

# jigsaw



## Foodbank Newsletter

September 2021

Since the first Covid-19 lockdown in March last year, Jigsaw Foodbank has provided 4167 food parcels to 263 different households in the local area. A total of 636 people (some 375 adults and 261 children) have benefited from our work in this way. We also prepared & distributed over 175 packs of store cupboard foods to families who were struggling to feed their children during lockdown or as a result of them self-isolating.

We are so thankful that we have been able to provide this vital help to our community in these most difficult of times and we continue to be so grateful for the generosity of individuals, companies, charities and organisations who continue to support us. None of this would be possible without our incredible team of volunteers and so many donations. Not just donations of food, but also money and especially people's time which have ensured that we have managed not just to carry on but to thrive.

At the start of the pandemic many of our existing volunteers had to reluctantly step down immediately due to age or health issues forcing them to Shield. This left us with something of a dilemma and we urgently issued a plea for help through our church, town councils and other local groups and the response was almost overwhelming.

Our new volunteers were young and not so young, some were retired and some were on furlough, some were students sent home from schools and universities and some were still working but had a bit of extra spare time but they all had one thing in common; they wanted to help. And help they have and help they do. We now have more than 50 volunteers, more than double the team we had before that first Lockdown, who work together to ensure our food parcels are ready for distribution every Thursday.

The list of tasks is long. Much of our food continues to be donated and our volunteers quality check, date, sort and stack items as they come in. Food is collected from the many donation points around our catchment area and our weekly delivery from FareShare, the food redistribution charity, is checked and sorted and stored. Four packing teams pack generic food parcels for large and small families and single people between Monday and Wednesday. A separate team packs fresh fruit and veg parcels every Wednesday afternoon while also packing food for clients on special diets to ensure that all food we give our clients is suitable for their needs. Chilled foods and breads are added to all parcels on a Thursday morning just prior to delivery to ensure that everything arrives fresh.



Managing logistics is a key aspect of the smooth running of Jigsaw Foodbank ranging from stock control, to devising staff rotas to working out routes for the delivery teams. Other colleagues manage supplies of toiletries, cleaning materials and household goods which are also added to food parcels as required. All in all a remarkable team effort.



We are honoured to have been presented with two awards.

Jigsaw Foodbank was awarded the 2020 Community Project of the Year Award, sponsored by the Whitworth Centre, in recognition of all the work that has been done to support the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The judges were looking for a project that has triumphed in the community, supporting local people on a one-to-one basis or as a group while having a long lasting impact in the face of ongoing challenges during the pandemic.

The Award was presented to us in December by Councillor Alan Long from Darley Dale Town Council who praised the Jigsaw team who he said had worked incredibly hard not only giving up their time to create food parcels but also making local people feel supported while delivering them. "Their service to us is so valuable to those in need," he said.

We were also proud to receive a Derbyshire Beacon of Hope award presented by Diana Jeffery CBE DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire when she visited our base in August.

These awards were launched earlier this year to identify and thank groups or individuals who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic to keep communities safe and businesses moving and to recognise response and relief efforts.

They were led by the 2020-21 High Sheriff of Derbyshire Tony Walker, Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire Elizabeth Fothergill and current High Sheriff Louise Potter, backed by Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council.

This award is a great honour for us as a charity and we could not have achieved it without the ongoing support of so many people in our local community who selflessly give their time, money and donations of food which enable us to continue to support people who find themselves in need.

Please accept our heartfelt THANK YOU for all your incredible support!

With our very best wishes,

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

We would like to leave you with some message of thanks from our clients, which mean so much to us:

*"Thank you for all the love and support you have given our family over this trying time. It really has helped us get through. We can't even say how much we appreciate it."*

*"Words are not enough to express our gratitude for your kindness and support during the last three months. Thank you very much for all you have given."*

*"We loved receiving your gift package every week and coming together as a family around the table to enjoy all the wonderful surprises inside!"*

*"I am so grateful for all the support you have provided for me and my son over the last three months. Thank you so very much."*



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:

