

Notes for Churches Together meeting Wednesday 23rd September 2015

1. **Statistics** - up to the end of August there had been 145 referrals to the Jubilee Foodbank Statistics averaging about 20 per month. These can be referrals for families / couples / individuals with a range of problems often due to their money just not going far enough.

2. **Volunteers** – over recent months we have recruited several new front-line volunteers but a few more would be good and help to spread the workload and provide adequate cover for holidays, etc.

We manage to make sure the foodbank is operational most days, but occasionally, due to a lack of volunteers we are unable to open. This is never more than two days a month and some months we are fully staffed.

We have recruited a volunteer to help with the administration work which is providing to be very helpful.

We always welcome enquiries from potential new volunteers and sometimes if people don't want to commit to regular volunteering we can find opportunities for them to help with just occasional projects, e.g. food drives, harvest, collections, etc.

We are very thankful for our very dedicated and reliable group volunteers who are very committed to what they do. We are planning a get together for all our volunteers early in October.

3. **Projects** - In the summer we packed and delivered 42 boxes of food to the Cube ready to be collected by families who had been referred by the schools and needed support families during the school holidays. There was not a good take up of the boxes with 20 boxes remaining. We will review whether this is the best way to use resources and maybe just work with the schools for them to become referring agencies and let people be referred in the usual way.

We now seem to be getting referrals for people who are in need of longer term support, i.e. need more support than our usual 3 meal for 3 days x 3 times. We are currently reviewing our guidance/systems to allow agencies to be able to refer these people as need arises at least in the short term whilst our food stocks will allow for this.

4. **Donations** - we are very fortunate that we have some very generous individuals and groups who continue to donate both food and money to enable us to keep going. Recent donations £220 from someone who did a sponsored walk £166 from Harborough Artists Cluster. We are currently welcoming the donations linked to 'Harvest time'

5. **Renewal of referring agencies information** – need to make sure we have current details of all referring agencies and also ensure everyone has the latest referra forms and up-to-date guidance on making referrals.

Please could you provide details on the form provided and information will be sent out shortly.

6. **Contact details for Foodbank:**

- i) Jubilee Foodbank email address - [**jubileefoodbank@gmail.com**](mailto:jubileefoodbank@gmail.com)
- ii) Jubilee Foodbank Website - **jubileefoodbank.info**

This will give up to date information about the Foodbank and also details of food donations currently needed.