



Foodbank - during Covid-19

Update January 2021

Since April 2020 Jigsaw Foodbank has distributed nearly 130 crisis parcels through local hubs based in Matlock, Darley Dale & Wirksworth. We have made over 2,250 regular food parcel deliveries to around 180 different households, of which over 100 were families. We have been able to help over 400 people with a combination of 250 adults and 170 children

Throughout the whole of this year we have been absolutely blown away by the generosity of individuals, companies, charities and organisations, and we can safely say that we could not do it without you all. We have had a multitude of new volunteers to help us quality check, date, sort & stack the huge number of donations that we have been receiving over these past 9 months. The store cupboards are amazingly full & will help us to make provision for any clients who are referred to us for support during these challenging times.



Each week our committed volunteers pack parcels made up of a mixture of fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh and frozen food, dry store cupboard goods, household products and toiletries.

We continue to deliver the majority of the parcels throughout the area and cover a number of villages and towns from Wirksworth to Bakewell along the A6 corridor. When we make a delivery to our clients, we put the bags on the doorstep and step back before the client opens their door which allows us to adhere to the recommended social distancing guidelines. This is one of the many safeguards that we have put in place for our team of volunteers. We are now also using several rooms in our main Church building, in addition to our unit on Lime Tree Business Park. This allows each team of 2 or 3 people to operate in a safe environment. Our caretaker is kept busy ensuring that all of the spaces used are effectively cleaned between each session.

A large proportion of the food which makes up a food parcel is donated by people in the local community who regularly deposit items at our donation points to keep our food store topped up. We have also received multiple food donations from local businesses and organisations in our area for which we are very grateful. The chefs at Chatsworth House have also been busy making delicious meals for us to distribute each week.



A generous donation of fresh meals from Chatsworth House



Our new van for deliveries

We also continue to receive generous financial donations from individuals, businesses and local organisations which means that we can regularly purchase additional foods including fresh fruit & vegetables from local wholesalers to help maintain stock levels during this period of increased need. Before Christmas we were also able to invest in a newer van which means that we can continue to maintain our operations. This purchase was made possible by being awarded grants from Derbyshire Community Fund / Foundation Derbyshire, the NFU, Derbyshire Dales District Council as well as money donated by members of Church in the Peak. We now have nine delivery teams operating each Thursday to distribute the packed parcels and have the capacity to increase this further as required.

At Christmas we were able to distribute over 120 Christmas parcels containing Christmas foods, treats & gifts for all our clients. We also received an incredible donation from Platform Housing which enabled us to invite the parents to choose a special present for each child which we then ordered & delivered ready for the parent/s to give to their children at Christmas. We were also given many brand new toys, books, games & puzzles by so many generous donors which we were very pleased to pass on to our families.

We are **SO** grateful to everyone who has come forward during this period to offer help. We have been really blessed by the number of people who have been in contact offering up their time to help, both on a regular basis and by being on call for additional collections and last minute deliveries. We have also been astounded by the number of financial donations and grants that have come to us. The incredible generosity shown by local individuals, businesses and organisations has been vital in helping us to re-organise and expand our operations, enabling us to continue to support some of the most vulnerable people in our local community in the months to come.

Please accept our heartfelt THANK YOU for all of your incredible support.

With our very best wishes,

The Jigsaw Food Bank Team, Elders and the congregation of Church in the Peak, Matlock.

We would like to leave you with some messages of thanks from our clients.

You are lovely people & you've made our lives so much better not just with the food but by showing me that there are still nice people out there

I'm incredibly grateful for everything we receive each week. It's amazing the amount we get & we've never eaten so much or so many different varieties of foods! I really can't thank you enough

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the bags of food and the flowers you delivered today - it really cheered me up! God bless

We really, really appreciate everything that Jigsaw is doing for us and I can't wait to be in a position to repay your wonderful generosity ... You all do an amazing job - thank you

“Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.” Isaiah 58:7

Jigsaw operates through:



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