



Nourishing Our Nation

UKHARVEST ANNUAL REVIEW 2024/25

@UKHarvest | www.ukharvest.org.uk | 01243 696940
Registered Charity Number 1171916

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

FOOD RESCUE



641

**TONNES OF FOOD
RESCUED & REDISTRIBUTED**



1.51M

MEALS REDISTRIBUTED



COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS



345

CFHS TOOK PLACE



50,687

PEOPLE SUPPORTED



EDUCATION & EVENTS



82,402

PEOPLE ENGAGED

MOUTHS FED



425,389

GRUB CLUB



28,093

PEOPLE SUPPORTED

VOLUNTEERS



538

VOLUNTEERS DONATED TIME



21,548

HOURS GIVEN



NOURISH HUB



39,549

MEALS CREATED



21,191

PEOPLE SUPPORTED

OUR PATRON HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



We are honoured that Her Majesty The Queen has decided to continue supporting us as the patron of our charity. The Queen launched Nourish Hub in 2022, during which she commended the team for creating a warm and welcoming space that benefits the whole community.

“THE MINUTE YOU WALK IN HERE YOU GET A LOVELY UPLIFTING, CHEERFUL FEELING. WHAT YOU’RE DOING IS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER AND GETTING PEOPLE TALKING OVER FOOD. YOU CAN’T THINK OF MANY BETTER COMBINATIONS.”

– HM The Queen, February 2022

Her Majesty’s passion and patronage of our charity has brought attention to the urgent issues of food waste and food insecurity, and reinforced the importance of compassion, resilience and responsibility for our planet and our society. We are truly grateful for her support, which continues to amplify the impact that UKHarvest makes across the country.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, YVONNE THOMSON



As the disproportionate increase in the cost-of-living continues to challenge communities across the nation, UKHarvest reflects on the last 12 months, having seen significant changes and challenges across the attention and need for change in tackling food waste.

The significant environmental and social impact of food waste in the UK is negatively affecting households and individuals. Positively disrupting the existing food systems to increase food security remains at the forefront of our mission, having witnessed a significant rise in the number people struggling to access essential food supplies needed to feed their families and households.

With our beneficiaries at the heart of our initiatives, we have embraced innovation and compassion in our partnerships. While we have encountered many heartbreaking stories from those we serve, we are equally inspired by the uplifting narratives that emerge after they access our services, fuelling our commitment to our mission.

Through UKHarvest's 16 Community Food Hubs, our charity is supporting and feeding approximately 100 families per hub. Signposting to support services has become integral to our Community Food Hubs and Nourish Hub, enabling us to provide comprehensive support. We are actively combating holiday hunger through our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) provision as well as our engaging Family Fun Days. Nourish Hub has adapted its offerings to better serve the needs of its visitors, and our training programmes for volunteers have enhanced the efficiency of our food rescue efforts.

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of Grub Club to support school families, deliver more HAF Family Fun Days, and expand our educational offerings at the Nourish Hub with tailored courses. Plans are in place to provide specialised training for our volunteers and beneficiaries, enhance our signposting efforts across projects, expand our online resources, and strengthen educational initiatives in schools.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be chosen as the national partner to deliver Food for the Future, an exciting and innovative secondary schools challenge, in partnership with The King's Foundation. We will continue to focus on working with the community, for the community in our bid to end food insecurity and ensure we Nourish our Nation.

With the unwavering support of our donors and partners, we are committed to making a sustainable difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for believing in our mission and for your role in preventing food waste and food insecurity by enriching and educating our communities.

These achievements reflect the tireless dedication of our team, volunteers, and supporters, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Goodman Foundation, our founding donor, and all those who contribute to our mission.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

GLENN REYNOLDS-VILJOEN



Reducing the social implications of reduced access to fresh, healthy food while enabling and empowering communities to gain support has never been more important in the UK. With increased coverage in the news of families and households struggling to feed their loved ones, I am honoured and thrilled to be part of the UKHarvest team as Chair of the Board of Trustees this year.

UKHarvest's mission to Nourish Our Nation has never been more important. UKHarvest works closely with local and national organisations to prevent healthy, edible surplus food from being churned back into a wasteful and harmful system. Our charity is shaking up the dysfunctional process of food production and waste, ensuring that those in power see that there is a way forward, away from mindless waste and environmental destruction, towards sustainable access to fresh ingredients across the country.

This has been a challenging year for many, but UKHarvest has seen incredible leaps forward with increased food rescue and redistribution operations ensuring more healthy edible food reaches those in need. The Board are delighted to see the increase in operations across the South, and beyond. Through their continued dedication to supporting communities through impactful initiatives, the board praises the work conducted by the teams at UKHarvest and Nourish Hub, ensuring valuable improvement to the lives of many. From warehouse operations to extensive reporting on the positive impacts and increasing needs over the last 12 months, it is clear from the challenging personal stories shared by our beneficiaries with UKHarvest's staff and volunteers, that the work being conducted is making a huge difference to our community.

