



God's love in action

Newsletter Autumn 2015

A day in the Life of Basics Bank

On arrival at 9.30 we open the cabin and collect the post.

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As usual – junk mail but nothing for us to deal with today. As it's Harvest time we can expect lots of donations to arrive.

The answer phone light is flashing so out comes the note pad and pen.

The computer is opened up and between the laptop and the answerphone there are four requests for parcels so we will have to get moving. Two of the requested parcels are for single people, one for a family of four (2 young children) and the other for a couple.



Volunteer Elaine gets to grips with the office work

The volunteers quickly start preparing the parcels. Fortunately the previous day there was a parcel prepared for a single person and two for couples. A new parcel is prepared by Sue placing the goods from the shelves into carrier bags. Meanwhile Di goes round looking for special items for children as well as adding various basics into the carrier bag for the children, not forgetting to add the items from the fridge – bread, cheese and spread.

Whilst everyone is busy the phone rings. It's to advise us that someone is unavoidably detained. A young person who is expecting a parcel to arrive that morning is very worried that it will not be delivered if he is not at home. Back and forth go the calls until eventually the situation is sorted and our driver will leave the parcel with a friend. Volunteer Fred arrives to help, rather late, but has a streaming cold; none of us want it so we send him home. Time is pressing on and obviously with all these phone calls several others have queued up on the answer phone so these are noted and the volunteers busily prepare the →



parcels for delivery. At this stage the expected school mini bus arrives with some children and their Harvest gifts. They have numerous boxes

and bags of goods which they bring into the Cabin and they are shown round. The excited children having seen our work then return to school after an interesting morning.

One of our number offers to take the goods to our separate storage container. A phone call is made to the volunteer at the container to let him know that the school's gifts are just about to leave.

No sooner have they gone than the volunteer at the Container rings with bad news that the railway bridge at Ampress on the A337 has been hit and there is no way through so the goods are returned for temporary storage at the Cabin.

Things never happen in ones or twos there is always a third which is the



Donated goods arrive for temporary storage in the cabin

"disaster" of a tin of tomato pasta paste falling from the shelf, breaking and spreading over the carpet. After cleaning up, work continues efficiently and very soon it is 12 o'clock. We have completed the day's work. All parcels ready for delivery have been collected by our drivers and are on their way.

We lock up satisfied that we have been able to meet all the needs requested and are looking forward to our next session.

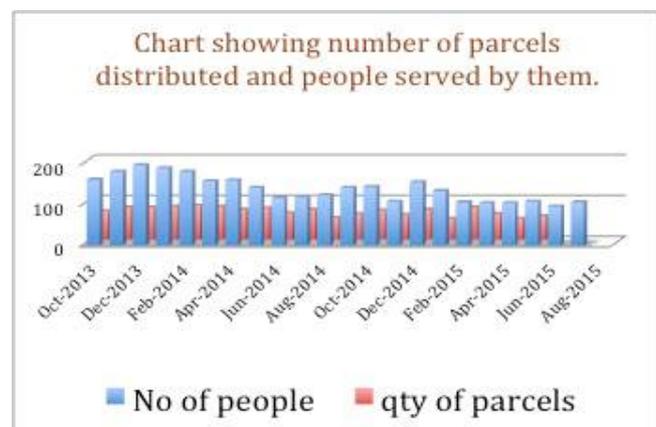
God's Love in Action!

What we have done – some statistics

The graph shows a summary of some of the recent records of the output of Basics Bank. Of the two measurements shown, the total numbers seem to be the most useful; double parcels are not always recorded as such. There are two comments:

1. The results show some reduction in requests. The December figures may mean that the special extra Christmas parcels could have reduced demand. Also fuel costs are higher in winter than summer.

2. We are studying some of the rules of Universal Credit, although this scheme has not yet been applied in Hampshire. What has been reported in other areas has been alarming and, as reported by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the financial restrictions are worse for the bottom quartile of the population than for the rest of the country. We should be ready for more people in need.





Feeding Britain – a Call for Evidence

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger is looking to publish a follow-up report to “Feeding Britain” that they published last December. Trustee Ted Cantrell proposes that we make a contribution. Here is his suggestion:-

I feel that there are three points that we could make to the Field Report:-

- 1) Our own statistics show a slight reduction in demand for food parcels, but we still face three serious problems that are brewing:-
 - a. The threat of cuts in tax credits for WORKING people, many of whom are already struggling with the costs of living.
 - b. Universal Credit, in areas where it is in force, is causing many problems for people who are already in financial trouble.
 - c. The selling of council housing when so many people are on the housing lists, and cannot afford to buy.
- 2) We are different from other food banks in that we only supply the food parcels and do not, unlike many other groups, meet the customers face to face and therefore we do not hear about their needs directly. We respond to about 60 referring agencies who are already dealing with the many needs for advice and counselling. Those who are at the front of the desk and meet the people most in need are therefore more in touch with the problems in society (Family Mosaic, Citizens Advice Bureau Lymington and New Milton, Christians Against Poverty Lymington, Job Centres, Social Services, etc).
- 3) We recommend the Hampshire based Papworth report (2015) which gives many stories of the needs of the sort of people we help. This report is full of people’s life stories, and the sort of problems they face, but is collected from a fairly small number of clients. It does give a human perspective rather than overwhelming data.

Ted Cantrell

Annual General Meeting

Twenty-six people came to the AGM which was held on 17th July in St Joseph’s Place.

Janet gave her Chairman’s report expressing the continued demand for our services. She gave details of our new trustees, Lance Parker and Andrew Sutherland and the retirement of Bernard Clarke due to ill health and Meredith Drury after many years of service to NFBB.

She asked for help with stock control and gave appreciation for the help of Tesco with trolley drops and Waitrose with a permanent food collection bin. She also thanked all who helped in any way for their vital work.

Treasurer Anthony reported the charity to be in good financial state and the accounts were approved.

All the trustees were elected unanimously and Independent Examiner Margaret Clark provisionally appointed due to the retirement of Tony Pickles.



Lance, Secretary, sits while Janet, Chair, is speaking. Elaine is taking the Minutes.



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Open: Tues, Wed, Fri, 10-12noon

This is what we need most of

Milk (UHT)
Meat / fish paste
Tinned custard
Instant Coffee (100g jar)
Tinned potatoes
Sugar 500g pack
Tinned meat
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit

Sponge puddings
Biscuits
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Washing-up liquid
Toilet rolls
Shampoo
Shower gel
All-purpose cloths

*We particularly **don't** need:*
Baked beans,
Tinned tomatoes,
Soup,
Powdered milk,
Lasagne sheets,
Dry lentils,
Tea or
Hair conditioners, thank you.

Some of our Volunteers



Yvonne



Louise



Marianne

We are very grateful to
all volunteers for their
generous and
unstinting help.

Please give money to Basics Bank

Basics Bank is always very happy to receive donations of money which will be used to buy food and household necessities or to make discretionary grants for emergencies.

Please use GiftAid if you are eligible, (i.e. if you pay tax). To give any amount, pick up one of our fliers and complete the form on it.

Please phone us if you would like to make a regular donation.



Illustration by Chris Gash