

message Community Grocery

KEEPING FAMILIES FED BY BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FOOD BANKS AND SUPERMARKETS



‘I REALLY DON’T KNOW HOW I MANAGED WITHOUT THE COMMUNITY GROCERY, NOW I CAN GET ALL THE FOOD THAT I NEED.’

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Food poverty in the UK is growing at an alarming rate with millions of families now struggling with the cost of the weekly shop, and not knowing where their next meal is coming from.

We couldn’t stand by and do nothing. Providing fresh, affordable food, Community Groceries are all about bridging the gap between food banks and supermarkets whilst also building stronger communities.

But it’s about more than food. We also provide members with free wrap-around support and access to courses too. Courses include debt management support, cooking lessons, investigating Christianity courses and job clubs, plus many more.

What a journey it’s been since opening our first grocery in September 2020. As of December 2025 our store network has grown to over 30 stores and we’ve supported over 80,000 families to put food on the table. Lives are being transformed and our links with business and food suppliers continues to grow.

Thank you for all your support.



Andy Hawthorne
Global CEO and Founder,
The Message Trust

IN OUR FIRST 5 YEARS, TOGETHER WE'VE SEEN...



Grown from 1 store to **33**

1.18 million
shopping trips done in store



Welcomed **80,000** new members families
(This represented 225,000 people)



Provided **15 million** meals to families battling food poverty*





Signed up and trained **1,500** volunteers



Saved **5,750** tonnes of surplus food from waste

*Average shop size is 5.4kg. Using the governments formula for an average meal portion of 420g



MORE THAN FOOD

Providing members access to support, as well as food on the table, is what Community Groceries have been about from day one.

Courses and support services are offered to all members as part of their annual membership. Run in store every week, by our partner churches and local organisations, the free courses support members' wellbeing and mental health whilst helping them learn new practical skills, escape debt and explore the Christian faith which is core to all Community Groceries and The Message Trust.



Member courses

on offer across the Community Grocery network include:

- Job clubs
- Cookery courses
- Debt management
- Parenting courses
- Counselling
- Mental health support
- Alpha and exploring Christianity
- Listening service

... and many more





‘JOINING THE GROCERY HAS BEEN A COMPLETE LIFE CHANGER. OUR FRUIT BOWL IS ALWAYS FULL, AND MY KIDS EAT A LOT OF FRUIT NOW – AS MUCH AS THEY WANT – AND WE NO LONGER HAVE TO CUT BACK ON FRESH THINGS BECAUSE OF THE COST! ALL THE STAFF GENUINELY CARE, ASK HOW YOU ARE AND REALLY MEAN IT.’





‘THE GROCERY HAS BROUGHT ME BACK TO GOD. JESUS HAS GIVEN ME A WHOLE NEW FAMILY WHO I KNOW I CAN REACH OUT TO’







‘IT’S AMAZING HERE, I CAN GET SO MUCH FRESH FOOD FOR THE KIDS. I HAVE SOCIAL ANXIETY, BUT THIS PLACE MEANS HOPE TO ME.’

‘SINCE BECOMING A GROCERY MEMBER, I CAN SHOP ON MY BUDGET, HELPING ME FEED MY FAMILY. I FEEL TOTALLY ACCEPTED FOR WHO I AM AS THERE’S NO JUDGEMENT – JUST PURE LOVE AND KINDNESS. IT’S SUCH A FRIENDLY PLACE AND I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO MY VISITS!’



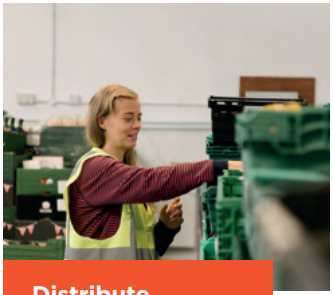
LOOKING AHEAD

No family should go hungry. We're going to do all we can to tackle food insecurity across the UK by bridging the gap between food banks and supermarkets and bringing down the cost of the weekly shop for those who need it. That's why, as the need continues to grow, so will the number of Community Groceries popping up!

In the next 12 months we want to:



Support
30,000
more members



Distribute
5 million
meals



Provide over
5,000
hours of support



Open another
12
Community Groceries
in areas of need



@communitygrocery communitygrocery.org.uk 0161 946 2300