



January- March 2023

1317 Shops

358 new members

16 Volunteers

Overview

We have seen huge growth in the demand for Pantry this quarter, the number of Pantry shops has nearly doubled.

We receive regular referrals into the Pantry from the Job Centre, Citizens Advice and social services. A customer told us that she had never had a food parcel in her life, but her friend told her about the Pantry and she felt it was ok to use it as she was paying something towards the food. She said that it was a life saver for her as she had been skipping meals.

A number of Pantry members have been enjoying our Warm Space during the quarter. Warm Space provides free refreshments and a welcoming space with a great opportunity to make new friends.

We have been able to promote our Good Friday fun day to members of the Pantry, this completely free family fun day offers people the opportunity to enjoy BBQ, ice cream, bouncy castles and a whole lot more without the worry of pressure on their finances.

Volunteers

A long time client of our free food van for the homeless and vulnerable has begun volunteering in Pantry. He has quickly become a vital part of the team, showing great leadership skills and looking after some of our more vulnerable volunteers. This volunteer has difficulty reading and writing, and has been out of work for a long time having struggled with working alongside others.

Food shortages

While demand for the Pantry has increased exponentially, food donations have significantly decreased this quarter.

Food shortages have also meant that there has been less variety coming in from surplus food suppliers. It has become harder to get the necessary basics that people need at a price that fits within our membership fee. The team continue to explore different ways to make sure that we are able to meet the growing need in our community.

"It's a bit of give and take, I get food from the van and I get to give back."

Lee Pantry Volunteer

Impact

A volunteer who has Autism who has been volunteering in the Pantry for 2 years approached us to ask if he could volunteer in the church as part of the cleaning team. This shows his increased confidence in his own abilities and confidence in working with others.

A volunteer who has complex mental health problems, has been growing in confidence over the time she has been volunteering. She is now joining in more social activities, her increased confidence means that she enjoys these occasions much more and has less anxiety around them.

FUTURE

- Pantry is planning to increase opening hours to prevent the long queues that are forming.
- Increased hours will increase the number of volunteer opportunities that are available.

 **RESTORE CHURCH**

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