



## Winter 2018 Newsletter

Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Reg Charity No: 1153813

Did God use Joseph to create the first Foodbank?

Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. Genesis 41:34

- News
- 2017 stats
- Child Poverty
- Eat Well Spend  
Less cooking and budgeting course
- Thanks

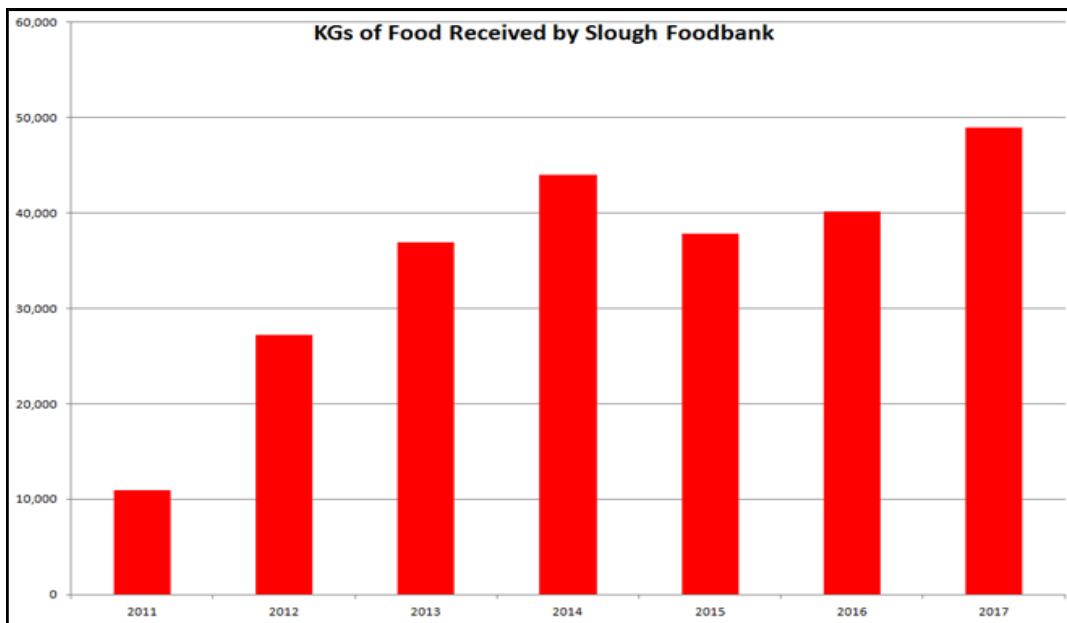
Would you like to be notified of our Current Needs list? To be included in our email group simply email us on the office link at the foot of this page

### 2017 Was Our Busiest Year – it's official!

The generous donors in Slough dug deep this year and ensured that Slough Foodbank clients had sufficient supplies of food throughout the winter period this year. There was little space for our warehouse volunteers to manoeuvre, and here is the proof. In 2017 we had the largest amount of food donated to Slough Foodbank EVER! Our warehouse volunteers were rushed off their feet since harvest collection time in September (7 tonnes), with no real respite till after Christmas.

Including the Tesco Collection which was 2.2 tonnes, our warehouse staff had to deal with a total of 10.3 tonnes of food and other items which arrived at Slough Foodbank's door in December alone. This was more than one fifth of our donations for the year. Many of our warehouse volunteers came in extra hours and at weekends to create order out of chaos whilst still fulfilling regular stock deliveries to our four distribution centres. They are a BRILLIANT team!

Clearly all these donations do not arrive at the warehouse under their own steam. Thank you to all the donors who kindly dropped their collections at the warehouse at a time when the warehouse volunteers were working. And a big thank you to our volunteer drivers who took onboard all the extra collections when the donors were unable to drop them off themselves.



**Wish List**  
Sponge Pudding  
Custard  
Coffee  
Peanut Butter  
Mashed Potato  
Deodorant

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Follow us on



### Foodbank

Food we take for granted  
Till all the food is gone.  
You never see the bountiful -  
Only when there's none.  
The generosity of others  
To give when there is need,  
Helps us to help the vulnerable  
When there are mouths to feed.  
We try to give more than food  
A cup of tea is a start.  
Then an ear to hear your pain  
Kindness to warm your heart.  
We all have times of struggle  
And it's nice to know we're there  
To help you in your hour of need.  
At the Foodbank we care.

This poem was written by a Foodbank volunteer a number of years ago. We wanted to include it in our newsletter because it captures the sentiment of what we aim to give at Slough Foodbank, and why we volunteer.

### Child Poverty

We noticed an increase in the number of families attending Slough Foodbank, and when we checked the vouchers, we discovered that there had been an increase of 16% in the number of children we helped by in 2017 compared to 2016. Slough Borough Council statistics show 21% of Slough children are living in poverty.

According to Child Poverty Action Group, between 1998 and 2012 800,000 children in the UK were lifted out of poverty. This shows that things can be made better if there is a will to do so and it is possible to make a difference. It is important that childhood poverty is addressed now as there are lifelong implications for those who grow up in poverty – poorer academic results and employment prospects, life expectancy and health complications. Have a look at these shocking statistics from the Child Poverty Action Group.

### Huge Thanks

To **SEGRO** for free warehouse and office space for another 3 years after already supporting us since 2012.

To **RADIAN** for £1500 to continue our Fuelbank service for clients struggling with home energy to cook the food we provide.



### News:

#### Slough Foodbank General Meeting

20th April 2018 11am till 2pm at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, 2 Merton Rd, Slough SL1 1QW

We invite volunteers, past and present, referral agents and our supporters to hear the journey so far and plans going forward. To reserve a place, please contact [events@slough.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:events@slough.foodbank.org.uk). A buffet lunch will be provided.

#### Eat Well Spend Less

Our 6 week basic cooking and budgeting skills course starts on 19th Feb.

#### Hansard Report

Slough Foodbank has entered the annals of history when our MP, Tan Dhesi mentioned us in his speech in Parliament. He kindly donated two signed copies of the Hansard Report which records all the speeches.

There were 4 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2015-16 with London being the area with the highest rates of child poverty in the country. That's 30 per cent of children, or 9 in a classroom of 30.

Work does not provide a guaranteed route out of poverty in the UK. Two-thirds (67 per cent) of children growing up in poverty live in a family where at least one person works.

Children in large families are at a far greater risk of living in poverty – 36% of children in poverty live in families with three or more children.

Families experience poverty for many reasons, but its fundamental cause is not having enough money to cope with the circumstances in which they are living. A family might move into poverty because of a rise in living costs, a drop in earnings through job loss or benefit changes.

Child poverty imposes costs on broader society – estimated to be at least £29 billion a year. Governments forgo prospective revenues as well as commit themselves to providing services in the future if they fail to address child poverty in the here and now.

### Prayer Requests:

1. Policy changes to bring an end to UK poverty
2. More volunteers to listen, signpost and pack food parcels for our clients in the 4 distribution centres. (Day times)