

Working together to create a future free from hunger



Opening Hours

We are open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10.00am & 2pm.

Find us

The Oaks, Oakenhurst Road, Blackburn BB2 1SN

Contact us

Tel: 01254 672756

Email:

info@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk

Follow us:

Twitter: @Blackburnfoodbank

Facebook: @Bburnfoodbank

Instagram: [blackburnfoodbank](https://www.instagram.com/blackburnfoodbank)

Support us

Food donations can be dropped off at our warehouse Monday/Wednesday/Friday between 9.00am-1.30pm.

We post regular updates on social media of the food we would most appreciate

Financial donation please can be made online via

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/>

or please contact us for other ways of making a donation.



That was the year that was....

..... challenging, overwhelming, humbling, a few of the words that come to mind as we reflect back over the last 12 months.

Every day we seesaw between the conflicting emotions of responding to the challenging situations our clients find themselves in and witnessing the overwhelming generosity of a community standing together to say, 'no one will go hungry on our watch.' Over the last year these two extremes have been amplified ten fold.

A year ago we had to close the building to the public. Food donations reduced greatly and many of our volunteers were unable to work. However, within a week we had switched to a phone based and home delivery service supported by Blackburn Rovers Community Trust. New volunteers came forward and several supermarket chains started to provide significant weekly donations of food. We also worked hard to obtain funding to fill the shortfall in food donations. All of this has meant that we have not missed a single day of service provision.

At the moment most of our client contact has had to remain phone based with clients coming to the Foodbank to collect their food parcels. It's great to be able to say, 'hello' face to face, even if only for a brief moment.

Christmas is always a busy time of year. In December we provided 266 Christmas Hampers to families, double the number provided in 2019. Providing 820 people with a Christmas meal and presents for children.

We also received funding to employ a Benefits Advisor to work alongside our debt advisory service. This has enabled us to offer extra



We couldn't have done it without you.....

Whilst the last year has posed many challenges the level of support we have received from local businesses, schools, faith organisations, supermarkets and the public has at times been quite literally overwhelming.

Alongside the donations of food, over the last year, we have also been awarded a number of grants. We would like to acknowledge the following organisations

Martin Lewis

Brian Mercer

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

The National Lottery

Charities Aid Foundation

United Utilities

Asda and Tesco

The ARM Trust

Community Foundation for Lancashire

Lancashire Covid 19 Community Support Fund.

Thank you

support to clients who, due to the impact of the pandemic, find themselves needing to navigate the benefits system and deal with significant reductions in their income.

Our Year in Numbers



119,544kgs The amount of food given out, which is equivalent to the weight of **797** average sized blue whales.



1,511 The number of referrals we have received.

3,415 The number of people we have fed



108,603 The number of meals we have provided

Changing Faces

One of the most significant changes has been the retirement of Ros Duerden. It was Ros's vision and energy that led to the Foodbank being set up over 12 years ago. She has worked tirelessly, on a voluntary basis, to make us the organisation we are today. Thank you is too small a phrase to express how much we appreciate the work that Ros has dedicated to the Foodbank.

We have welcomed Sheralee Turner-Birchall as the new full-time Centre Manager. Sheralee and the team have been busy, not only running the service but also making plans for our future development and, when allowed, the reopening of the Oaks to our clients.

We are so looking forward to welcoming people back into the building and getting back to sitting down over a cup of coffee together.

A Heads up.

If you are a runner or have taken up running (or know someone who runs) how about running the Blackburn 10k in October as part of **Team Foodbank?** If you would like more information email us on info@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk

THE BLACKBURN 10K
DO IT FOR TEAM FOODBANK

And finally

We could not do the work we do without our amazing staff and volunteers. As frontline workers their dedication and hard work over the last twelve months has been awesome.

