**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR DECEMBER 2018**

I hardly know where to begin this report as so much seems to have been going on this month. Despite being three sessions short in December, the total number of people who were given food is 210 (110 adults and 100 children) – 76 of these food parcels were given out in the two hours of our last session before Christmas and I have to sincerely thank the volunteers who dealt with not only giving out that amount of food but also had to deal with three trolley loads of food from Waitrose, which all needed to be date checked and stored, and which was carried out in far from ideal surroundings. As well as the Food Bank clients themselves, at the beginning of the month we were very pleased to provide food to go into the CAP hampers which were going to a total of 62 people.

We had quite a large amount of local press coverage regarding the closure of the Rec. Rooms and although nothing has materialised regarding a new venue at least it has brought it to the attention of many local people, who have expressed their concern for our situation. Our ‘poster girl’ Eileen, was featured in the Guardian just before Christmas when they did an article about volunteers who worked in Food Banks all over the country. I think that because of this publicity, people were made even more aware of the work of the Food Bank and as a result we have received many donations of food and money for which we are extremely grateful.

One donation was from Wallingford School where the head boy had arranged some sort of competition within the school to provide food for the Food Bank. The result was delivered to our house in the school mini bus – 55 black dustbin sacks filled with enough food so that they could just about be lifted!! It took about a day to sort through everything but we were touched and impressed that young people had taken so much trouble to provide donations.

There is no more space to add anything further but I think I speak for all of us who are involved with our clients when I say your generosity is overwhelming and we have the pleasure of receiving the clients thanks when we give them the food. So I want to pass on their thanks to you and I also want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed 2019.

Jean Burt