

FareShare Slices

A healthy slice of FareShare volunteer news

Volunteer Awards special edition

Autumn 2019



Hello...

Welcome to the Autumn edition of FareShare Slices. This issue is all about celebration. Not only are we celebrating FareShare's 25th anniversary, we're also celebrating the amazing contribution volunteers make every day, with a special focus on those who were recognised at FareShare's inaugural Annual Volunteer Awards this September (pg 6).

Thanks to our volunteers, this summer we redistributed enough food to create over 670,000 meals to children at risk of going hungry over the holidays. We catch up with Croydon's Addiscombe Boys and Girls Club to find out how FareShare food makes all the difference (pg 14).

This is your magazine, so if you'd like to see more stories about events or volunteers from your Regional Centre please do get in touch.

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Hannah Feld

Here's a scary statistic...

It's estimated the UK throws away eight million pumpkins every Halloween.

Last year FareShare redistributed almost 1,000 delicious pumpkins to charities across the UK. Mmm!

This magazine is printed on 100% recycled paper



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Volunteers needed for Food Collection

FareShare are seeking thousands of volunteers to take part in the annual Tesco Food Collection, which takes place in Tesco stores across the country from 21-23 November. You can sign up for a three hour shift, either on your own or with friends, family or colleagues, here: fareshare.org.uk/tescofoodcollection



Volunteering at FareShare Grampian hits new heights

Congratulations to FareShare Grampian/CFINE for scooping a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which is granted to exceptional volunteer groups in the UK who are making a positive impact on the lives of their communities. It was

deserved recognition for the hard work volunteers have been doing to alleviate food poverty in north east Scotland.

"We now have 35 staff but CFINE simply wouldn't work without the volunteers," said CFINE's CEO Dave

Simmers at the recent award ceremony which was attended by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Barney Crockett.

"Their contribution is exceptional and, I think, second to none in any organisation."



Marking big milestones

FareShare Thames Valley and partner charity SOFEA celebrated their 5th birthday in September by inviting BBC TV and radio reporters to visit their Didcot base - an occasion later featured on BBC Radio Oxford and BBC South Today. There was more cake eating and ribbon cutting a month later when FareShare South Midlands officially opened in Milton Keynes, in partnership with SOFEA. Meanwhile, in Edinburgh, we celebrated 20 years of the Cyrenians running FareShare Central Scotland. "The team have done an amazing job supporting 140 charities and moving more and more food," said FareShare Head of Network Partnerships Kris Gibbon Walsh.

Even more awards...

It's been a record-breaking year for award nominations and wins for our Regional Centres. Firstly, a big congrats to FareShare Manchester for scooping the Volunteering Team gong at October's Spirit of Manchester awards. The competition was tough but the judges were impressed by how the team had shown innovation, whilst also having a huge impact on both the organisation and their local community.

Elizabeth Lauder, Volunteer & Employability Programmes Manager,



said: "To be voted as winners of the award by the wider voluntary and community sector comes as a testament to all that the entire FareShare Greater Manchester volunteer team have done

to help feed people in need."

Congratulations, too, to FareShare Yorkshire who were recently presented a Highly Commended Volunteer Team Award at the Community Champion Awards, sponsored by BBC Radio Sheffield.

Finally well done FareShare Hull who were also nominated for the Volunteer Team of the Year at the city's Smile Foundation awards on 16 October. Amazing!

Happy Birthday FareShare!

This year, FareShare celebrates its 25th anniversary. When FareShare was established in 1994, its organisers couldn't have known they were about to create the UK's longest-running food redistribution charity. In 2018 we saved 20,838 tonnes of good food from waste, enough to make 46.5 million meals for vulnerable people.

FareShare CEO, Lindsay Boswell, said: "These are exciting times for FareShare. Right now we're only accessing 8% of the total available surplus food, and we're confident that, with the support

of the food industry and of course the invaluable contribution of our volunteers we'll be able to dramatically increase the amount of food we deliver to frontline charities."

FareShare
Delivering Surplus Food to People in Need



The original FareShare Logo and first van fleet

A day of celebration

In September, FareShare Slices headed to the first ever FareShare Volunteer Awards – a lunchtime ceremony held at Birmingham's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Move over Baftas... this was a chance for us to celebrate the invaluable contribution of our volunteers – some of the 1,300 people who helped us collect, sort, pack and deliver 21,000 tonnes of food to almost 11,000 charities and community groups in the last year.

So how were the winners chosen? The answer is, with great difficulty. For starters, the judges had to sift through over 100 high-quality entries from our Regional Centres... and inevitably, many deserving volunteers lost out. But without doubt all the winners (and recipients of the Highly Commended awards) stood out for their exceptional contributions.

People like Ann Adams who started volunteering with FareShare Glasgow's admin team early 2018, having successfully recovered from 25 years

of drug addiction. When Ann was diagnosed with neck cancer in March this year, she went straight back to work after three months of intensive radio and chemotherapy... yet still seemed amazed when she was voted winner of the Office Volunteer category.

