbank

The families are really moved by getting this support. It builds relationships, they are then more likely to come to us for further assistance and help. A couple of families were so grateful they came in to see us after Christmas, we are now assisting them with budget advice and through our cooking on a budget workshops amazing impact Gets us all talking. The Christmas community supper brings families together.

The hardest challenge is helping everyone, gathering referrals and prioritizing and then organising the help. We have a fab team who are very keen to help where ever and however they can. We were blessed to get another grant to enable us to increase the content of the hampers.

This Grant was such a blessing to so many local households. Children were given Christmas and parents had the pressure taken off, even if only for a while. The Grant breaks down barriers and brings families to us so we can assist them further. Thank you so much



Case study

A Dad and his five children aged 3-15yrs were taken from their home due to Domestic violence. They were referred to us for food and assistance with furniture by the school the two youngest children had been placed in. As a priority they needed beds for the children, a cooker, fridge freezer and a kitchen pack (cups, plates, crockery, saucepans etc) followed by everything to build them a home. Once the property was furnished we were able to arrange carpets and invite Dad in to discuss access to The Hardship Fund assistance and our in house CMA Budget/Debt advice Team. He had to give up work, become sole carer for his children and learn to be a hands on, stay at home Dad with all that that entails. With the youngest being 3 years old, the help CFB+ offered with budgeting, bill set up, shopping, schools, furniture and food was all very much appreciated. Working together with Him on his journey all while he was caring for the older children as they get their heads around what is happening to their family.

We were able to make things a little easier through our Christmas 2022 scheme, inviting them along to our Community Supper and working really closely with the schools pastoral workers and social services to give the family all the help we can. It is so rewarding to see Dad so organised and the children so settled as we continue to walk with them on their Journey out of their crisis. Dad was overwhelmed by the support we gave them over Christmas through this Grant.

Citygate Church, Bournemouth

Grant: £2250

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

The grant was used to contribute to Citygate's longstanding Christmas Hamper project in partnership with Bournemouth Foodbank and other partners from the voluntary sector who refer identify families most in need. 200 Christmas hampers were packed and delivered with the help of 200 volunteers (overseen by 3 staff members).

From the foodbank

We distributed 200 hampers to help local families celebrate together at Christmas. The grant allowed us to include a £10 toy voucher in each hamper.

We have built a network of 85 organisations who contribute towards the project in a variety of unique and valuable ways. 200 volunteers were involved and 74 sponsors contributed as well. The inclusion of toy vouchers is a significant upgrade to the hampers and helped make them feel more attractive to sponsors and showcase the generosity of the project.

All these people had ownership of a specific part of the project and enjoyed this rare opportunity to serve their community and learn more about the food bank and other agencies who work with families all year round.

Sustaining our operations at a challenging time of year with minimal paid hours available is always a challenge. We overcame various issues including a fresh food supply problem thanks to the intervention of various partners who came to the rescue.

"Thank you for making our Christmas happen. Thank you so much."

Echo article for more details and photos:

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23211863.citygate-church-appeal-delivers-200-hampers-people-need>



Wimborne Foodbank

Grant: £2250

**Families supported: 30
(95 individuals)**

We created 30 Luxury Christmas Hampers for families who are really struggling & who would not have had a Christmas meal or treats without it. They included a full bag of long life Christmas food & treats (everything for their Christmas dinner & food throughout the day), chocolates, biscuits, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pudding, custard, sweets, mince pies etc. A Voucher to buy the fresh food for their Christmas meal (Turkey, Potatoes & Vegetables) & a toy voucher to buy their child a present. We gave these out along with our food parcels & topped them up with chocolate selection packs per person, a family game, a knitted toy & presents each. 4 volunteers and 2 staff were involved.



From the Foodbank

This grant makes a huge difference to the beneficiaries. Christmas is a special time & can be very stressful especially when you are struggling to get by & you want it to be special for your children. The families are so relieved to hear that they have a hamper & the vouchers to get their fresh food / a present. It is a weight off their minds before Christmas & it also makes the whole of the Christmas week better as they have so many nice treats that they would not have been able to afford

Buying all the stock for the hampers is quite challenging as the hampers contain so much but we planned earlier & also got most of it by delivery as we do not have a van so that worked much better. Through the generosity of our food bank supporters & volunteers we were able to include selection packs per person, a family game & a knitted toy. They are such a special thing as a lot of love goes into them & I think the beneficiaries can feel that.

Each of the 30 parcels that this grant funded has had a huge impact on the families that received them. We trained an additional volunteer on creating the hampers so that if we are blessed to receive this grant again we have a wider team that can help create them, as they do take quite a bit of work putting together - but so worthwhile.

We would like to thank the sponsor as receiving this grant has meant that we know think of the Christmas Hampers as part of our offering & it enhances every single families Christmas - So THANK YOU SO MUCH. We would also like to thank DCF for your help & support.



Cast study

One lady broke down in to tears when we confirmed that she could have a hamper & said that they would have been having chicken nuggets otherwise. This hamper turned her Christmas around & the experience for her whole family. She found it hard to put into words how she felt but she just could not stop thanking us. You could see the relief on her face.