



Bethany Food Bank Support Newsletter: 7th May



Hello, and welcome to the Newsletter that follows week 3 of the Bethany Food Bank support project....



This week's special buy requests:

- **Tins of Sweetcorn**
- **Children's snacks & treats**
- **Washing Detergent pods**
(try putting x10 pods into a food bag, as this is how the Food Bank would ration them out – it doesn't have to be a whole box/pack, as we know they can be expensive!)

Yet another great week of heartwarming contributions. Yet again, we were astounded by the sheer volume of donations that came in, and by the little and big acts of kindness & thoughtfulness shown by so many. So another great big.....

THANK YOU !



The photos show our sorting team organising the donations into categories, ready to be loaded onto the vans to be taken to the Food Bank. There were piles and piles of donations of all sorts, yet again – and these included lots of the week's special buys (spaghetti in tomato sauce & deodorants), as well as lots of pasta sauce jars which are always in great demand. What has been wonderful is that as well as the basics, there has been such a generous amount of provisions for families with babies and toddlers coming in – as well as some of life's little luxuries such as chocolate and biscuits that just help customers to the Food Bank to feel that people are thinking of them and give them some treats that might be otherwise too expensive to buy. After all, we all need the odd treat here and there just now!

Read on, to find out how two of our younger volunteers (Oliver and Ava-Margaret) got on when they helped with delivering the sorted donations to the Food Bank this week.....

A lockdown learning experience like no other!



Ava-Margaret and Oliver were part of our loading team this week – a big task needing lots of muscle and stamina, carrying and loading up all the sorted donations from the church hall into the vans ready to take to the Food Bank. We set off in a cavalcade of two vans and a car down the M6. Oliver and Ava travelled with their Mum, who was driving one of the vans.



When we arrived, Kevin (who runs the Food Bank) was busy unloading some supplies that had just been delivered. He quickly got Oliver and Ava on the job, helping out! They got to see what goes on behind the scenes with the volunteers and how food is stored in the storeroom by date order.



Once the vans were all unloaded, Kevin took them on a tour of the Food Bank so that they could see how it works. They got to meet some of the volunteers, and because the Food Bank was open for business, saw how the customers are welcomed into the café area, while the volunteers take their shopping lists and put food packages together for them based on what they need and would like.

Wise words from Oliver & Ava-Margaret following their visit....

Oliver: "I was amazed by my visit to the Food Bank. They help so many people, many of whom are children. I will never forget my visit, and it has, and will have a big impact on the way I act and think about others in future."

Ava-Margaret: "The experience was an eye-opener. Little things we do make such a big difference, and we must always think and appreciate how lucky we are. It was amazing to see how the Food Bank ran and what went on behind the scenes. On the day we went, the Food Bank had helped 109 people! It shows that if we all do a little thing by donating what we can, we can really make such a big difference to people in need."





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