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

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'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

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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 and a full shop for just £4, 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 November 2022 our store network has grown to 22 and we're now helping over 41,000 families 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**  
CEO and Founder,  
*The Message Trust*

SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020 WE'VE SEEN



525,000

shopping trips done  
in store



Welcomed

41,000

new members



Provided

13.6 million

meals to families  
battling food  
poverty\*



Saved

5,250

tonnes of food  
from waste

\* Each shop in the grocery weighs on average 11kg. Statistics correct as of 1 May 2023





## 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.'

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'AS SOON AS I FOUND THE COMMUNITY GROCERY IT WAS LIKE A WEIGHT LIFTED OFF MY SHOULDERS.'

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## 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  
**15 million**  
meals



Provide over  
**5,000**  
hours of support



Open another  
**6**  
Community Groceries