Our annual review for 2024/25 showcases how, through careful planning and valuable insight, UKHarvest are creating pathways to success for all those involved in the operation, from staff through to service users. In the last year, the charity has been able to implement professional development and employment pathways for many members of the volunteer team both at UKHarvest and at Nourish Hub. Members of staff have stepped up and absorbed additional responsibilities in the light of restructurings to create more efficient and productive working processes. Due diligence and passion for making a difference has seen a fantastic increase in engaging, nurturing and cementing powerful bonds between UKHarvest as an operation, and external organisations and agencies who believe in what we're doing. By working with UKHarvest, each partnership knows that they are directly impacting change and progression towards food security for all.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the impactful work of UKHarvest will only grow across all areas of the operation. The education team have created exceptional material that is available to all, and with empowerment at the heart of our charity, we are continuing to develop this offering to help everyone reduce their food waste and ultimately save money. The board and I are excited to see how we will evolve as a charity in 12 months' time, knowing full well that UKHarvest is in very capable hands of Yvonne and her team.



VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteer programme continues to grow, as we have received more enquiries than ever before!

This year, we welcomed new volunteers from all different backgrounds and walks of life. From volunteers who have additional needs to those who donate their time while looking for work, we enable everyone to be included in supporting our mission and giving back to their community.



Following our recent surveys, we have provided more opportunities for volunteers to learn and participate in training and upskilling sessions. 16 volunteers have now received qualifications in Nutrition and Health or Food Safety, and 8 undertook training in Allergy Awareness.



No matter how big or small the objectives we set, our volunteers jump at the opportunity to support us across the full extent of our charity.

This dedication shows an unwavering commitment to the community and the environment and ensure that we can make the dreams of our charity become a reality!

ACROSS OUR CHARITY WE HAVE HAD:

538

**COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS**

75

**CORPORATE
VOLUNTEERS**

21,548

HOURS DONATED

42 volunteers have taken part in Repurpose Surplus, our in-house workshop for learning how to cook with unfamiliar surplus food items and share this advice with others.

From our regular volunteers to those who support us at one-off events, we are grateful for each and every individual that dedicates their time to our mission.



"The best experience is meeting lots of lovely caring beautiful people."

Donnington volunteer talking about the Community Food Hub.

COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS



Our Community Food Hubs offer bags of fresh and ambient food for a suggested donation of £5. Food brings people together and our Hubs offer this alongside a provision of educational opportunities and wrap-around community support.

Our partnership with West Sussex County Council has enabled us to reach more areas across the county. This is invaluable as it connects our customers to additional service provisions in an informal setting every month.

With a focus on sustainability and skills, our team have created and shared a new educational booklet, twelve videos and a series of cooking demonstrations that promote practical food waste prevention tips.

In March 2025, we opened a new Community Food Hub in Burgess Hill, thanks to the generous support of our partners at Thakeham Homes.

The continued support of local Housing Associations and support services allows each customer to feel valued and informed.

“It’s a fantastic place, I really enjoy coming here. I could not afford to feed my family and, every other week, it’s a godsend. The variety of food is always different and makes us try new things. Everyone is so friendly and helpful.”

Community Food Hub customer



REPURPOSE SURPLUS

Following on from the success of last year’s Repurpose Surplus, we were thrilled to be able to deliver more sessions to move of our incredible volunteers.

The purpose of these activities is to enhance the customer experience at all of our front facing operations, bt mainly at our Community Food Hubs.

Empowering and educationg our volunteers around some of the key ingredients we receive, allows those at the food hubs to share their knowledge and wisdom to our customers, along with additional educational material, helping support customers with using the fresh food we supply. This has been a huge sucess which we plan to continue into next year.

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Registered Charity Number 1171916

COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS



41

SUPPORT AGENCIES



50,687

PEOPLE SUPPORTED



181.3

TONNES OF FOOD



16,951

HOUSEHOLDS SUPPLIED



345

ROUTINE DELIVERIES



+1

NEW LOCATION

GRUB CLUB: FUNDED BY KING CHARLES III CHARITABLE FUND



As well as delivering food to these schools, we also support additional learning at each setting. The locations run their club according to the needs of the students and the school.

Many also use any leftover ingredients to cook, create recipes, learn about where food comes from and, most importantly, how to reduce household food waste.

Grub Club has become a key project for UKHarvest, reaching pupils and communities across Chichester. Having launched in April 2024, we deliver to ten schools throughout the district, providing enough food for families to support their weekly shop.

With funding from the King Charles III Charitable Fund, we redistributed tonnes of fresh and ambient food to households and families within each school community.



GRUB CLUB 2024/25



93.2%
SATISFACTION



28,093
PEOPLE SUPPORTED



44.5
TONNES OF FOOD



8,697
HOUSEHOLDS SUPPLIED



175
ROUTINE DELIVERIES



10
TOTAL LOCATIONS

"Grub Club is incredible! As a parent with a large family, we are finding that our money simply doesn't stretch far enough each month.

Grub Club eases the pressure every couple of weeks."

Grub Club parent



NOURISH HUB

Our services continue to be recognised, adding the Best 100 Taste Awards to the 7 awards our Nourish Hub has now received for supporting the local community. We have enjoyed meeting every individual who has walked through our doors, received food through our delivery service and taken part at an education or outreach event.

