

998 Shops
80 new
members
16 Volunteers



January - March
2024

OVERVIEW

The Pantry has seen some changes into this new year mainly the increase in membership fees from £4 to £6 in response to the raise in stock prices and the increase in food parcel provision. This has had an impact on the number of returning members, but we also maintain a continuation of new members signing up.

VOLUNTEERS

The new year saw a fluctuation in our volunteers as different individuals battled with an array of issues from declining mental health due to the season, physical health issues and family commitments. Offering flexibility, care and support throughout has meant that although not attending their placement, they still maintain a sense of belonging and understanding that when ready a place is still available to them.

OTHER PROJECTS

We have found that Volunteering and being a customer at the Pantry has often opened doors for individuals to receive or give support in other areas of Restore Church.

The Drop continues to provide a safe and inviting environment to care for and connect others in the community to needed support and volunteering opportunities.

The GOOD FRIDAY FUNDAY – Restore put on a totally free fun day on Good Friday every year as a gift to the community, volunteers were able to play a big part of that, as were the many pantry customers. We saw over 300 people enjoy a totally free fun day including BBQ, craft, skimmers ice cream and many more activities.

IMPACT

'I'm part of the team that feeds 40 people a night

Volunteering provides structure to hang your day on, provides a clock as opposed to hanging a great big fat nothing stretching over the week – it keeps my skills in use and practice keeping me job ready even up to the routine of getting up in the morning and maintain a good work ethic. Volunteering at Restore gives me a sense of doing something, purpose and being useful. I see the various projects put on by Restore, working with others with disadvantages and have problems and I see I am not the only one feeling the squeeze, but also, I am able to contribute, am able to help - do something positive for society. This all started during Lockdown, I started to volunteer and found it was a way I could play my part in a world that was falling apart' Volunteer W ...

FUTURE

- Open up more volunteer involvement opportunities within pantry, kitchen and the drop in.
- Continue to review the source and type of stock held in the pantry
- The Restore Projects including the The Pantry, Kitchen and The Drop in will continue to run meeting in the needs of those most vulnerable in our community. We have often gone by the mandate of 'see a need - fill a need' and will continue to look for ways in which we can connect others to existing support and where there is none to find a solution. One of the strengths of Restore is that volunteers and individuals who seek support through one of our projects are never treated as a 'project' or a job but part of a wider family, relationally connected - this opens up a new world for the individual who many often have felt separate or isolated to a world of acceptance and knowledge that even if they struggle to maintain consistency in a volunteer role or stay on track with support they are always welcomed back in to connect and find their place.

📍 RESTORE CHURCH

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IMPACT cont...

My Story by Volunteer L

“ Since starting at Restore Church I believe it has helped me so much , gave me more confidence in myself. I work in the shop now serving customers and dealing with the general public. I feel like I am so supported in my role, I know that when I need it I can go to a quiet space, always someone on hand to relieve me. I have made friends among my colleagues and feel like we are a close-knit family, we talk about our lives or hopes and dreams and even our bad moods and days. Even when I can't come in and not feeling it, I am supported and not made to feel bad and the management always checks in on me to make sure that if I need anything they are there. Since working in the shop, I have been asked to be supervisor which makes me feel good in myself as I am one of those people that loves to be needed. I am given more responsibility and always checked on to make sure that I'm not taking on too much. The Church has saved me in my darkest hours if it wasn't for this place I would just sit at home all day everyday but it's gave me purpose to have a life can't thank them enough.

When I first came to Restore I was lost, turned away from other places because of my mental health where as the Restore Church came to me and welcomed e with open arms and an open heart. They have brought me under the wings I feel so lucky to have found such a kind welcoming place. I work with some wonderful people that struggle themselves no one judges us. They don't see our disabilities just human beings. Like I said even when having a bad time they are there supporting me all the time, even when I need a time out. I started to disbelieve in myself and had lost my way but with the help from the church I have found my belief to the point I help out at events , just being myself helping others and I have even found love along the way which I never thought possible and I am getting married this year all thanks to the people at church helping me found myself again, to accept people and love into my life. I honestly cant thank them enough they treat me like family it feels good to walk into such as warm and welcoming building every time I go there.”

The impact of receiving funding which releases the work we do is hard to put into statistics of number of 'service users' and produce that has been processed through the Pantry. It is however shown clearly though the lives that have been affected. Every individual matters regardless of their journey of life before we meet them. Boston Big Local has provided some key foundational support which has equipped the very fabric of the Pantry, staff and volunteers – it has helped release the potential in what we already had and made dreams become a reality in the vision to serve our local community, of which we can't thank you enough.

Stuart Vickers Senior Pastor of Restore

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