

We are always so impressed and humbled by the donations that are given to Foodbank, but especially at this time of the year. We have heard stories of children saving their pocket money to buy food to donate, families, and in one case, a whole school, taking part in the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' project, where people choose to give something each day through Advent rather than get something from a calendar, and businesses giving food or money to the Foodbank instead of buying secret santa presents for each other. It really is thrilling to be on the receiving side of such an amazing expression of love and compassion for our neighbours.

For many of us, Christmas will be warm, full of good food, friends and family, but this outpouring of generosity shows an awareness that life is not like that for everyone and that many, not just in Chelmsford but around our nation and the world, will struggle to put food on the table, let alone give any presents this Christmas. We meet people like that at our centres every day and I am often challenged by their positivity despite their circumstances. The impact that your donations of food and other goods have in these situations cannot be underestimated.

What people receive with their food is intangible but so vital - **hope**.

Hope that others are interested and care that they might be struggling, and **hope** that in time they might also be able to do the same.

Thank you for remembering others amidst the busyness of this period of the year. Thank you for delivering hope through your compassion and kindness. Surely this is what Christmas is really about? The wise men brought their royal gifts to a stable and the richest of gifts arrived in squalor and poverty. We have been blessed to serve those struggling in and around Chelmsford this year and we wish you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Ruth Leverett, Foodbank Manager



Santa's warehouse!



SWF Christmas

Client testimony.
"Without Foodbank I and my family would not have survived. Foodbank don't make you embarrassed for needing their help. The staff are warm, friendly and deserve praise for all their hard work" ST (Sept 16)
 Name withheld under data protection requirements.

Client Testimony
I was recently released from prison and I am in desperate need until my benefit starts next week. I have found the GREC Foodbank to be a real help and I do not know what I would have done without them, they have been really friendly and non judgemental. WW (Dec 16)
 Name withheld under data protection requirements.