

Thank You for Your Amazing Support!

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year, but thanks to the amazing generosity of the local community, Sharing Life has been able to help individuals and families in acute need.

Our **Foodbank** usage has increased by 62% over the year and we have delivered 692 parcels, supporting 957 adults and 878 children in 148 different households. Of course, a food parcel is of limited use if you cannot afford to use a cooker, so we have also been able to provide emergency assistance with energy top ups and other urgent needs, as well as providing vouchers for fresh food.

We had already planned to launch the **Community Larder** in March in partnership with SOFEA, and we managed this, despite the lockdown. We were able to support the costs of this in the initial stages while the project became established. We now have 62 members who pay a small monthly fee to access healthy staple food that has been donated by supermarkets. As well as providing affordable food this has the added benefit of reducing food waste.

We are continuing to support the “Community Christmas in a Box” scheme which has run in Thame over the last 7 years.

The effects of Covid -19 restrictions obviously increased the demand for services as incomes were reduced or lost, and they also affected direct donations of food to the Foodbank through our collection points. The pandemic also impacted our volunteer base, with many of our regular volunteers having to shield, and we incurred additional costs in order to carry out services in a Covid safe way. We are so grateful to everyone who donated money, food and their time to help us to continue to serve the local community.

Since we were able to cover our costs for local care through locally raised funds, we were also able to continue to use some of our other funding to continue our support for projects in India and Burundi, which serve some of the poorest people in the world. Covid-19 has had a global reach and our partner organisations have very much appreciated the support in tackling the additional challenges that have arisen through the year.

Your support for our work has a double impact. It allows us to offer direct help, but it also tells people who are facing difficult and challenging circumstances that they are not alone, but that they are part of a community that cares. Thank you for all that you have done to support our work this year.