



April - June 2023

1195 Shops

188 new members

14 Volunteers

Overview

The receipt of new sustainability funding from Shine Lincolnshire together with Boston Big Local funding has meant that we have been able to increase Pantry hours from June. The Pantry is now open from 10-2 Wednesday and Fridays and 12-2pm Thursdays with a plan to expand to a full day on Thursday as new volunteers join. This change has meant that there are less queues and members are able to shop more comfortably. This change has also given more opportunities for supported volunteer places. In May we joined the PCN for a Dementia day, advertising the Pantry and supported volunteer opportunities. We plan to attend several more networking events over the summer to promote membership and volunteer opportunities at The Pantry.

Volunteers

The Restore Pantry manager and 3 leader volunteers will be taking a Mental Health first Aid course to better support those who volunteer on supported places.

We have had one new volunteer this quarter, and have been able to support and re-engage several of our existing volunteers as they have experienced mental health struggles which have caused them to withdraw for a time. We have had 3 volunteers step down during this quarter, one of these moved on to other volunteering.

The Drop In

Restore Church ran a warm space during the cold weather and we saw several Pantry members enjoy free refreshments and companionship. This successful initiative has now become The Drop In, running 2 days each week. Volunteers are being trained to refer people to other agencies, help with phone calls, letter writing and form filling. Pantry members and Pantry volunteers have been enjoying spending time in the drop in.

"I volunteer, because otherwise I'm going crazy at home."
James Pantry Volunteer

Impact

Our newest volunteer is a lady with learning difficulties living in 24 hour supported care. After 2 sessions she said she wouldn't be coming any more but then asked to come back. She enjoys learning new skills, chatting to members as they shop and is learning to take membership payments and restock the shelves. She regularly pops into our offices to tell us what she has achieved that day.

A volunteer who struggles with anxiety and OCD stopped volunteering as he struggled to leave his house. He has been supported to re-engage and is managing to attend 2 sessions a week which he says stop him going crazy at home.

FUTURE

- Continue to promote the great opportunities for supported volunteering with The Pantry to agencies who support those with mental health and learning difficulties.
- Free summer events, providing, school uniform, clothing and small toys.

 **RESTORE CHURCH**

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