

Dear Supporters,

As we move through the summer, I want to thank you for standing with us during a particularly challenging time.

Between May and July 2025, you helped us feed 1,518 people, including 936 adults and 582 children, a 10.9% increase from the same period last year. This rising demand shows that food insecurity in our community remains a pressing issue.

Over the past six months, food distributed has consistently outweighed food received, with March showing the largest gap. Although June offered a brief boost, stock levels remain fragile.

Your support has made a real difference. From donations to volunteering, every contribution helps us respond to need with dignity and compassion.

Looking ahead, we're focusing on rebuilding stock, expanding partnerships, and sharing more stories of the lives changed through your support – because behind every statistic is a person who matters. Thank you for being part of this mission.

Warmly,

*Michele McCalla
Operations Manager
Dunstable Foodbank.*

A Final Gift That Speaks Volumes

As her mayoral year came to a close, Councillor Louise O'Riordan donated her entire mayoral salary of £5,200 to Dunstable Foodbank.

We were honoured to be one of her chosen charities for 2024-25.

Over the past year, we've built a genuine and collaborative relationship through community events, conversations about local needs, and shared values.

One memorable highlight was sharing tea and home-baked cake

together at our Coffee & Chat morning in the Foodbank's community space. Louise took the time to speak with families, volunteers,

and partner organisations – a reflection of her warmth, interest, and hands-on approach.

Her parting gift is more than generous – it's a powerful reminder of what partnership and compassion can achieve.

Thank you, Louise. Your support will have a lasting impact.



Tripping The Light Vantastic

Down the years, there have been some iconic vehicles: Lady Penelope's FAB1, the Batmobile, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. To that list, Dunstable Foodbank proudly adds our own Silver Dream Racer—a trusty (and sometimes rusty) Ford Transit van.

Since joining us in 2014 with 35,884 miles on the clock, it's now approaching 90,400. Despite fading paint, a collapsing glovebox, and a broken brake light politely pointed out by a local police officer (who thankfully spared us a ticket), it keeps going strong.

Driven by our own road legends—Trevor, Ray, Mick, Richard, Nigel and David—it's carried everything from supermarket donations and Amazon deliveries weighing up to a ton, to crates, chairs and the odd broomstick during warehouse moves.

Moving our base closer to Dunstable has halved its weekly mileage, giving the old engine a breather. And though rust is creeping in and welding was needed for the last MOT, our van is still first to start and last to complain.

There are whispers that, one day, we might replace it—maybe even with an electric van to set an example for the community. But for now, our Silver Dream Racer remains an essential part of the team, proving that even the humblest vehicle can carry a great mission. Long may it keep on rolling



The Front Line of Kindness

One of our new trustees, Jason, recently joined a food collection at Morrisons in Houghton Regis to see the front line of kindness in action: "I wanted to understand how collections work and meet the generous people who make our foodbank possible."



Positioned at the entrance, we handed out shopping lists and invited shoppers to pick up an item or two. Many stopped to chat and ask questions—and most gave generously. From single tins to entire bags bursting with food, the response was heartwarming.

It was especially encouraging to see young children getting involved, learning generosity early. People from all backgrounds pitched in. Some preferred to give money, which we gratefully accepted too. Even better! The Trussell Trust matches the value of the food we collect, doubling the impact.

All in all, three hours very well spent. If you're thinking of helping with a collection – go for it!

Dunstable Foodbank Key Contacts

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