

FareShare Slices

A healthy slice of FareShare volunteer news

Issue 11

Autumn 2021

**Help us stay
Covid-19 safe
Take me
home, don't
share me**



FareShare
fighting hunger,
tackling food waste

Hello...

Over the last couple of months at FareShare UK, we've been busy working on a new campaign called #FoodOnPlates, which is aiming to get more surplus food to those who need it. 'Lifeline' UK government funding that helped farmers send their unsold food to charities has been axed – and calls to renew it have been rejected. FareShare has been campaigning for this funding to be continued and extended so that it is easier for surplus food to feed people. Read more about the campaign on page 4.

In September, we had an online Volunteer Awards event. It was great to be able to highlight the stories of specific volunteers across the FareShare network, but the Awards was also a chance for the whole organisation to reflect on the contribution of all our volunteers and the huge impact they make to FareShare. You can read more about on pages 6-9.

For the first time we have a volunteer guest contributor to the magazine, Shereece Thompson, who has shared with us her experience volunteering with the Felix Project in South London (p11). If you would like to contribute a story to the magazine, we'd love to hear from you. Please send us an email at volunteering@fareshare.org.uk.

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Keeping safe at FareShare

Though many formal social distancing measures have ended thanks to the high vaccination rate, it's important we continue to look out for one another.

We take the wellbeing of our volunteers and of the communities we work to support very seriously. Keeping each other safe and healthy helps all of us do the work we need to do to help those in need during what continues to be a very challenging time.

There continue to be extra safety protocols to reduce the risk of transmitting Covid-19 as we head into the Winter months. We are asking our staff and volunteers to please do the following:

- Wear a face mask.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Do not attend a volunteering session if you or a member of your household have had Covid-19 symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 10 days.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth or any food if your hands are not clean.
- Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly and often. Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.

When you come into the warehouse you will see:

- Information about local safety measures.
- Information on how to clean your hands properly and when they should be cleaned.
- Suitable soaps and hand sanitisers that kill the virus.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about these procedures please talk to your shift lead or regional volunteer manager. You can also email volunteering@fareshare.org.uk.

Nationwide Tesco campaign helps raise funds for meals

You may have noticed FareShare in Tesco's Buy One to Help a Child television adverts this summer. For the campaign, which ran in all Tesco stores across the UK, Tesco made a donation to FareShare for every item of fresh fruit and vegetables customers bought during the campaign.

As a result, Tesco is donating three million meals to FareShare to help feed children across the UK.



FareShare campaigns to get more #FoodOnPlates

In September, FareShare launched the #FoodOnPlates campaign. The campaign aimed to double the amount of surplus food we provide by expanding government funding to help farmers and food producers get more good food to charities. The campaign took the message that it should never be cheaper to waste food than to get

it to charities straight to Parliament, with a bold display projected across the Thames, and culminated with a multi-party petition presented to the Prime Minister. Though the #FoodOnPlates funding was not included in the most recent budget we are proud of the momentum we've gathered and will keep working to get more good food to people.

This Summer was awards season for FareShare

FareShare has been honoured with a slew of awards over the past couple months. Highlights include the Outstanding Contribution to Local Communities special award at the Government's Regulatory Excellence Awards, the Community Partner of

the Year Award from the Food and Drink Federation, and Charity of the Year at Charity Times Awards.

None of these achievements would be possible without the hard work of volunteers and this recognition is a

credit to you all.

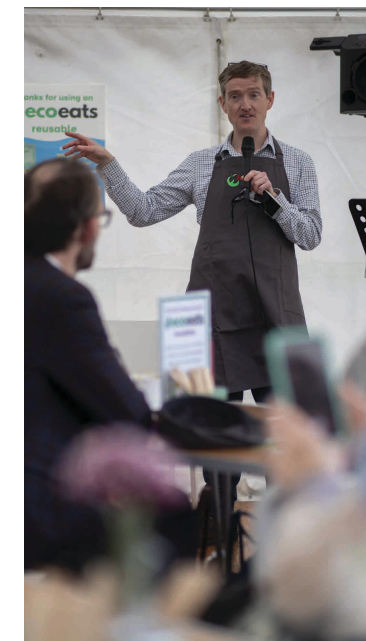


FareShare makes food waste part of the conversation at COP26

This year's United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, took place in Glasgow, with FareShare attending as an official observer. If food waste was a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet, and yet food waste has been frozen out of the agenda at COP26. We used our presence at the event to raise

awareness of this pressing social and environmental problem.

Check the hashtag #DontFreezeOutFoodWaste on social media to see more of our updates from the conference.



