

NEWS BITES FROM HARROW FOODBANK July 2017

Warm summer greetings to all our voucher partners, donors and other collaborators in the community, volunteers, clients, supporters and well-wishers, wherever you are!

Much has happened since the last Foodbank newsletter which, going forward, will be a short bulletin issued quarterly.

In November 2016 **Judy Cunnington** replaced Oky Lee as Project Manager. Oky's engagement with the charity sector continues at St Luke's Hospice in Kenton.

Since coming on board Judy has been busy, her activities including:

- With the trustees, **renewal of the lease for the Rosslyn Crescent warehouse** for a term of 3 years from May 2017. The local need for the Foodbank's services is ongoing and, thanks to generous donations by the Harrow community and volunteer efforts, the need is being met. But the Foodbank cannot operate without basic warehouse premises – nothing posh, just enough to ensure proper management of what is so kindly given, without waste. The rental for our warehouse is our major annual expenditure and must be met from donations. As well as monetary donations, we have received generous food donations from individuals from every walk of life in the community including schools (John Lyon, Vaughan, Hatch End), Supermarkets, etc. Thanks everyone.
- In March, a **Signposting Course** for volunteers conducted by Rachael Matthews of Christians Against Poverty. Food poverty is only one manifestation of social disadvantage. Volunteers at the Holy Trinity and St Paul's distribution points direct clients to specific services addressing underlying problems of unemployment, debt, illness, homelessness, addiction, abuse, social isolation etc.
- For volunteers and trustees in March, a **showing of the film "Daniel Blake"**, Mike Leigh's poignant exploration of the experience of an average man failed by the social welfare system, showing how quickly and unexpectedly any one of us may need the services of a Foodbank.
- For clients and volunteers in April, run a **Money Course** presenting strategy for budgeting/best monetary management whether you are on a 6-figure income or less.
- On 01 June, a **recognition of 4 years of continuing Foodbank operation** attended by Gareth Thomas MP for Harrow West, Hannah David Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Harrow West and The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Margaret Davine, Mayor of Harrow for 2017/18. We thank our local representatives for their continuing interest in our service to the disadvantaged in our community.
- **Waitrose Harrow Weald Special Collection** on Friday 23 to Saturday 24 June. We thank the Store Manager, Grant Edwards and his team for their support in collecting 581.4 kgs of food and non-food items. Thanks too to Waitrose shoppers who contributed so generously

For the year 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 47,111 tonnes of food and non-food items were collected by the Foodbank and 47,457 tonnes were distributed to those in need. Thank you to our donors whose continuing generosity makes this possible.

Finally, a **special expression of thanks** to Pinner Association, the Northwest London Body of Chartered Accountants, and St Anselm's Church, Belmont Circle, for their generous financial donations. At the Foodbank we aim to keep overheads as low as possible and rely almost entirely on volunteers. However, as mentioned above in relation to the warehouse lease renewal, the Foodbank's continued functioning depends also on receiving food to continue giving food to Harrow residents while going through a crisis and financial support sufficient to meet minimum operational requirements.

Thank you everyone for your support.