

Banc Bwyd Taff-Ely

Monthly Newsletter

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Ending hunger together

A message from our Chair of Trustees, Michelle Thomas



Hello! I'm Michelle Thomas, the Chair of the Trustees for Taff Ely Foodbank. When I first stepped into this role two years ago, I wasn't sure what to expect. However, my six months of volunteering in the warehouse ignited a deep desire to help, and the experience has been immensely rewarding.

According to recent research from the Charity Commission, I'm not alone in my positive experience —8 in 10 trustees would recommend the role! Many young trustees find it beneficial for career development, while older members value the opportunity to give back to the community. I've been pleasantly surprised by the variety of responsibilities that come with being a trustee.

A recent highlight was my visit to Bryn Celynnog School in Beddau. The students showcased their impressive efforts in supporting local charities, including ours. Their enthusiasm while delivering food donations and learning about our processes was truly inspiring, and it was heartening to see how motivated they felt to continue making a difference.

In my role, I've also tackled grant applications, a new challenge for me. Collaborating with Andrew, our CEO, on these applications has been rewarding, especially when we secure funding to support our initiatives. Additionally, I've been involved in recruiting three new employees, each bringing unique skills that enhance our service.

Strategic decision-making is another key responsibility. Recently, we launched a baby bank service, an initiative proposed by our CEO. As trustees, we engaged in discussions about costs and product offerings, excited to expand our support to new families in need.

Every responsibility presents an opportunity to make a meaningful impact. If you're considering becoming a trustee, I encourage you to take the leap. It's a fulfilling way to contribute to our community and help those who need it most. Together, we can make a real difference!

News

- On September 10th, Pontyclun RFC Under 16's will be lacing up their boots for a charity rugby match to raise funds for Taff Ely Foodbank. Kick-off is at 6:30pm, come along and cheer them on!
- We appeared on Greatest Hits Radio, talking about how the summer holidays can affect local families facing hardship.
- We are recruiting a volunteer van driver. Get in touch with us to learn more.
- We have registered with the Fundraising Authority, showing our committed to open, honest, and respectful fundraising.



Monthly Spotlight

- The Chartered Insurance Institute of Cardiff, whose council generously volunteered at our food collection in Talbot Green.
- Miskin Lodge, Pontyclun Masonic Hall, who donated an incredible **192.5kg** of food to keep our shelves stocked.
- Garth Rotary Club, who regularly support us and donated an enormous **281.1kg** of food this month.
- Tref-y-Rhyg Primary School, who supported us with an **82.5kg** donation of sanitary products.



This month:

- We distributed **249** food parcels to local people in crisis
- 90** of our parcels went to local children.
- We distributed **2,342kg** of food in the Taff-Ely area, made possible by our generous supporters
- More than **60** local people volunteered with us



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Fundraising Update (Laura Edwards)

We're thrilled to share some exciting funding news! Thanks to recent successful applications, we've secured vital funding from: Arnold Clark Community Fund, RCT SPF Summer Activities Fund and The Screwfix Foundation – whose support will help us carry out essential repairs to our warehouse. These grants will make a real difference in helping us meet growing demand and continue supporting local people in crisis.



In the Works - We're teaming up with Luke from LJP Digital, a talented local food photographer, to launch a creative crowdfunder campaign. He'll be working with local chefs to produce a powerful visual piece featuring meals made entirely from foodbank items. Watch this space!

If you'd like to join our Fundraising Team, please contact laura@taffely.foodbank.org.uk

Campaigning and Outreach Update (Matt Stevens)

This month, we've continued to champion the Essentials Guarantee within our community and campaign for a social security system that protects people in crisis - we appreciate everyone who has listened and supported the campaign!

Meanwhile, I have been working with our support manager to ensure our foodbank is as equipped as possible to support people in crisis. Keep an eye out for new leaflets and resources in our centres!

Finally, we are hoping to launch our anti-poverty network in the coming weeks, and are keen to get local organisations involved. If you want to work with us, get in touch with me at Matthew@taffely.foodbank.org.uk



Key Date(s) for your Diary

- 09/08 - Our next food collection at Tesco (Talbot Green)
- 10/09 - Pontyclun RFC Charity Football Match

Urgently Needed Items

- Tinned Tomatoes
- Jam
- Sweets and Chocolate
- Hot Chocolate
- Crisps



Keep in touch with us on social media:

 Facebook: Taff-Ely Foodbank

 X / Twitter: @TaffElyFoodbank

 Instagram: @taffely.foodbank

 LinkedIn: Taff Ely Foodbank