

## NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2021

This time last year who could ever have projected the shape of things to come and the impact Covid 19 would have on our lives, work situations and particularly on the vulnerable in our society that make up FoodBank client groups.

Our numbers of clients have risen dramatically and include those who have lost jobs, had hours reduced, are homeless in the Bed & Breakfast or have been rehomed due to domestic violence. The increase in the number of children fed feels particularly sad.

Amazingly, and thankfully, our donations have not only kept up with the need but exceeded it and for that generosity we are truly grateful. In 2020 we took in 43 tonnes of food and gave out 36 tonnes! Our collection points around Droitwich have seen trolleys overflowing with groceries. These along with bulk donations from Tesco and Morrisons, plus the 'Grab a Bag' scheme implemented by Morrisons for the Christmas period enabled us to give special Christmas boxes that hopefully will have brought some festive cheer in unprecedented times. We and our clients, some of whom have shed tears of relief knowing they can feed their family over Christmas say a massive THANK YOU.

The transportation of all this food between collection points, the warehouse and the FoodBank centre has been greatly enhanced by the acquisition of our own van. This means our drivers who have

**3695** PEOPLE FED  
IN 2020  
INCLUDING 1524 CHILDREN

**52%** INCREASE  
ON 2019

**36** TONNES FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED  
IN 2020

**43** TONNES FOOD  
DONATED  
IN 2020

used their own cars until now can, and do, transport much greater loads in a single journey. Many thanks to RCA Regeneration who have donated to the running costs of the van & Elite Recovery (Midlands) Ltd for all their support.

It would be very easy to forget that as brilliant as these donations are without our equally amazing volunteers the food would be languishing in our warehouse. Those able to continue volunteering and those who stepped forward when not able to continue 'normal' paid employment have committed time & worked phenomenally hard, in physically and emotionally challenging times, to maintain the flow of food from donation to client. A lovely gesture from Waitrose staff came in the form of Christmas cards to each volunteer – of whom we have approx. 60 - with a hand written encouraging message that was greatly appreciated.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2021**