"Considering the amount of volunteers FareShare have it was UK a great surprise," says Ann modestly. "I feel quite emotional about it and it's really nice to meet people from other Regional Centres."

This was a sentiment repeated time and time again at the awards, but the other message which came through strongly was that volunteering was a way of 'giving something back.'

After 38 years of working in a bank, Lindsay Dunmore – FareShare East Midland's Highly

Commended Warehouse Assistant – eagerly accepted early retirement 18 months ago, but began to regret her decision within a matter of weeks. "I thought, 'What am I going to do now?'" Lindsay admits. "Being at home all day after all those years in a corporate environment was quite a difficult change. I wanted to do something positive rather than fritter my time away, something that would make a difference."

So back to the ceremony: After a welcoming speech by CEO Lindsay Boswell, FareShare's Commercial Director Alyson Walsh invited the winners to the stage to collect their awards.



Opening remarks from Lindsay Boswell, FareShare's CEO.



Darrin Hobbs and Syd Davidson with Alyson Walsh (Commercial Director)



Lindsay Dunmore



Representatives from the FareShare Lancashire and Cumbria Team, with Alyson Walsh



Markus Graves



John Williams, with Volunteer Manager, Siobhan Rocks



Volunteer Managers Madison Hartwright and Jonathan Williams



Alyson Walsh with Volunteer Manager Yvonne Foody



FareShare Greater Manchester's winners David Elms and Karin Froot



Alyson Walsh and Lee Hall



FareShare South West representatives: Michael Pearce, Peter Clarke and Matt Merrett



Ann Adams



First up was Driver's Assistant of the Year – John Williams from Northern Ireland – closely followed by Highly Commended Drivers Syd Davidson (Grampian) and Darrin Hobbs (Sussex), then Fundraiser Karin Frod from Manchester, who's so far raised almost £400,000 during a decade of volunteering. "It's amazing what you can achieve one day a week over 10 years!" laughs Karin from Altrincham, Cheshire.

But of course, it wasn't just individuals being

recognised on the day, it was whole teams too. FareShare Kent were Highly Commended for their inspiring work with offenders at HMP Standford Hill, via the Working Out Scheme.

"It's amazing what you can achieve one day a week over 10 years!"

The main team award, however, went to FareShare Lancashire and Cumbria, whose above-and-beyond commitment saw their volunteers work hundreds of extra hours two years ago to

make and deliver food parcels to Cumbrian flood victims. Project Manager Jeff Green proudly described them as "an over-performing football team. We're not a team of stars but we're a team – more Burnley than Manchester Utd. We do twice as much for half the price!"

The highlight of the day for most was having the chance to meet other volunteers from across the organisation, finding out about similarities and differences...and opportunities to learn! But most of all, it was

a chance for some to reflect on how far they'd progressed since signing up to become a volunteer.

Matt Merrett from FareShare South West, winner of this year's Warehouse Assistant award, is a shining example of this. Before Matt began volunteering at the end of last year he was street homeless, having fought a long battle with drug addiction. But he's now turned his life around and, earlier this year, completed a 10 kilometre fundraising fun run.

The ceremony's final award, the Asda Fight Hunger Create Change Award was presented to

"Just trying to get my head around this is astonishing,"

someone who embodies the spirit of the organisation – Markus Graves. Markus helped to establish FareShare's first London depot in 2004, and he's still an invaluable member of the volunteer team in Deptford. When Markus joined FareShare 25 years ago, he could never have envisaged how quickly

the organisation would grow.

"Just trying to get my head around this is astonishing," says Markus. "When I first started there were just eight staff, the rest were volunteers. Now you go into the offices at FareShare London and there are over 40 staff working on different projects to expand it, and make it bigger and better. If you'd have told me this at the beginning I wouldn't have believed you."

And the winner is...

...but also Highly Commended



Michael Pearce
South West
Bright Idea



Karin Frood
Greater Manchester
Fundraiser



Lee Hall
Yorkshire
Leadership in Volunteering



Ann Adams
Glasgow & The West of Scotland
Office Volunteer

David Elms
Greater Manchester
Bright Idea



Jonathan Williams
Yorkshire
Volunteer Manager



Syd Davidson
Grampian
Driver



Darrin Hobbs
Sussex
Driver



John Williams
Northern Ireland
Driver's Assistant



Madison Hartwright
Sussex
Volunteer Manager



Matt Merrett
South West
Warehouse Assistant



Markus Graves
London
Fight Hunger Create Change

Lindsay Dunmore
East Midlands
Warehouse Assistant



Owen Murray
Grampian
Warehouse Assistant



Terri Davey
South West
Remote Volunteer



FareShare Kent
Fight Hunger Create Change



Gill Rose
West Midlands
Remote Volunteer



FareShare Lancashire and Cumbria
Team of the Year



It's never too soon to start thinking about next year's awards...

We'd like to thank every single volunteer and member of staff who took the time to nominate someone in their Regional Centre who regularly 'goes the extra mile' for the awards. This year's nominations were of an extremely high quality. Thank you.

