



FareShare Slices

A healthy slice of FareShare volunteer news

Issue 15
Winter 2022/2023

 **FareShare**
fighting hunger,
tackling food waste

Hello

I love the week between Christmas and New Year. It's my favourite time of year to spend with my family and friends. It's also time where I find space to reflect on the past year. One of my thoughts which I'd like to share with you was how welcoming, kind and generous everyone I've met at FareShare has been. My colleagues, the volunteers and CFMs I met while visiting FareShare Sussex, the people who donated to my trolley during the Tesco Food Collection, and the Volunteer Managers at each regional centre who are so dedicated and care deeply for you - our valued volunteers.

As FareShare reflects on the last 12 months, together we supported nearly 9,500 charities and community groups with food nationally. We redirected over 49,000 tonnes of surplus food to people who need it – providing communities across the UK with the equivalent of 128 million meals. Isn't that incredible. We could not have done it without you.

I'd like to share a message from someone who donated over Christmas: "What an amazing cause. Thank you to the volunteers who help distribute food to the folks in need. Keep up the good work. Best wishes to all your volunteers and the families you help."

So as we begin this New Year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your time, your support and your care in making FareShare the incredible organisation that it is. I look forward to seeing all that FareShare can achieve together in 2023.

Elise Taylor

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Elise Taylor

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Gareth meets King Charles

Gareth Batty MBE, CEO of FareShare Yorkshire had the honour of meeting King Charles in Leeds in November. They met as part of a discussion about the Cost of Living Crisis, and Gareth shared the findings from FareShare's recent Cost of Living survey.

"I took part in a discussion with other 3rd sector leaders about the Cost of Living Crisis and the effect it was

having on FareShare, charities, and the people we support. My colleagues and I explained to King Charles how many charities in the UK are struggling to maintain the same level of service due to rising costs



and increase in demand. King Charles was already aware of FareShare, very interested in our work and pleased surplus food being used for good. His majesty thanked everyone for their hard work."

You can read the finding from FareShare Cost of Living survey that Gareth shared with King Charles on page 4.

Petition to make the Government deliver more food to people in need

A petition on Change.org has been launched by Alison Trevellion, a single Mum and care worker from Aylesham in Kent. It is calling for the Government to deliver more food to people in need and is about to hit 50,000 signatures. FareShare is supporting Alison in her petition, which she set up after

she learnt that the local community larder she visits, which FareShare supply food to, wasn't receiving enough food to meet the increasing demand. FareShare used to receive funding from the Government to redistribute food from farmers that would have gone to waste, but that

has been axed and now the government say it's not their job to help.

Please sign the petition and share with your network: [fareshareuk.com/AlisonPetition](https://www.fareshareuk.com/AlisonPetition)



Keep warm in FareShare woolly hats

As the weather gets cooler we hope you are keeping warm in your FareShare team woolly hats. The woolly hats have been made especially for volunteers as a token of

appreciation, and we hope you find them warm and useful. They are made from 50% recycled material and are durable, moisture resistant and breathable – making them perfect

to wear on cool day while working hard picking orders, out on the roads or in the office. If you haven't yet received a woolly hat please ask your Volunteer Manager.

Cost of living survey results

In October 2022, we released the results of our latest survey of the charities and community groups we support, which painted a devastating picture of how the cost of living crisis is affecting communities around the UK.

Charities told us about their worries that they will be unable to keep up with skyrocketing demand for food.

Here are a few statistics from the survey:

96% of our charities have been affected by the cost of living crisis due to higher demand, increased food costs and increased cost to run the service they provide.

7 out of 10 charities say this influx is from people accessing support for the first time (73%), despite being fully employed (51%), and 60% of charities say they're seeing more families with children.

Over 90% said demand for their services has increased since January 2022 due to the cost of living crisis.

8 out of 10 charities say the reason for the increase in demand is people struggling with the cost of food (82%). **7 out of 10** also pointed to increasing energy bills, and **5 out of 10** said the increase is being caused by mental health issues (54%).

