



New Monthly Newsletter #February 2018

In this month's newsletter:

- A Big Thank You!
- Fundraising Update
- Lent
- Expert Advice

A Big Thank You!

What a fabulous response – thank you!

The Christmas period is a really busy time for everyone and it's the same here at the foodbank warehouse. This year was especially busy and our regular volunteers were delighted to be joined by so many people who responded to our request for help. We want to thank all of the individuals who did the work and also the following businesses for allowing their employees to take some time away from their workplace:

- Horseradish Catering @ Chester Racecourse
- MBNA Chester
- Lloyds Banking Group
- Bank of America



It's great to know that we can reach out to our community when we need that extra bit of help. If your business would like to partner with foodbank then please get in contact. Visit our website to see more details: <https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/partner-with-us/>

Fundraising Up-date

In April 2017 our newsletter launched the Foodbank Development Plan that takes us forward with partners in the Welcome Network towards reducing or eliminating food poverty in our communities. At the same time we said that we needed to look at new ways to fund our costs to replace the initial development grants that we can no longer rely on.

Our running costs are at least £80k (**eighty-thousand pounds**) each year. Thanks to a Big Lottery Fund grant that the Welcome Network have been awarded they are able to contribute £20k (twenty-thousand pounds) each year towards our staff costs for the Ellesmere Port and Neston area. This is great news and a massive contribution.

We have reserve funds but we need to raise £60k (**sixty-thousand pounds**) each year to be able to meet our planned expenditure. Since April this year we have been more focused on fundraising and have raised £42k (forty-two thousand pounds) from the following:

- Eaton Hall Open Gardens (£20k)
- One-off donations (£9.5k)
- * Businesses (£10k)
- * Regular monthly standing order donations (£2.5k)

This is a brilliant effort but please remember that Eaton Hall was a timely one-off opportunity involving 100+ planning hours for our regular staff and volunteers and a superb effort from 150+ volunteers on the day.

See Over for ways to help!

Fundraising Up-date cont. / To help us to plan our budgets we would love to have your monthly commitment through donating by standing order. Maybe your company, church, community group or organisation would vote to send us a one-off donation this year? Even better would you adopt us as your preferred charity? <https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Lent



With Lent starting on Valentine's day this year, why not share the love with foodbank? If you are giving up something then why not donate 40p that you wouldn't have spent each day on it for our 40 for 40 appeal?

All you have to do is find an old jam jar, or similar container, and start collecting!

Then bank the contents and send a cheque together with our Gift Aid Form (can be found on our website) to:

*West Cheshire Foodbank, Unit 3-4 Stanney Mill Industrial Estate,
Dutton Green, Chester, CH2 4SA*

Cheques made payable to West Cheshire Foodbank

Alternatively, you can donate online at:

westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/donate-money

Expert Advice

Did you know that people can access expert advice and support at our foodbank sessions?

We are working in partnership with PennySmart at our Blacon and Lache foodbank sessions. Advisors are on hand every week to offer friendly and approachable money advice. They have been able to help people visiting the foodbank access new or additional welfare benefits, make savings on their bills or support them to manage their debts or have them written off. Read more about the project here:

<https://www.sanctuary-housing.co.uk/about-the-grand-ideas-fund/financial-inclusion>

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www.westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk