**Euston Foodbank general information**

**Website:**[**www.euston.foodbank.org.uk**](http://www.euston.foodbank.org.uk/)**Email:****info@euston.foodbank.org.uk**

**Our current distribution sessions: clients** need to bring a voucher or letter, which they can get from the job centre, citizens advice bureau, support worker, frontline professional etc

**Our location and opening times:**We are on the ground  floor, St Pancras Church House, 1 Lancing St NW1 1NA  Near Euston Station, off Eversholt St.

mobile telephone during distribution sessions  **07400 053 838** but please email, as we are a small voluntarily run charity, and cannot always answer every phone call.  We are normally open as usual over all holidays.

* Saturday 11am-12:30pm
* Sunday 2pm-3:30pm
* Tuesday 12noon-4pm
* Thursday 5:30pm-7pm

Last financial year we supported over four and a half thousand people, a quarter of whom were children. The main reason clients attended was due to low income, but benefit delays comes a close second as the reason for the emergency need for food. So far this year we have seen a 67% increase in demand, and this is set to rise as universal credit is implemented.

* Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018, 4637 three day emergency food supplies were provided to local people in crisis by Euston Foodbank, of this number, 1140 went to children.
* Nationally for the U.K. the figure is 1,332,952 a 13% increase, 484,026 of them children,
* this is from Foodbanks that are part of the Trussell Trust Network.
* For London the figure is 134,244 a 21% increase, 47,637 of them children.
* For Camden the figure is 6,150 of whom 1,655 were children.
* The main reason people attend a food bank is low income, which was 27% of attendances, with benefit delays the second greatest reason at 25%.

The next volunteer training session will be 6-6:30Wednesday 15 May 2019 at the foodbank

1 Lancing St NW1 1NA off Eversholt St on the east side of Euston station.

Please email if you want to book a place on the this training.

The next opportunity would be a Saturday afternoon in late June/July 2019, probably 29th June, but check nearer the time.

**Donations – collecting food and funds for Euston Foodbank**

We appreciate donations of all in date non-perishable foods + unopened toiletries.

* Festive items, especially involving chocolate, are popular too.
* We always need:  tins of meat, fish, vegetables, tomatoes, fruit, soup and pulses.
* Spreads – honey, jam, peanut butter
* Juice (longlife - apple, orange etc)
* Instant coffee, hot chocolate
* Oil (sunflower, olive etc)
* Rice
* Custard and rice pudding
* Toilet paper
* shower gel and shampoo
* Deodorants
* shaving cream
* sanitary pads with wings
* Dishwashing liquid
* laundry tablets
* petfood

 And we always need funds - money which we use to buy items we are running short of so we can make up a full emergency package to give people. You can donate through the button on our website and standing order and gift aid forms are also available on [www.euston.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.euston.foodbank.org.uk/)

 It’s always the right time for a festive “funds and food” collection. You could have a Spring Collection, in the run up to Easter, with chocolate eggs as the treat. You could collect in the snow before half term and Valentine’s Day, or in the summer before everyone who can afford to goes away on holidays – we are always very short of supplies in July and August. And then in October there is Harvest, and in November Mitzvah and Sadaaqa weekends. And then it is “reverse advent” collection time in the run up to Christmas: on each day instead of opening a window and receiving a treat,  people in a school or office bring in an item or the equivalent money donation, which builds up into an emergency package.

Sometimes we can find a volunteer with a car to fetch your collection, but if delivering it to us is going to be a problem, focus from the start on collecting lighter items and money. Tins of food become rapidly very heavy, and if you collect money which you can BACs or send via the “donate” button on the website, we can order exactly the items we are short of when we need them.

We are planning a “Friends of Foodbank” group, to keep you informed about Foodbank activities such as shortage items, supermarket collections and fundraising. To join this group to receive updates, please email  eustonfoodbank@gmail.com You can find our newsletters and other updates on our website, and in twitter, facebook and Instagram.

Also we are building up a pool of people who are willing to help with supermarket collections encouraging food donations from customers, usually Fridays and Saturdays, for instance at Waitrose and Tesco. And if we have the required permissions in place, collecting money at railway stations and events.

People also offer to organise non-perishable food collections at their schools, around their neighbourhood and at their places of work and study, and for students going home for the holidays, at the student union. Usually they cover and decorate boxes and use our shopping list of the items we most need, and deliver to us at a distribution session. We always need tins of meat (corned beef, fray bentos pies etc). These are essential for the Foodbank, as we have no enormous supermarkets nearby and we do not benefit from the national collections. We do have smaller supermarkets of course, three wonderful Waitrose’s, an amazing network of Co-operatives and generous individuals, but the supply chain is very important, as we often redistribute five tons a month and collect only 3.5, so we end up buying shortage items and being rescued by other Foodbanks who are admirable at collecting.

People also organise collections of money at their workplace or school which is really helpful because as well as buying shortage foods such as meat, we can cover running costs like printer ink and paper and zipvan hire.  Some people take out standing orders, and sign gift aid forms, let us know if you would like to do this and we can send the forms and account details, these are also available on our website.

Teams of people often want to come and volunteer which is something we appreciate – and we arrange this when we can, but it does involve our volunteers in a lot of work, and they are not necessarily available to look after the team on specific dates for corporate team building days.

We of course welcome this when we need to reorganise the stores by date for stock rotation, or do the monthly deep clean, when there has been a big collection that needs sorting, and when it is time to do a complete stocktake. So what we need are volunteer teams who are willing to work, and able to be very accurate about checking dates on food, and cleaning and following food hygiene and health and safety.

Kind regards

Dorothea Hackman

Euston Foodbank Organiser