

1 May 2013



As demand soars, FareShare feeds more people than ever before

- FareShare now feeds 43,700 people a day, the biggest increase in the number of people fed since the charity began
- FareShare provided food for more than 10 million meals last year
- FareShare now redistributes food to 910 charities across the country, 26% more than the year before
- 88% of the food redistributed was surplus and would have otherwise gone to waste

FareShare, the national food redistribution charity, has seen the biggest annual increase in the number of people it feeds since it began in 2004. More than **43,700 people a day** received food from FareShare in the last 12 months, 7,200 more each day than the year before.

By working with the food industry, FareShare provided food for **10 million meals** last year. This food was redistributed to more than 900 charities in the UK, a 26% increase from the previous year and the biggest annual increase in charity membership FareShare has ever seen.

Lindsay Boswell, FareShare CEO said: *“Last year we fed more people than ever before but we know the demand for our services is increasing at an alarming rate. The recession, rising cost of living and unemployment all mean there are more people turning to charities for food than at any other time in FareShare’s history.”*

More than a third of the charities FareShare supports are facing funding cuts, with 70% fearing demand for their services will only increase in the future.

Bristol Sheltered Accommodation and Support receive food from FareShare twice a week. Dave, General Manager explains: *“A lot of the time our clients don't have benefits in place and come here with nothing. Thanks to FareShare we can cook them a meal, otherwise they'd just go hungry.”*

FareShare redistributed 4,200 tonnes of food in the last twelve months, 600 more tonnes than the previous year. More than 88% of this food was surplus, meaning it is in-date and can still be eaten but would have otherwise gone to waste.

“The amount of food we redistributed increased by 16% last year. However the number of charities we’re supporting increased by 26% and we know there are many more out there that need our support. We have a mountain to climb. We estimate that we handle less than 1% of the surplus food available so we desperately need more responsible food businesses to work with us,” said Mr. Boswell.

By receiving food from FareShare, each charity saves an average of £13,000 on its food bill. More than 80% of the charities FareShare supports reinvest these savings into providing additional support services for their clients such as counseling.

Autism Initiatives receives food from FareShare weekly. Sarah Moreton from the organisation explains: *“Working in partnership with FareShare has meant that we have been able to invest more money into our social enterprises, which provide otherwise unavailable yet crucial work experience, training and employment opportunities for our service users. It has been an enormous help to us in making a very real difference to the lives of those people we support.”*

-ends-

Notes to the editor:

- FareShare is a unique charity fighting hunger and its underlying causes by redistributing surplus food to hundreds of local charities across the UK. By ensuring good food is not wasted, we turn an environmental problem into a solution, helping to feed thousands of vulnerable people every day.
- FareShare has been operating since 2004 as an independent charity and today has 17 locations across the UK that provide to more than 900 local charities.
- Last year we redistributed 4,200 tonnes of food, enough to feed 43,700 people every day, saving each charity an average of £13,000 a year and food businesses 1,850 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- By creating a value chain directly between the food industry and people in need, we are unique in fighting hunger by tackling food waste.
- Find out more at www.fareshare.org.uk

Media enquiries:

Interviews and case studies available upon request

Shakira Silvestri | 020 7394 2460 | shakira.silvestri@fareshare.org.uk