

1286 Shops

125 new
members

14 Volunteers



**October - December
2023**

Overview

The Pantry has seen a busy 3 months in the lead up to Christmas with subsequent Christmas food provision and events to celebrate and bless our volunteers. Christmas can be a difficult time for many experiencing poverty, isolation and poor mental health. We find our focus at this time in creating more opportunities to meet the needs of those clients and volunteers that are most vulnerable at this time.

Volunteers

This quarter has seen The Restore Pantry manager and 3 lead volunteers take part in additional training in Mental Health First Aid to better assist those on supported volunteer places. We have continued to support our strong base of volunteers especially those who have found this season difficult. We found a great reduction in engagement from some of our supported volunteers in this season however engaged with personal support in celebrating their involvement with a Christmas volunteer meal and gifts for all. As ever providing a caring supportive environment on placement and in their home environment. We have welcomed volunteers from a previous social enterprise

Christmas Provision Restore Events

The Drop In re-registered as a warm space to provide additional support the local community. It continues to go from strength to strength becoming a great space for the community, particularly Pantry volunteers and members to find volunteer opportunities, friendship and support.

Seasonal Events – Much preparations were made for the community events including The Light Party – Free All-inclusive Halloween alternative activity event, Restorer's handmade Christmas the free all-inclusive Christmas craft event, both of which saw great attendance from volunteers, pantry members/drop in customers and the wider community serving over 150 people at each event

Christmas saw our usual Christmas Eve Giveaway – on receipt of local donations we were able to provide self-selected hampers to pantry members for free. This is also something we have provided over the period between Christmas and new year but due to a lack of donations were unable to provide. We were delighted to find local supermarkets providing significant reductions and giveaways themselves to provide over this season.

We also took this time to bless all our volunteers and service users with a full Christmas meal and celebration of their service which was enjoyed by all

Impact

Through having the funding to support the running of the Pantry we have seen a massive impact on the level of engagement with those most vulnerable. The Pantry has often become the first point of contact and opened up doors of access for those most vulnerable to receive support, grow in confidence and independence by volunteering and reach their full potential.

FUTURE

- Continue to promote the great supported volunteering opportunities with The Pantry to agencies who support those with mental health and learning difficulties.
- To review and grow the donation provision of the Pantry, meeting with local suppliers and organisations
- The new year will see and increase in membership cost from £4 to £6 to cover rising costs of food provision and emergency food supplied.

“Coming here gives me structure
and a sense of wellbeing”
Daz, Volunteer and drop in
customer

 **RESTORE CHURCH**

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