

Spring 2023



luton foodbank

NEWSLETTER

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In 2023, we reach the tenth year since our formation. Sadly, it comes amidst the most difficult of circumstances for many in our town. We are entering a time of unprecedented pressure—not just on those who use our services, but also on our volunteers, our staff, and our supporters. And for the first time since we opened, there have been times that we were worried about how we will meet the needs of those experiencing difficulties.



However, we live in a generous town. Recently, I spent some time at one of our supermarket food drives, encouraging people to donate food. It was so pleasing to see that the people of our town continue to give. Not just one or two tins, but baskets full of food. The people of Luton never cease to surprise.

How to get involved

- Spread the word, and encourage people to use our services if they are in need.
- Share a fundraising idea with family and friends, and see who can raise the most money for us.
- Volunteer your time for one of our activities.
- Encourage your place of work to join us as a Business Ambassador.

Please remember that every tin of food donated, every hour spent volunteering, and every extra bit of effort that our staff make counts.

So, all I can say is a great big thank you for continuing to put food on the table of those in need and continuing to put Luton Foodbank high on your list of priorities.

In this edition of the newsletter, we will take a look back at some of the great initiatives that our supporters have carried out for us over the past year to help raise funds and awareness of our work.

We are also marking our ten years with a series of events. Please follow us on social media for more detail.

Keep up your great support for Luton Foodbank.

Liz Stringer

Chair, Luton Foodbank

Top 5 needed items



Tinned fish

Tinned fruit

UHT long-life milk

Sugar

Teabags



Winter campaign

Luton Smiles

For the third successive year, we ran the Luton Smiles initiative, working with our superb partners over the winter to ensure that children and their families had a special Christmas.



The initiative formed part of Here to Help, our annual campaign that we launch every year to work with our friends in the town to help raise awareness of Luton Foodbank.

Thanks to the generous donations of kind-hearted people from Luton and the surrounding areas, we were pleased to once again be able to deliver 500 Christmas meals and 500 toys to families as part of Luton Smiles.

We know that winter is a difficult time of year. With many in our town struggling to make ends meet, as a result of the current cost-of-living crisis, many children are missing out.

This is why we are proud to work with our schools to help distribute these packs and make sure they reach those most deserving.

Thank you to the amazing teachers from Chantry Academy, Dallow Primary, Foxdell Primary, Linden Academy, Southfield Primary and Whitefield Primary who gave up their Christmas Eve to help make Christmas extra special for those children and their families.

We are also deeply appreciative of our project partners for helping deliver Luton Smiles. Thank you to Karen Linley and the team at Tesco Dunstable; Roy Greening and the team at The Mall Luton, and Jennie White & team at Level Trust.



Karen is pictured above with Salma Khan, our project manager, as well as Rachel Hopkins MP, one of our long-standing volunteers, and Anisah Akhtar, a trustee for Level Trust. Also thank you to Mostaque Koyes and Aimee Clarke for your support for the project, as well as the team at Venue Central.



School2School: a week of action

Help Luton Foodbank mark ten years of serving the town by signing up for the School Run.

Your support—whether through raising awareness of our work, or by raising much-needed funds—will help ensure that no one goes hungry in our town.

The School2School Run week of action begins on Monday 6 March, and will again be led by our friends Luton Lions.

Join us on Saturday the 11th of March at Wardown Park. Run, jog or walk, as an individual, or as part of a team—there are a number of ways you can get involved.



In the community

Our friends

As we enter what will be a crucial year for us, we are proud to be able to count on the support of so many from around Luton.

The people of our town are generous-hearted and as we mark ten years of serving the town, we encourage you all to keep up your support for Luton Foodbank.

These included (from bottom left) the Dad's Army, who made a superb donation of food before Christmas, and our friends at Inspire FM and Human Appeal, who supported our winter campaign.

Also, thanks go to the wonderful members of Team Revolution (pictured bottom right), who raised money and awareness of our work at the Love Luton RunFest.

We are also lucky to have some special volunteers support us too. Maggie Herod and her dog Kiwi walked 80 miles to raise both funds for Luton Foodbank.

Schools volunteer Amar Azam, delivered a series of inspirational "Be Champions" assemblies to 15 schools over the course of the World Cup, thanking children for their efforts for Luton Foodbank over 2022.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the many regular donors who drop off food at one of our distribution points. Your support remains vital to ensuring we are able to serve those in need.

Last year was so difficult for many. Sadly, amid spiralling food and energy price rises which put a squeeze on household incomes, we know this year will be even more challenging.

There are a wide variety of ways you can get involved in helping support our work. Do get in touch with us if you would like to learn more about how you can be a part of our work in the town.



Our young ambassadors



Luton Foodbank is lucky to have supporters of all ages. Cousins Ayla and Aadam (pictured left) made a fantastic donation to our winter campaign. They recently popped into our warehouse to drop off the food to Paul from our warehouse team. Meanwhile, Ashton Corder (pictured right, with his brother Isaac) and his friends from Think Sport Thunder FC are organising a sponsored football match to help raise funds for Luton Foodbank.

If you would like the younger members of your family to join us as Young Ambassadors, do get in touch.



The Luton Foodbank family

Support our work by volunteering



From supporting us at food drives, helping us through our warehouse operations (including packing food parcels), and being a part of our distribution team, our volunteers are a vital part of what we do. We have many long-standing volunteers, who have been with us a number of years.

Do contact us to learn about how you can get involved.

Business support

We are lucky to be supported by amazing business supporters. They are crucial to our work.

London Luton Airport is one of our key partnerships. Over 2022, we benefitted from a number of fundraising initiatives that helped raise funds to support our work.



Our project manager Salma Khan recently collected a cheque for £25,000.

As one of the key charity partners of The Mall Luton, we are fortunate to benefit from their fundraising initiatives as well as important promotion of our work to customers.

Thank you to all of our friends in the business community for your continued support and we look forward to working with you through 2023.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a business supporter, do email us on info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk

Information leaflets

Available in six languages

