

December has been a busy month overall, with all-time records in terms of food donations and people referred to the foodbank for emergency supplies. We had 266 referrals to the foodbank, and notice a concerning trend of more families coming to us for help this year, cumulating in a rise of 40% this holiday season.

### **Stock**

Food donations for December 22 rose to an all-time high of 10732 kilos, a 4130 kilo increase over the same month in 2021.

**The Brookwood Christmas Campaign** ran again this year thanks to Trudi Fletcher and the Brookwood Club. £3,265 was raised by way of cash donations and Trudi will use these funds to shop for us throughout the year. 655 kilos of food were also collected from around the village.

### **Christmas bags**

This December with help from SOMETHINGBIG and Goodgym we packed over 350 Christmas bags, and these were distributed as follows:

130 distributed via The Salvation Army Woking.

55 to Woking Borough Council for those in supported housing.

170 for Foodbank visitors referred during December, including supermarket gift cards between £50 and £80 depending on family size.

The foodbank Christmas treat bags were distributed during a special weekend event which included hot drinks, homemade cookies, gifts and a new book for each child represented. Books were wrapped on site. Our bookstall was kindly run by The Lionsheart bookshop in Woking and sponsored by one of our volunteers.

### **Redistribution of waste food from supermarkets via neighbourly and fareshare.**

This December we increased our redistribution of fresh waste food and had some great quality fresh food to add to our food parcels.

### **Post-Christmas opening.**

We opened the foodbank between Christmas and New Year for those people suddenly finding themselves in need during this quiet period when other avenues for emergency help are often unavailable. A highlight for us was making porridge for a few people who had no access to hot food, including a gentleman living in his van.

### **Feedback and Highlights:**

A highlight was helping a lady going through a very tough time who came to see us just before Christmas. We had that morning received a wonderful delivery from M&S, which included turkey crowns, stuffing, veg etc. The lady reacted with tears of joy, when she left with everything needed to give her family a proper Christmas. Food, chocolate treats, gifts, and a £75 supermarket gift card to buy some extra items of her own choosing.

**'Thanks for all you do, I never cease to be amazed'**

**'When crisis hits, we are so lucky to have Helen and Zahrah from Citizens Advice and trust the problem is shared and guided by you both. I'm sorry I made your job harder; I do all I can to make it easier, I hope I do anyway'**

**'Thank u so much for my gifts today. Definitely wasn't expecting that amount of generosity so again THANK YOU VERY MUCH'**

