



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



The Glasgow NW Foodbank is facilitated by Blawarthill Parish Church of Scotland. It was launched in May 2013 and is part of the Trussell Trust food bank network. 2019 marked the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the food bank, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our Gairbraid and Ruchill Kelvinside food bank centres. Our Project Manager post became a job share post in 2018 with the appointment of Sue Robinson, working alongside Kyle McCormick. Sue and Kyle worked successfully together throughout 2019 however Sue had to give up her position in May 2020 for family reasons, and Kyle temporarily resumed full status as Project Manager and Co-ordinator, aided by over 40 regular volunteers, some of whom took on supporting managerial roles.

### Food supplies given out

In 2019 the Foodbank distributed 10,205 food parcels, compared with 9,929 in 2018, a 2.8% increase and our highest ever total. The continued arrival of refugees and asylum seekers who were given accommodation in NW Glasgow, together with continuing challenges in the economy and ongoing delays for some in accessing the benefit system following the introduction of Universal Credit accounted for the increasing demand for our services. With each parcel made up to cover three days and three meals per day, the total number of meals provided in 2019 was 91,845.

Various types of crisis led to people being referred to the food bank. Benefit changes were factors in approx. 21% of referrals, low income was cited for 18%, “no recourse to public funds”, (often applying to refugees and asylum seekers), 10%.

	2018	2019
No of referrals	4661	4676
No of three day supplies that went to adults	6316	6402
No of three day supplies that went to children	3613	3803
Total number of food parcels (adults & Children)	9929	10205
Total number of meals	89,361	91,845

## Donations we have received

In 2019 the food bank accepted 74,640kg or 74.6 tonnes of donations. Of this, nearly 72 tonnes was distributed, however 1.7 tonnes of food and toiletries had to be discarded due to being damaged or out of date (this was down 0.1 on 2018).

Supermarket collection totals included Sainsbury's Crow Road, Byres Road, Novar Drive & Braehead, 14,220kg. Waitrose Byres Road, 5450kg. Tesco: Knightswood, Byres Road and Maryhill, 33,660kg. Co-op Alderman Road, 407kg. and Keystore Great Western Rd stores, 170kg. From the agreement with Tesco & Trussell Trust, the food bank receives a 20% top up. 245kg was donated by other Trussell Trust food banks. Other donors included churches, community centres, nurseries, schools, companies, hotels & pubs, clubs, NHS staff, banks, football fans and many individuals. The food bank received numerous cash donations which were used to purchase products that were urgently needed to enable us to distribute balanced food parcels. Sainsbury's Partick continued to donate bakery produce and on occasion fresh fruit/veg that otherwise may have gone to waste. The weight is included in the above total.



December continues to be the busiest month of the year where almost 12.7 tonnes were donated. (14.5 in 2018). That is almost

double the average from January – November. The food bank has limited storage which puts great stress on our host church in December & January. We searched for additional warehouse space in 2019, unsuccessfully. All donations are greatly appreciated, however, we continue to encourage organisations and individuals to donate throughout the year, rather than waiting until Christmas. February and March can be difficult months for the food bank when donations tend to drop below the average.

### Fleet Alliance

In 2016 Fleet Alliance very generously donated a van to the food bank, improving our ability to get food to our food bank centres. A fundraiser they organised brought in a total of £6547 for us and the Glasgow NE Foodbank, and in 2019 Fleet Alliance gave us a bigger, newer van to



replace the ageing Kangoo which often proved too small for the loads we needed to move. Further fundraising events held by Fleet Alliance were “Stars 19” which raised over £7000 and an auction which raised £2700.

### Co-op Membership

The food bank once again secured funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund for 2018/2019, which brought in £2423. This was used to bridge the gap in our food donations. Every time Co-op members choose Co-op branded products and services and use their Co-op Membership card (subject to Co-op Membership T&Cs) 1% of what they spend goes to their chosen cause. Members can change their choice at any time until the end of the giving period.

## Community Engagement

In 2019 Yoga Glasgow set up a permanent donation crate. The Foodbank participated in Trussell's pre-Easter "40 for 40 Challenge", inviting participants to place 40p in a jam jar every day of the 40 days of Lent. Staff at Morrison's Anniesland donated over 80 Easter eggs.

The school holiday programme begun with funding in previous years from the Robertson Trust was continued with a Kids' Group at Centre 81 in Clydebank during the school holidays, and the young people were fed as part of their day, reducing holiday hunger. On the final day, Dominos kindly donated their pizzas.



Supporters Club and the Lincoln Inn laid on a Christmas party with goodies, for kids associated with the food bank. The Trussell Trust ran a "State of Hunger" report and as a result our manager appeared on BBC's Good Morning Scotland and its prime-time news programme Reporting Scotland.



## Referral Agencies

The number of active referral agencies leaped from 117 in 2018, to a record total of 223. This shows how Glasgow NW is regarded as a dependable partner with an ability to give immediate help to individuals and families in food poverty. Agencies are drawn from a variety of sectors including charities, churches, community groups, statutory and voluntary agencies.



*Tesco Maryhill, Dec 2019 with Amey Plc*

We are continuing to develop our e-referral system. It has been found that organisations that use the e-referral system are able to make more informed decisions when referring clients to the food bank based on how often the client is needing help and where the client is accessing referrals for the

food bank. This is also ensuring that clients are getting the best help possible and preventing dependency on the food bank, enabling the food bank to maintain its stance as an emergency food provider and not issuing long term aid. We are grateful to agencies that have adopted e-referral, in place of paper vouchers.

## Thank You

2019 was another busy year for the food bank. We had an amazing team of volunteers to help us in various different ways, to ensure that there was food and support for those that needed our help. Our statistics continue to show that the need is great for your support, and there is much still to be done at local and national level to eradicate food poverty. We would cease to exist without the dedication of our volunteers and our donors. Thank you for this wonderful support!

### Aim for 2020

Assess the needs of approx. 3000 individual clients and provide them with appropriate three day emergency food parcels.

Maintain a stock of a nutritionally balanced range of food, liaising with other food banks to share excess and address gaps.

Continue roll out of the e-referral system to appropriate agencies.

### What that will achieve

Help to alleviate food poverty, with dignity and choice, for individuals and families in crisis.

Recruit and train volunteers to engage with clients to establish what their underlying cause of crisis is, identify and refer/signpost to other support agencies.

In cases of crisis, support and advocate for individuals during ongoing transition from food bank to benefits.

Continue to seek out new opportunities to address food poverty in NW Glasgow, working with our central warehouse and office staff and volunteers at Blawarhill and our distribution centres in Maryhill; from there reaching out to new referral agencies and potential donors and supporters.

Individuals and families will benefit from increased knowledge and awareness to access wider support services to improve their crisis situation.



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To donate via the Co-op:  
[www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/25896](http://www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/25896)



For a full list of our partners please go to:  
<https://glasgowNW.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/partner-with-us/>  
If you wish to appear as a partner on our website please email us.

Glasgow NW Foodbank is facilitated by Blawarthill Parish Church of Scotland  
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