



Make someone's Christmas with Gloucester Foodbank

Christians view Christmas as the second most important religious festival of the year. It reminds us of the gift of Jesus's birth. For most people in the UK it is a time of joy and bringing families together. Sadly that is not the case for many people living in and around Gloucester.

We will see a steep rise in need for our support over the course of the coming weeks and months. We like to bring a little joy to our clients over Christmas, providing Festive Hampers with additional goods in to help those in need connect with the happiness that Christmas time brings.

We are asking for your help by donating to our Crowdfunder page, created in partnership with Aviva's community fund. The kind team at Aviva will be matching each donation you provide, £1 for every £1 donated to our campaign which is capped at £250 per donation. If you are a tax payer, you can opt into Gift Aid giving which will provide even further financial support.

With your help, we can make Christmas special. Donate today and contribute to seeing no one go hungry this winter.

To donate, scan this page, copy the link below or search 'Make someone's Christmas' on Crowdfunder's website.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/make-someones-christmas-with-gloucester-foodbank>



Client case study—Our financial Inclusion service

Our F.I team support clients with their income, debt support, budgeting solutions & ultimately afford clients the dignity of financial independence, thus ending their need for our support.

"Miss D attended Food Bank Outreach for help with food, bills, and to seek advice on her current financial issues. She is living with her partner and her young family in a 2 bed privately rented property. Her partner is currently looking for a job and their only income is through benefits. Client had priority debt and had been struggling to maintain payments through Direct Debits for her fuel due to low income and increase in Cost of Living. A referral was made to Severn Wye Energy, Debt Advocacy, who helped in clearing the outstanding balance. The team also applied for fuel vouchers to top up their electric meter.

Upon speaking with the client, the team found out that there was a shortfall between rent due and Universal Credit (Housing Element) award. They assisted them with their Discretionary Housing Payment application, which was successful - offered a refund for a period of 13weeks.

Client was very happy with the help and support she was given and is more at ease with their financial situation especially when they had just had a new member of the family."

Since April 2024, the dedicated team at GL Communities have worked to achieve:

147 engaged clients

£147,508.88 in client financial gains



Back to community : Changes to our service

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we were a drop-in collection only service, offering clients a drink, snacks and a chat while they waited for their parcel. In March 2020, to keep everyone safe and continue providing our service, we started triaging each client by phone, allocating them a slot where a volunteer will deliver to client's place of residence.

In 2021 the team started exploring how we could reduce deliveries and re-engage with clients face-to-face. With demand increasing sharply, our base in Great Western Road lacked the space needed to return to how we used to operate.

We decided to follow the model of many food banks in the Trussell Network, opening Distribution Centres also known as 'Hubs' across Gloucester and the surrounding areas we support.

In September 2021, we opened our first Hub in Elim Church, Gloucester. Followed by St Philip & St James Church Hucclecote in 2022, and our newest hub at the Redwell Centre in Matson earlier this year. **Look out for more hubs opening soon!**

We have been supported since April 2023 by our Financial Inclusion partners at GL communities, who triage drop-in clients at our hubs and by phone, and issue vouchers where required, also offering 1-to-1 financial advice & support. Our combined aim is to help clients regain financial independence, ensuring they have enough income to purchase their own essentials and end their need for Foodbank vouchers.



Mayor Lorraine Campbell 'in action' opening our new Matson Hub!

Where have we been?

We were delighted to be involved with Gloucester Day this September, fundraising key donations and marking the lift of the siege of Gloucester in 1643!



Thank you to all who visited us at our Autumn Food drives across Tesco stores. We collected over 2,300kg of stock in 2 days!

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter food drives: Tesco Quedgeley, Brockworth & St Oswalds stores Fri 29th and Sat 30th November

Want to host a fundraiser or collection? Please contact us!
info@gloucester.foodbank.org.uk / **01452 309683**

How can you support us ?

- ⇒ Donate long-life food, toiletries, and pet food via our supermarket drop boxes across Gloucester
- ⇒ Donate to and share our Crowdfunder or website with your wider networks
- ⇒ Sign up for free to Give as You Live for online purchasing
- ⇒ Download the 'BanktheFood' app
- ⇒ Follow our social media pages and share our posts!

Registered charity in England & Wales no. 1113515

"Gloucester Foodbank is part of the Trussell network, and a charity based on Christian values. Our team is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, welcoming clients, stakeholders, staff, and volunteers from diverse backgrounds and faith groups. "