Volunteers needed for the Tesco Food Collection in November

We need your support at the Tesco Food Collection! Can you give just three hours of your time to volunteer at your local Tesco store from 18-20 November 2021? During a volunteer shift, you'll greet Tesco customers as they enter the store and encourage them to donate much needed food items to



FareShare this winter.

If you're able, please sign up for a shift by visiting the FareShare website: [fareshare.org.uk/foodcollection/](https://www.fareshare.org.uk/foodcollection/)

If you're not able to volunteer in store, you can still support the collection on social media by sharing our posts #EveryCanHelps

An afternoon of celebration

Our 2021 Volunteer Awards marked a year of incredible effort from volunteers.

In September we held our 2021 Volunteer Awards to celebrate the extraordinary volunteers who have helped us get more food than ever to charities, despite the challenges of the past year.

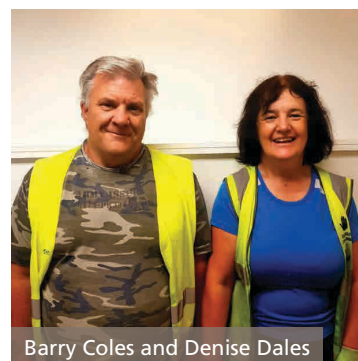
Thanks to all of you, we rose to the unprecedented challenges of the past year to distribute an extraordinary 132 million meals worth of food, an average of 4 meals a second. That's more than double the previous year's total and we could not have done it without you.

All of our volunteers deserve recognition for the dedication they bring to each shift. Some of the award winners you may have seen around your own regional centre, like the joint winner of Warehouse Assistant of the Year, Hasan. Previously

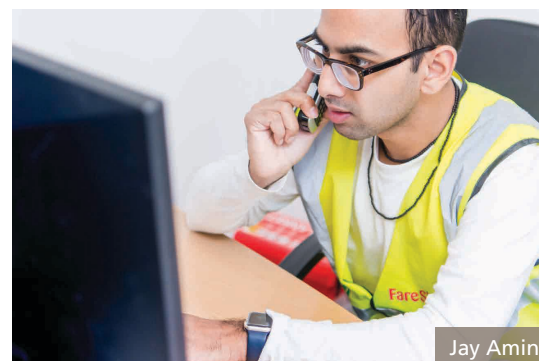
a firefighter in Syria, he joined FareShare Sussex to practice his English and has become a beloved presence in the warehouse.

Others, like Keith, the FareShare Midlands volunteer who won our Bright Idea Award, helped us implement new ideas to help us work more safely and efficiently. His innovative system for setting up collections ensured charities could pick up their food while staying safe during the height of the pandemic.

You may have even seen some volunteers on the news, like our joint winners for Fundraiser of the Year. John Wilcock, who you may know as the Rollerskating Grandpa, made headlines for his creative fundraiser last year and Emily Yates of FareShare South West took part in the One Show's Comic Relief challenge!



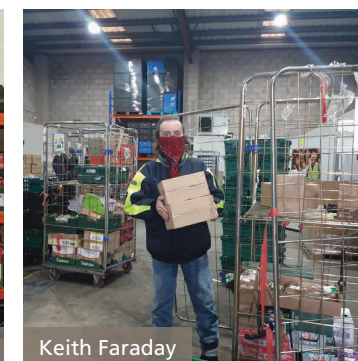
Barry Coles and Denise Dales



Jay Amin



Johnathan Whittle



Keith Faraday



Debbie Wyatt



Emily Yates



Jim Kerr



Hasan Hazeema

The full list of winners is as follows:

Warehouse Assistant of the Year

Highly Commended – Barry Coles and Denise Dale
Joint winners – Hasan Hazeema and Steven Clarke

Driver of the Year

Winner – Tony Coombs

Driver's Assistant of the Year

Highly Commended – Jay Amin and Johnathan Whittle
Winner – Stephen Ness

Office Volunteer of the Year

Highly Commended – Jane Phillipson
Winner – Debbie Wyatt

Remote Volunteer of the Year

Highly Commended – Ann Lee

Bright Idea Award

Highly Commended – John Turner
Winner – Keith Faraday

Fundraiser of the Year

Highly Commended – Rainbow Pete
Joint winner – John Wilcock and Emily Yates

Leadership in Volunteering

Winner – Jim Kerr

Volunteer Manager of the Year

Highly Commended – Dave Ellis
Winner – Josie Jeffrey

Regional Centre of the Year

Highly Commended – FareShare Northern Ireland
and FareShare Lancashire and Cumbria
Winner – FareShare Midlands

Congratulations to all who were recognised and a huge thank you to each and every volunteer. As FareShare's Head of Volunteering, Bryan Precious, said: "It's fair to say that without volunteers we would not be able to help so many people across the UK. Everyone who volunteers at FareShare makes such an amazing contribution and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers."