With the added demand on top of the challenges charities face in times of increased running costs, **9 out of 10 charities** say they are worried they cannot meet the extra demand (89%). Charities need access to more food (76%) and funding (64%)



Lindsay Boswell, FareShare CEO, said: "The cost of living crisis is driving millions into food insecurity, at a time when food prices are rising, and demand for our surplus food has skyrocketed. What we are hearing from the charities we support is that this situation will only worsen and they are worried they

may not be able to meet the extra demand. By donating to FareShare's Cost of Living Crisis Appeal, you can help get more good-to-eat surplus food that may otherwise go to waste to people facing economic hardship across the UK."

With charities across the UK facing unprecedented

demand for support, it is vital that we continually seek to ask for the government to support and work with FareShare. This will help ensure good surplus food can be used to support the demand these charities are facing.

Ten Years of Partnership with Tesco

In 2022, FareShare celebrated ten years of working in partnership with Tesco, a year that saw the retailer pull out all the stops to support us through the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

Tesco has continued to find new ways to support FareShare with surplus food, customer donations and funding, including running their **Buy One to Help a Child** campaign in March 2022. This helped to raise more than £2m, which was used to support our continued operations and to unlock more surplus food from the industry.

In May 2022, we teamed up to launch the **Step up to the Plate** programme, inviting teams of people to volunteer at a mini food collection in store. FareShare food partner Nestle was one of the organisations participating and it enabled our partners to see firsthand the positive effect these types of activities have, it resulted in the equivalent of over 1,600 meals donated.

We also won the Charity

Times **'Corporate National Partnership of the Year with a Retailer'** award for our work with Tesco during 2021-22, serving as testament to the importance of the work we do together. The judges cited the partnership as an 'excellent example of just how powerful the collaboration between a corporate and a charity can be'.

The 'reverse supermarket', **The Give Back Express** was launched in November, marking ten years of the Tesco Food Collection. The donation only pop up store was designed to give people a greater understanding of the work Tesco, FareShare and the Trussell Trust do and to encourage vital donations to both charities. It resulted in a donation of £20,000.

Tesco ran two **food collections** with FareShare again in 2022 to help us support people facing hardship as a result of the cost of living crisis. In addition to the donations of food, the pre-Christmas Tesco Food Collection saw generous customers:

- **Donate more than £382,000 to the charities** by rounding up their bills at the till
- **Provide more than £133,000** through a link from Tesco's online groceries website
- **Give more than £19,000 of Tesco Clubcard vouchers**, which Tesco has matched

Between January and November 2022, Tesco customers also donated an incredible **1,000 tonnes of long-life food** via in store donation points.

A Local Supplier Forum hosted at FareShare Yorkshire in November was a chance for us to share our collective knowledge of the food industry and, ultimately, how we can work together to redistribute more food to those who need it the most.

Through FareShare Go, stores across the UK have redistributed more than **9,400 tonnes of food, the equivalent of more than 22.3 million meals.**



Tesco has also redistributed more than **nine million meals worth of food through their regional distribution centres.**

Tesco Head of Community, Claire de Silva, said: "This year marks a decade of Tesco working with FareShare and, **over the last two years, we have seen our partnership grow even stronger.** By working more strategically together we have been able to provide support in more ways, continue to divert two million meals each month to frontline charities and community groups and develop new

initiatives across the business. As we face the dual challenges of tackling climate change and supporting communities amid the cost of living crisis our partnership has never been more important."

Helen Davies, Senior Commercial Manager at FareShare, said: "The support that Tesco has given to FareShare over the last ten years has been insurmountable.

We simply could not do all that we do at FareShare without Tesco. In our tenth year of working together, our

partnership with Tesco is absolutely vital to our operations.

"Through the innovative Buy One to Help a Child campaign, two food collections and in store donation points, Tesco and all of its colleagues have enabled us to get surplus food, and customer donated food, to people facing hardship across the UK. Thank you, Tesco!"