After the success of this year's event we're already getting excited about FareShare's 2020 Volunteer Awards. We'll share more details with you in the new year, but, for now, please do start thinking about who you might like to nominate.

Fuelling the fun

FareShare Slices pays a visit to Croydon's Addiscombe Boys and Girls Club, which runs breakfast, after school and holiday clubs giving children from low income families the chance to get active, have fun and, thanks to FareShare, enjoy a healthy, nutritious meal too.

The club was set up by Thomas and Selina, and with the help of deliveries from FareShare London, they've been able to run a community club providing hot meals for local children at risk of holiday hunger in the summer holidays, when they can no longer access free school meals.

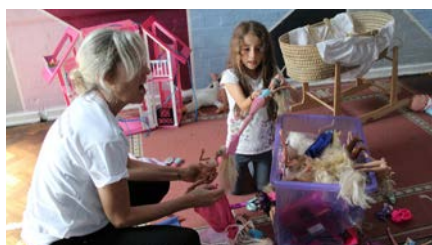


"Food that the children can take home includes meat, pasta and other things they can make a meal with," says Thomas. "It encourages parents and young people to get together and make a meal. So they can engage with their parents, and the family also get the chance to have a good meal to eat."

"I didn't realise how many kids are going without," says Thomas. "Because of FareShare at least 180 kids have been able to have breakfast every day throughout the summer."

Working with other food providers means that they've also been able to provide fresh food for the children's families – providing them with boxes of surplus food to take home and enjoy meals together as a family.

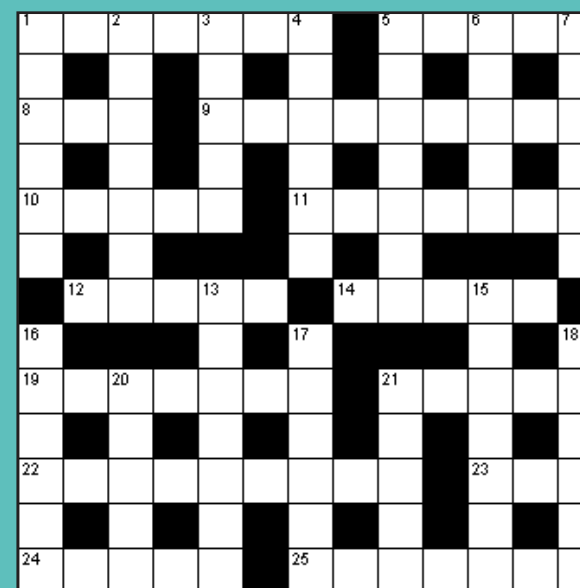
"We've been able to save enough money to bring in another member of staff every day"



"FareShare has been very helpful with costs," he adds. "In providing us with bread for toast in the mornings, we've been able to save enough money to bring in another member of staff every day, which has enabled us to be able to provide for more children."

Fun and games

Crossword



Answers
Across: 1. Weather, 5. Award, 8. End, 9. Submarine, 10. Chore, 11. Initial, 12. Usher, 14. Seven, 19. Plateau, 21. Cache, 22. Neglected, 23. Pea, 24. Event, 25. Earnest.
Down: 1. Vrench, 2. Ardous, 3. Haste, 4. Rabbit, 5. Advance, 6. Alibi, 7. Dwells, 13. Element, 15. Escapee, 16. Spongy, 17. Turtle, 18. Depart, 20. Angle, 21. Cedar

Provided by: puzzlechoice.com

Across

1. Meteorological conditions (7)
5. Accolade (5)
8. Conclusion (3)
9. Submersible warship (9)
10. Task (5)
11. Alphabetic character (7)
12. Guide (5)
14. Square root of forty-nine (5)
19. Tableland (7)
21. Hoard (5)
22. Disregarded (9)
23. Small vegetable (3)
24. Happening (5)
25. Sincere (7)

Down

1. Twist (6)
2. Gruelling (7)
3. Overly eager speed (5)
4. Burrowing mammal (6)
5. Greed (7)
6. Exculpation (5)
7. Resides (6)
13. Component (7)
15. Fugitive (7)
16. Parazoan (6)
17. Chelonian reptile (6)
18. Leave (6)
20. Slant (5)
21. Aromatic wood (5)

Sudoku

Each row, column and box must contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

Provided by:
sudokuoftheday.com

7	3			4				
					6		7	3
	8		3		7		1	2
2		5		3			4	9
9			5		4			6
3	4			2		8		1
4	7		2		5		6	
8	2		4					
				1			3	4



Two minutes with... Chris

Every issue we find out more about one of our amazing volunteers. This time we've got Chris from FareShare Kent in the hot seat.

Which living person do you most admire?

Nancy Pelosi

Which talent would you most like to have?

To play a musical instrument

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Surviving as long as I have

What is the most important object you own?
An old metropolitan police whistle

What's the most interesting food you have ever seen in the warehouse?
Octopus