Seeing the hard work, innovation, and care that our volunteers continue to bring to their work, we're already looking forward to next year's awards! We'll have more details to share in the new year but for now, please do start thinking about who you might like to nominate.

How Peckham Pantry makes sure their work reflects the community

October was Black History Month, a great opportunity to celebrate the work that charities and community groups are doing to help support and uplift the diverse cultures and histories of Black people in communities across the UK. One such group is Peckham Pantry...

"We're a mixed community in Peckham, so we try to bring that inclusiveness into the Pantry," explains Temi Okudiya, manager of Peckham Pantry, where dignity, inclusivity, and community are key to their success.

Since opening in 2019, the Pantry has grown to two locations. Their Peckham Park Road centre opens Monday-Saturday, maintaining a service for around 300 people each week all through the pandemic.

"We want to show everyone – Black, white, different religions and cultures – no matter who you are you can come in and feel included," explains Temi. "We say we're a community shop so our work needs to



reflect the community. We have a very diverse community and we realised that if we wanted the Pantry to work we had to find out the kind of foods people identify with."

While Temi and her

team have worked hard to source food from additional sources such as local businesses, FareShare's provision remains a crucial foundation: "FareShare food helps a lot. We get a lot of halal food, vegan food, as well as things like yam and sweet potato. It can vary a lot but people get really excited to see all the different types of vegetables."

CEO Chris Price adds: "Being able to provide nutritious fruit and veg, so that families are able to have a more balanced diet and make healthier choices, is absolutely vital. We are making sure what we provide for families is diverse and healthy."

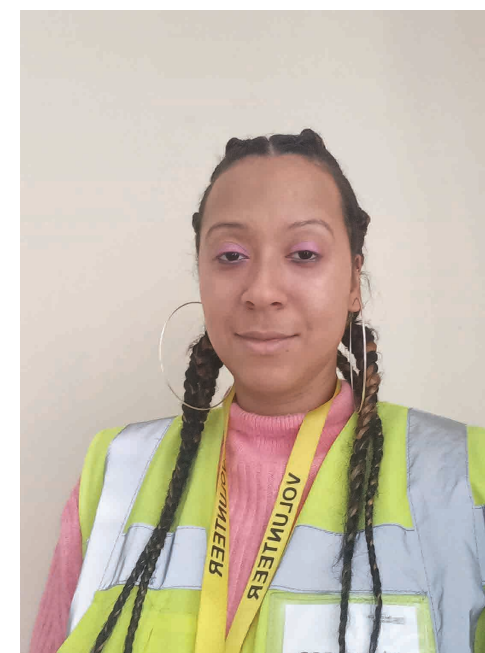
Volunteer Voices

Our next article has been sent in by Shereece, a volunteer with FareShare's delivery partner, the Felix Project, in London.

"I joined The Felix Project Team in October 2019. I have taken the opportunity to keep up to date with my skills by volunteering for several projects including FareShare, and currently now The Felix Project. I'm an Office Admin Volunteer at The Felix Project, I work in the Warehouse admin volunteering team.

I joined The Felix Project to volunteer and to make a difference, meet new people, learn new skills, gain confidence, to get more volunteering experience and to enhance my chances of finding paid employment. Since volunteering at The Felix Project, my confidence has grown.

There have been a lot of



Deptford warehouse, building on the legacy that FareShare has achieved over the years.

We've got some very exciting news: The Felix Project's brand-new East London depot has just recently opened up and we are looking for people to volunteer. If you're interested, email Esther Gent, our Poplar Volunteer Manager, at esther.gent@thefelixproject.org to lend your support."

If you're interested in sharing a story with us for the next issue of FareShare Slices, please contact volunteering@fareshare.org.uk.



changes happening in London since FareShare and The Felix Project joined forces to help tackle hunger and food waste in November 2020. The Felix Project took over running FareShare's

Refer a friend!

Enjoyed the stories in this issue of FareShare slices?

Why not share with a friend and help spread the word about the fantastic work our volunteers do! Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do, from helping us to fundraise, operating our warehouses, and helping support teams in our offices. Do you know a friend, family member or colleague who'd make a great FareShare volunteer? Spread the word to your network by sending a text, email, or even post about us on your social media:

"Hello friends! Interested in volunteering? Why not volunteer with FareShare! Please visit www.fareshare.org.uk/volunteer to sign up, or email at volunteering@fareshare.org.uk."