Volunteer Case Study: Graeme Hirst

How long have you been volunteering at FareShare and why did you decide to start?

I first started in May 2020, right in the early days of the lockdown. To be honest there was quite a selfish element to it, in that I was restless locked up at home. I was in a situation where help obviously was needed and stuff needed doing, and I'm really bad at being a bystander. I'm one of those people who rolls his sleeves up and jumps in, not always wisely I might add. My first thought was should I get involved with the NHS scheme as they were asking for volunteers, but I'm type one diabetic and at the time early in the programme, it wasn't clear whether that would be a risk and whether we would need to shield or be protected. It took a while for the NHS to have the answer, so by the time they did, the scheme was massively oversubscribed, and they didn't need any more volunteers. I then started looking for charities near me that required help. I went to the FareShare website, and it said they needed volunteers, so I got in touch and managed to badger my way in.

What does your role involve?

Mostly turning up at the warehouse and putting food in trays, putting trays onto pallets, reading pick lists, signing things off, making judgement calls about whether the food is in good enough condition to go out, particularly for the fresh food as this deteriorates quickly so we have to keep an eye on that. Checking the ingredients are properly displayed in English and that the foods are in date according to the current in-date policy, which can vary. There are elements of the role which are quite complex.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with FareShare?

The atmosphere is so good here. It's busy which is nice. You get to meet a lot of people, from different backgrounds. There doesn't seem to be a degree of grumpiness which I've come across occasionally in other workplaces. It's not a political place, it's just friendly and aims to get a very important job done.

Have you learnt any skills since volunteering with FareShare?

I've learnt how to lift things. I lift a lot more than I use to. I now have the food hygiene certification, which I was vaguely aware of, but I hadn't had any training in it. Also, because we work a lot with young people and some of them are vulnerable, we are required to go through the County Council safeguarding training and that was all new to me. It's really important we're trained to properly support them.

How has volunteering made a difference in your life?

As I mentioned, I was really bad at just sitting in my living room during lockdown and watching old soaps on the TV or thinking about how I would do the garden. This is purposeful. This is an opportunity to do good and feel you have contributed something even though it's on a voluntarily basis and you're not formally in a workplace.



Richard, Jane and Graeme from FareShare Thames Valley

What has been your memorable experience so far?

It's been great working with different people, getting to chat with them, seeing people coming out of their shells, and making new friendships. It is a very friendly place to work. When I first started working here, for the first 5-6 weeks, each time I got home my wife would say to me, 'how's it going' and I would say 'it's great' and eventually she said 'do you think they could use another volunteer?' and I said 'yes of course, you should come with me on Monday mornings and

Wednesday afternoons', but she said to me 'oh I'm not coming with you, this sounds like a great chance for me to meet new people, I already spend all my time locked up here with you.' She still volunteers here on Monday afternoons – so she arrives when I am finishing, and on Friday afternoons. So we both work here, but not together.

What would you say to someone who was thinking about joining FareShare as a volunteer?

Give it a go. Be prepared that it is an environment

where you have to deal with whatever is happening that day. There will be days when you come in and there has been a shortage of deliveries, so you won't be picking ambient food and just putting it in trays, today's job is to go and look through random food that has been donated from the supermarket, and then sort this into different categories. You need to be flexible. If you are prepared for that, it is a grand place to be.

FareShare and Christmas Fundraising

We believe that nobody should go hungry. December is a special time for us to scale up our fundraising activities. Here's a summary of just a few things we did at the end of 2022 to raise funds for FareShare.

Winter Fuel Allowance Campaign

We ran a campaign to thank supporters who donated their Winter Fuel Allowance payment. Heating or eating remains a stark choice for many people during this cost-of-living crisis. We've raised in excess of £500,000 - equivalent to 2 million meals. We also received generous support from our long-standing supporters Mike and Helen Brown, who matched the first £250k, taking the total to over £750,000 - equivalent to 3 million meals!



