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PRESS RELEASE

50% INCREASE IN UK PEOPLE FED BY CHARITY FOODBANKS



61,000 people nationwide have received emergency food handouts from Trussell Trust charity foodbanks in the last 12 months, 50% more than last year. Foodbank recipients are not the homeless; they are low-income working families who hit crisis, people who have been made redundant or people experiencing benefits

delays. Foodbanks are opening at an unprecedented rate to meet the high demand for emergency food aid: in 2011 The Trussell Trust has launched a new foodbank every week taking the total to 132 foodbanks nationwide.

Executive Chairman of The Trussell Trust, Chris Mould, says: 'Since 2008 we've seen numbers fed by foodbanks increase by 136%. Recession followed by high unemployment and rising food and fuel prices has had a huge impact. Foodbank clients are faced with impossible choices between paying the rent and buying food. Parents skip meals or consider crime to feed their children. The shocking truth is that thousands are going hungry in their own homes in 21st century Britain.'

He adds: 'The good news is that more local churches and communities are becoming aware of the hunger on their doorsteps and with our help they are starting foodbanks to stop people going without food.'

In 2011 a new foodbank has been launched every week, providing a minimum of three days non-perishable food to people in crisis. Coventry Foodbank opened in January and has already fed well over 2,000 people. Project Manager Gavin Kibble says: 'We hugely underestimated the number of people in need of emergency food and have been shocked at the demand since opening. Recently we fed 150 people in just one week, leaving the store room almost bare. We did an urgent local appeal for food donations and also received help from the foodbank network enabling us to meet this unprecedented need.'

57% of children in poverty in the UK live in working households [[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)]. Many of those helped by foodbanks are in work or struggling after losing their job or business. For Adrian and Kay, a couple both made redundant when Polestar Foods closed down in Okehampton, 'the foodbank was a lifesaver.' They received emergency food for two weeks, helping them to feed their four-year-old daughter until redundancy pay came though.

Trussell Trust foodbanks are run by local churches in partnership with the local community. All food given out is donated by local people and every person in receipt of a food parcel is referred by a frontline care professional such as a doctor or social worker. The Trussell Trust estimates that numbers fed by foodbanks could swell to 500,000 by 2015. Ends.

Notes to the editor:

- In 2008-09 foodbanks fed 26,000 people nationwide, in 2009-10 UK this figure jumped to almost 41,000 people, in 2010-11 numbers have risen to 61,468 people (including over 20,000 children).
- The Trussell Trust aims to launch 200 UK foodbanks by 2013, feeding an estimated 144,000 people.
- In 2010-11 foodbanks feeding over 3,000 people included Salisbury foodbank, Highland foodbank and Andover foodbank.
- Clients are referred to foodbanks for a variety of reasons including redundancy, benefit delay, low income, ill health, domestic abuse, benefit reductions and debt. Food is donated by schools, churches, businesses and individuals in the local area and is sorted by volunteers.
- Foodboxes contain three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable foods such as tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish as well as pasta, cereal, UHT milk, sauces, tea, long-life juice.
- Foodbank clients can receive a maximum of three foodbank vouchers in a row (each voucher can be redeemed for at least three days food). Clients can receive up to nine vouchers per year, although longer term support is available in exceptional circumstances.
- Currently 132 foodbanks have been launched nationwide and this number is growing rapidly. Our vision is that every town should have a foodbank.
- The foodbank network run by The Trussell Trust helps churches to launch foodbanks in their local communities. Foodbanks are operating from Cornwall to Inverness, with 23 projects in London so far. Recession saw a huge increase in the number of foodbanks opening nationally and in the number of people fed. Despite the 'end' of recession, many people are still being affected by the economic downturn and are turning to foodbanks for help.
- We will provide case studies where possible.
- The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity working to bring hope and practical help to people in crisis in the UK and Bulgaria