



Designs for Humanity Impact Report Christmas 2023

Overall Impact: support for 397 families (1944 individuals) in need at Christmas by provision of Christmas Food Hampers

Blandford Foodbank

Grant: £2250

**Families supported: 40
(140 individuals)**

The grant was used to **fully fund** Christmas food parcels for 40 families. Some of the grant was used at a local butchers to provide meat vouchers enabling families to receive fresh meat for Christmas and the hampers included Christmas crackers. 6 volunteers and one member 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 some hope and comfort during the festive period and meant they could have some treats at this special time of year.

After Christmas when we saw our food bank clients they all commented on how they were overjoyed with the food and treats they received.

Receiving the grant meant we were able to provide 40 families with a Christmas food hamper to celebrate Christmas with. This would not have been possible if we had not received the grant. Please let me extend our very grateful thanks for such a wonderful gift

Case study

A mother of a family of five children was diagnosed with terminal cancer in November. Her husband gave up work to look after her and keep the family functioning. They had little income during this time and the food/treats we gave them helped to make her last Christmas a bit more enjoyable.

Christchurch Foodbank

Grant: £2250

**Families supported: 102
(826 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, Mundeford or Highcliffe. 61 volunteers (many of them new this year) and 3 members of staff were involved.

From the foodbank

All those we help have been referred to us by schools, GPs, social services and family centres. Those who received the Christmas dinner were so grateful, many saying that they had been given their Christmas back. The children of these families live below the poverty line, this is an extra to make things a little better for families who would not have it otherwise.

Our main challenge was getting enough funding to assist all those we had referred to us, serving all our families and making sure nobody struggled throughout the Christmas period. It was hard work but such a worthy, hope filled project. It's always easier to ask for donations if you have a little pot to begin with and a vision. Thank you so much, working on the ground we know how this grant makes a difference to people. We are now engaging with the families to help them out of the crisis they find themselves in.

Case study

A father of 5 sons was moved just before Christmas due to domestic violence from his wife/their mother. They left everything behind. How wonderful to see them with a full Turkey Christmas dinner and goodie hamper, along with toy vouchers to get the children some toys for Christmas. Dad said the kindness shown gave him hope to know he is not alone and that people care. We will continue to work with him.

Citygate Church, Bournemouth

Grant: £2250

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

The grant contributed to the distribution of 200 hampers to help local families celebrate together at Christmas. The grant allowed for the inclusion of a £10 toy voucher in each hamper. The inclusion of toy vouchers was a significant upgrade to the hampers and helped make them feel more attractive to sponsors who also supported the appeal. A total of £10,750 was raised for this year's hampers.

From the foodbank

We built a network of 75 organisations who were able to contribute towards the project in a variety of unique and valuable ways. 73 sponsors contributed as well. We collected a total of 11,000 items of food and seasonal goodies to go in the hampers. 40 groups donated items while others helped us source deliveries of fresh and frozen food.

259 people volunteered their time to help receive food collections, prepare hampers and deliver them to the door. 19 teams worked in shifts to get things ready and a fleet of 72 vehicles brought Christmas to where it was needed.

"Thank you so much! This is amazing and perfect, and it's made our Christmas!"

"Great time. VERY well organised. One recipient said they would have cancelled Christmas without their hamper."



Poole Foodbank

Grant: £2250

**Families supported: 25
(100 Individuals)**

The grant was used to deliver 25 Christmas Hampers for households in need, benefitting 120 local residents. Hampers include Christmas goodies (ambient foods and treats), voucher for fresh meat / veg / cheese, & toy vouchers for a family game. 49 volunteers and 3 staff were involved.

From the foodbank

Most (if not all) of the households identified would have struggled to provide any kind of Christmas for themselves and their children. Apart from this funding, Poole Foodbank has no funds available to be able to provide anything like this kind of support. Essentially, the funding has transformed the Christmas of 25 households in Poole.

The provision of fresh food (ie meat and cheese etc) at a Time of year that is our busiest, is a challenge in regards to purchase, transport and storage of these items. Using the supermarket vouchers for fresh food makes the project easy to manage and has also given an element of choice and empowerment to the recipients.

This funding really does make all the difference in the lives of the recipients experiencing true poverty. Until one meets someone who says that they thought that 'Christmas wasn't going to happen this year' it is hard to understand the financial, emotional and mental stress that many households are suffering. Thank you so much!

A local business offered to provide some Hampers, based on the model that we had created for Designs for Humanity, and we were able to provide an additional 20 hampers as a result.

Case study

A young single mother of 3 sons came to Poole Foodbank for support when her eldest son committed suicide. Poole Foodbank provided food support and friendship. Anticipating a very difficult Christmas for her and her two sons, it was a joy to be able to offer her one of our Christmas Hampers, which was not only of practical support, but a massive support to her emotionally. She had not been able to 'get her head around' planning Christmas for the family, but this was the incentive that she needed.

Wimborne Foodbank

Grant: £2250

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

We created 30 Luxury Christmas Hampers for families facing real hardship. They contained all the food & treats that you would normally have at Christmas, a toy, a family game, a voucher for the family



to buy all the fresh items for their Christmas lunch (Turkey, Potatoes, vegetables etc.) & a voucher to buy their child a present. We worked with One4All for the vouchers for the gift cards & Asda & Coop for the fresh food gift cards. We also added in some extra items that we were donated like Christmas Crackers, Chocolate coins, selection packs per person & more. All in a lovely long life Christmas bag! 5 volunteers and 2 staff were involved.

From the Foodbank

These hampers make a huge difference to the people that we serve. Some would not have any Christmas lunch or treats without it. They help parents to feel a little less pressure at this time of year & know that their children will have a nice lunch / christmas treats which they would not have had otherwise. Christmas food / lunch is often taken for granted but these hampers enable the family to enjoy this time of year together which they would not have done otherwise especially already facing difficult circumstances. Just seeing the relief in people's faces & the gratitude as they mean so much. They take away the guilt parents feel if they cannot provide for their family.

There is a very large amount of long life Christmas food & treats to buy for the hampers but we started earlier this year & got online shops which really helped. We organised volunteers to help us put them together which worked really well.



Thank you So So much for helping us to be able to provide these hampers to families facing food poverty. I cannot put in to words the difference that they make. We cannot thank the donor enough for their kindness, generosity & thoughtfulness for people in crisis. Here are some comments from the people that received a hamper

"I got very emotional when I saw everything in it and the vouchers. Lots of treats for children. At a very expensive time of the year everything is counted for and extras are so appreciated."

"So wonderful, can't imagine how much it's helped us over Christmas. The kids loved the treat items."

"I was so pleased. It was so helpful and lovely to have some things for Christmas. Very grateful for all the help, can't believe the amount of things in there. It's so helpful"

Case study

We have a family who had previously fled domestic violence. The Mother is seriously unwell & cannot work. She has 3 young children & without these hampers they would not have had a Christmas. The Mum was so relieved to be given a hamper & so thankful. They would not have enjoyed Christmas without this hamper & the food bank's support. This is just one family & the difference it made to them is immeasurable.