Feed the Future Campaign

Every child deserves a Christmas meal. Michelin-star chef Tom Kerridge and The Food Foundation are highlighting the harrowing situation for over 800,000 school children who are slipping through the eligibility net and going hungry at school. We supported the campaign via social media and supporting donations on our website.



Subway Collaboration

Our friends at Subway® donated £1 from every Festive Menu item to FareShare in the lead up to Christmas. Featuring comedian and presenter, Judi Love, and Ben Ashmore, Head of Marketing at FareShare UK - this campaign raised £200,000, the equivalent of 800,000 meals! This partnership with

Subway® will help FareShare continue supporting people across the country amidst the rising cost-of-living crisis, providing food to those most impacted.



Get Fancy Dressed

We challenged individuals to fundraise for FareShare by getting 'Fancy Dressed', because it's not Christmas until you've donned a silly jumper or gone full sequins! After signing up, individuals received a free festive fundraising kit, set up their fundraising page and made a difference this Christmas.

We're so grateful to all our financial donors who've supported us this year. Their financial donations have helped us support more and more people in need.

The Peninsula Trust, Devon & Cornwall

Providing support for Rame with the Peninsula Trust

The Peninsula Trust in Rame, Southeast Cornwall, has been providing support to the community since 2014. From the community hub, Rame Centre, the Trust runs many different services including a pop-up library and post office, while also providing advice and support. Keeping it all running is a group of four part-time staff and over 30 volunteers.

The Peninsula Trust started to receive food from FareShare in February 2021 to help combat the increasing requests for food bank parcels. "It was very much a crisis response to the pandemic initially," said Kate Fitch, one of the Trust's staff members.

"Being able to access food from FareShare enabled us to open Rame Community Kitchen, a community larder available to anyone in our community in need of food. A lot of the time it will be accessed



by people who are self-employed and struggling, pensioners on low income or those who have applied for Universal Credit."

Support for children & families

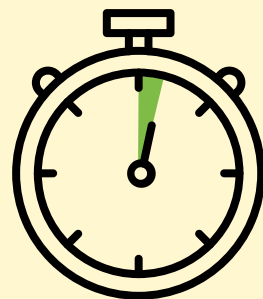
While serving people of all ages and backgrounds, the Trust also receives a lot of visitors with young children: "We see quite a lot of families coming to us; families with school-aged children."

"It's important we make sure families can feed their children and that they're able to eat themselves. And

because we're quite geographically isolated, it's not easy to get to a big supermarket where prices are going to be more competitive."

Despite the challenges of the cost of living crisis, Kate and her team are hopeful they'll be able to keep finding ways to support people: "Our future plans for cookery classes would mean being able to bring people together to eat while teaching them how to cook more cost-effectively with the fresh produce we can get from FareShare."

1 minute with Lulu Foster



Lulu Foster,
FareShare South West

Volunteer with your friends!

Do you have a friend, family member or colleague who'd make a great FareShare volunteer? We'd love for you to recommend volunteering to them.

You and your friends could volunteer together as warehouse assistants or a driver and drivers mate duo!

Please talk to your Volunteer Manager if you have a friend who'd like to volunteer

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at FareShare?

One of my favourite parts of volunteering with FareShare is the ability to work as part of a large team of very interesting and new people, that I wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to meet. Each week there are new faces and everyone is very chatty and welcoming.

What has been your highlight of volunteering at FareShare?

Although this is not a singular event, the thing that stands out to me most about volunteering with FareShare is the ability to help fight against food waste and food insecurity. As a student, I have been impacted by the cost of living crisis, but I know that many people have it worse off than me. So, the fact that I can help to improve people's lives whilst supporting the environment by volunteering a small portion of my week is very important to me!

If you had to play one album forever which one would it be?

Definitely The Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd!

What superpower would you choose to have and why?

If I could choose anything I would pick the ability to fly. I would love to travel and explore the world and being able to fly would give me the chance to do it cheaply and from a new perspective!