



Review of 2024

FoodBox is an incredible organisation, a community of volunteers and supporters who come together to help people in need who have been referred to us. As we start a new year, it's worthwhile reflecting on our achievements in 2024.

Summary stats

In 2024 3,215 food parcels were provided to support over 7,200 adults and children. 75% of the food parcels were delivered, the rest were collected from our Rose Community Centre. The number of people supported has increased five-fold compared to the same period pre-covid in 2019. We are now supporting many people who are suffering both physical and mental ill health as well as the effects of the cost of living crisis and soaring debt.

Our food parcels

Receiving a food parcel should only ever be a temporary substitute for shopping for yourself and your family but we are focused on providing nutritious food parcels that are tailored to specific dietary needs and family sizes. We aim to supplement food parcels with fresh fruit and vegetables (including seasonal vegetables from our community garden at Brickfield), eggs and bread. We are very thankful to our stalwart baker Finecrown who bakes 200 rolls every week for distribution. And fresh or frozen meals for families, including the Hounslow Gurdwara one-person frozen vegetarian curries, halal meat from the Haji Baba butcher in Asda Hounslow and frozen meals from East Sheen Baptist Church. We really appreciate all these additions which enable us to provide a varied and tasty food parcel.

Mayor Charity of the Year

FoodBox was very honoured to be the chosen charities of this year's Hounslow Mayor, Councillor Karen Smith. We hosted a visit from the Mayoress in August and we look forward to several fundraising events that are possible only because of her support.





Fundraising

Fundraising is the lifeblood of all charities, and FoodBox has several long-time supporters who allow us to fundraise at their events:

In June we had a stall at the Brentford Canal Festival

In November FoodBox volunteers braved Storm Darragh to fundraise at the Gtech Stadium. We also welcomed members of the Brentford FC First team to lend a helping hand at Rose in December

In December we were back at the Brentford Christmas Market and the Chiswick Cheese Market

Thanks also to Ruth Cadbury MP who ran the Richmond Park 10k in January and raised an incredible £2,115

And a heartfelt Thank You to all of the schools and churches in the borough who continue to support FoodBox throughout the year, but especially at Harvest Festival time, your commitment to the needy of the borough is truly wonderful.



Christmas cheer

Christmas treats for residents have been an annual feature which we have managed to continue providing, even in this financially stretched year. In December we were able to deliver 150 Bags of Best Wishes. We thank all our corporate supporters who have provided so many Christmas treats, and especially our long-term supporters at Alexanders, the storage and logistics company, who again delivered most of the Christmas bags.



Volunteers

Where would FoodBox be without our team of over 70 volunteers? We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for all their hard work over the year, from packing food parcels at Rose, delivering them across the borough, collecting donations, to behind the scenes admin work, and still having energy to shake tins at fundraising events. In 2024, we were able to thank our volunteers at two wonderful events. In January Brentford FC and Utilita Giving hosted a dinner at the Gtech, including a tour of the stadium. And in August the Chiswick Pier Trust hosted a boat trip along the River Thames for 50 FoodBox volunteers to thank them for all their dedication and hard work.



Corporate Supporters

A more recent development at FoodBox has been our growing relationship with local companies who support FoodBox in a variety of ways: volunteering at Rose and at our community garden at Brickfield, contributing food, and raising funds within their company. This support is invaluable and shows the breadth of community spirit within the borough.

Our Trustees

In 2024 we welcomed three new Trustees and said goodbye to FoodBox's Chair, Honorary Alderwoman Corinna Smart. We wish her every happiness in her retirement. In March FoodBox paid tribute to Honourable Alderman Steve Curran MBE, after his sad passing following a long illness. Steve served as our Chairman, then Patron and was responsible for the creation of FoodBox with MP Ruth Cadbury. He will be sorely missed and remembered with great affection by the FoodBox community.

Looking forward to 2025

For 2025 our key challenge, as ever, is to respond to requests for food support for people in need who have been identified by our referral partners. And being open to changing our procedures if there is a better way.

We'll only be able to do this with the fabulous support of our volunteers, who give their time freely in so many different ways to make sure we can provide our service. And the many families, schools, churches, community groups and businesses who give such generous donations.

Thank you so much

