

## NEWS

# STOKE-ON-TRENT FOODBANK 2012-2022 10 YEARS OF EMERGENCY FOOD AND MORE!



IN NUMBERS...

2012 child poverty in Stoke-on-Trent reported at <b>29%</b>	Pre-Covid Pandemic we fed on average <b>1,000</b> people per month	First four months of 2022 we've fed an average of <b>1,500</b> per month through our voucher system	<b>43.2%</b> children in poverty in Stoke-on-Trent after housing costs are met
2012 <b>7</b> church-based centres	Now we have <b>16</b> church-based centres and <b>200</b> volunteers	We distribute <b>12 tonnes</b> of food per month via our centres	we support <b>36</b> registered charities as well as many public sector service organisations
<b>Nearly 40%</b> of those we feed are children	<b>1,656</b> advise contact given to people by Money Matters in the last year	about <b>a third</b> of the people who we assist are low income working	over <b>115,000</b> people in food poverty fed, in 10 years

SOME MILESTONES ...

**2012** was the year that Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank was. The idea had been hatched when two ministers came together, Rev Ashley Cooper and Rev Ron Willoughby, dismayed to hear that 1 in 3 children locally were living below the poverty line and set the wheels in motion for the opening 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012. Pictured here is the first warehouse in the basement of



Wesley Hall Methodist Church

**2013** We had our first 'Trolley Push'. Watch out for news on our 2022 plans!!



**2014** We first started working with our partners Money Matters, when they delivered debt advice in our centres as a pilot project.



**2015** we moved into our new main warehouse at Blurton, its use gifted by the Stoke South Methodist Church Circuit



**2017-20** Stoke-on-

Trent Foodbank became a centre of excellence, chosen by the Trussell Trust as one of five nationwide to be on the strategic team that eventually led to the emergence of Pathfinder. Through local radio and newspapers we keep the public up to date on our work.



Pictured: Anna & Corrine ready to go live on the lunchtime chat show with Lamont Howie and Penny Meakin, November 2017

**2021** Our Operations Manager, Corrine Boden, was awarded an MBE for services to the community in recognition of the role she played helping to coordinate a citywide response with the local authority and voluntary sector during the Covid-19 pandemic, delivering essential food.

Pictured: Corrine Boden MBE, at Windsor Castle with her husband receiving the award.



FOR MORE MILESTONE PHOTOS VISIT: <https://www.stoke-on-trent-foodbank.org.uk/>

## STOKE-ON-TRENT FOODBANK 2012-2022 WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY...

An enthusiastic business volunteer and a person who has previously used a foodbank when escaping domestic violence, recovering from cancer and the devastating effect this had on her life and general wellbeing was keen to share her story...

***'Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank is to me more than just a lifeline in my time of need, I really value this service and appreciate it to this day...***

...After six weeks of not being able to feed myself properly, I plucked up the courage to accept help and was referred to the foodbank through my domestic violence officer. I held the voucher in my hands for hours and was scared to go, until I arrived at their local centre where they showed warmth and compassion; when I arrived they put me at ease and were really friendly.

**2020** When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, with many of our referral agencies less accessible to people needing help, we opened our direct phone line. Our amazing volunteers and donors enabled us to continue helping people in need of emergency food through our centres and 2020/21 we fed nearly 17,000 people!



Hope Church Centre Manager Hilary

We had our first Potters 'Arf Marathon runner, Amy. Watch out for this year's entry! We are so grateful to all those that have gone the extra mile, fundraising for us!



I was overwhelmed with the generosity and the amount of food I received at the centre. It took a year to get back on my feet, but then I returned to work and started food donations and making people aware of what foodbank is about. I am able to take up volunteer day opportunities with colleagues and look to continue to do so.

I give my heart and soul to all the team, volunteers and all businesses that help to fundraise or even dropping off food which is a fabulous support.

Thank you for helping me when I needed the help and to survive.'

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Lauren MacAskill, Head of Service for Voices, says that their work is with people who have multiple needs which means that they are often moved between different services, can be vulnerable and need longer term support, and explains how Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank is so important for this.

"When we find people secure accommodation, Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank are able to provide them with food when they move in, rather than them having nothing.

We work with people for only a certain amount of time and then provide information on services where they can get further help.

We know that many people have been helped over the years with Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank church centres providing a safe place for people after their time with us; if they are in need of emergency food support or advice on other help that can be accessed."

DIY SOS Nick Knowles, ' We thought that we knew quite a lot about foodbanks but we have certainly learned some new things today. Visiting this main warehouse has helped us to see the scale of the task.'



Broadcast live June 7<sup>th</sup> and then available on BBC iPlayer

## THANKS

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU! THE LAST 10 YEARS HAS SHOWN..... How amazingly selfless people can be; the support that we receive from people locally from all walks of life, enabling us to supply three-day food parcels for people needing emergency food. Unswerving generosity, even through very testing times

Please follow our work & see how your donations help make a difference – see our website and follow us on social media. Remember: **WHATEVER YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE, BIG OR SMALL WILL HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Nicola, Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank Pathfinder Lead

' SoT Foodbank was chosen as a Pathfinder Foodbank so that it could share best practise with other Trussell Trust foodbanks. This makes sense with our years' of experience, working with a network of other charities and organisations, ensuring the people in real need of emergency food are referred to us and signposting guests to organisations that can help with money advice, and other issues, to help tackle the crisis that brought them in, helping build towards a future without the need for foodbanks.'

Working towards a #HungerFreeFuture

## 21 FOR 2021

We are pleased to be visiting and saying a heartfelt thank you to the businesses that supported us, through a difficult year by pledging and donating finances that ensured we were able to deliver our vital services', Caroline, Business and Community Development Coordinator.



Everyone recognises that this year is going to be tough, with the current cost of living crisis. Everyone will feel the impact. We are pleased to say that our Business Friends are already **Going the Extra Mile 2022; a record number of business warehouse team volunteering, food collections and funding some of our additional costs that come with such high demand.**

**Want to know more? please see contact [caroline@stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:caroline@stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk)**

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE 2022

## BUSINESSES GIVE TIME:

You and your team could take up a charity day, often businesses sponsor teams, working sorting food in our warehouse preparing it to go out to our volunteer crewed church foodbank centres.



## BUSINESSES GIVE FOOD:

Also, to support those in need, others have collected food and harnessed the support of their customer or supplier network.

## BUSINESSES GIVE MONEY:

Speedy Freight Stoke during the Pandemic, started giving every month, and now are continuing with this, 'We are pleased that we were able to make a difference to so many AND now, with everyone feeling the pressure of the rising cost of living, we are committed to continue with this as long as we are able', Damian Carter.

Your money could pay for:

**£250** 500 tins of soup

**£500** running costs for our 2 vans for 1 month

**£1,000** 50 household food parcels

For more information on how to get help or give help, please visit our website: <https://stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk/>

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