Our 6-week cookery courses remain successful, and we have added new courses. We continue to be a core provider of the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), reaching children at risk of food insecurity. To ensure our residents are supported on social issues such as housing and finance we have invited more support services into our venue to host drop-in sessions and formalised courses.

We have served more meals than ever before, creating more opportunities to access food and to overcome social isolation. Surplus suppers and breakfast clubs are now established features in our calendar alongside our Community Lunch and Meals and a Chat service. To meet this need we have expanded our team of colleagues and volunteers. We have also seen Innocent support the refit of our meeting room, Imperial College bring scientific research with Future Fridge, and Veolia fund education on sustainable cooking.



"As a young woman experiencing crisis for the first time, this organisation has been a huge part of getting me back into a routine, restoring my hope for the future, and reassuring me that no matter what happens, there will always be a hot meal, friendly people and a safe space to welcome me." Food Hub resident

**44,544
MEALS**

**105
EDUCATION
SESSIONS**

**1,805
EDUCATION
PARTICIPANTS**

**113
COMMUNITY AND
CULTURAL EVENTS**

**3,929
EVENT
PARTICIPANTS**



Thank You

We are incredibly thankful for support of Hammersmith and Fulham Council (H&F) and the opportunities our partnership provides. This year Nourish Hub became co-chairs of the borough's Food for All Partnership, and, with thanks to Funding from the Greater London Authority and H&F, we welcomed a new member of the team as Partnership Coordinator.



NOURISHed[®]

NourishEd is UKHarvest's online and in-person food education programme. From cooking classes in our training kitchens, to online tutorials about extending the life of ingredients, NourishEd offers a wide range of learning content, nationally.

82,402
PEOPLE REACHED

168 **201**
COMMUNITY EVENTS **EDUCATION SESSIONS**

Nearly 1,000 participants were reached through 123 sessions at Nourish Hub this year, with strong engagement and positive outcomes for all who participated.

This year, over 60 learners accessed our new online education portal, NourishEd at Home, which has been funded by Clarion Futures for its residents. With signups from across the UK, these easy to follow videos are helping households save money by wasting less.

NourishEd at School, our food education programme for KS3 and KS4 Food Technology classes, has been positively received by schools. Students have reported their appreciation for the donation of materials and resources that have enhanced their learning experience.

"This project has been overwhelmingly positive.

Students have embraced the hands-on experience, with many expressing that using air fryers made cooking fun."

NourishEd participant

HAF FAMILY FUN DAY 2024

In December 2024, UKHarvest hosted its second Holiday Activities and Food [HAF] Family Fun Day with West Sussex County Council.

373 people attended (including **106** children!)

"Today was full of generosity, kindness and support for the local community."



NEW PROJECTS

OUR GROWTH IN 24/25

SOUP SHOP

The pop-up Soup Shop was an idea that came from observing an increase in social isolation within many communities we support. Healthy, nutritious meals were cooked and given to the residents of East Wittering, West Sussex, creating a warm and welcoming community space, and fostering lasting friendships and connections.

**“Soup Shop has really contributed to the life in the village and beyond.
Real friendships have been established.”**

Soup Shop attendee



One of the key outcomes from Soup Shop was the sense of community and connection that it strengthened at a time of year when many people typically choose to stay at home.



SHOP, CHOP & CHAT

UKHarvest delivered Shop, Chop and Chat, all-inclusive community sessions run at two assisted living facilities, thanks to funding received from the Hyde Charitable Trust. Residents were brought together to share time and food whilst learning new cooking skills.

“I have enjoyed the social side, meeting with neighbours and having a good laugh.”

Shop, Chop and Chat attendee

Reducing social isolation for the elderly through food-based activities, the project provided free groceries, encouraged communal cooking and fostered social interaction between residents.



HAMPSHIRE PROJECT

Supported and funded by Hampshire County Council and VIVID Housing, UKHarvest delivered a total of close to 100,000 meals to 42 different organisations, thanks to the 40 tonnes of food rescued across the county of Hampshire.

This twelve-month project enabled UKHarvest to reach more people than ever before, collaborating with more producers, growers and distributors, as well as charities, schools and community groups.

“Working with UKHarvest has allowed us to extend our support to students and their families, and ultimately our reach into the community in which we work.”

Hampshire food recipient



DARE PROJECT

Our successful pilot food rescue project, DARE, tackles pre-farmgate waste by taking edible surplus food from farms. Food that doesn't meet the correct retail specifications are removed to ensure better growth for the remaining fruit and vegetables or are slightly damaged in some way.



These collections help support farmers and growers to reduce the cost of destruction of this product whilst helping us to give households access to a wider selection of healthy foods.



“

UKHarvest's focus on education empowers people to make healthier lifestyle choices, learn how to cook on a budget and reduce food waste, which is a vital part of building community resilience.

Emma Pickering (Marketing Director, Goodman Foundation)

”



“

The Coronation Food Project is very pleased to support Grub Club, a great example of community-driven action that tackles food waste, promotes nutrition, and brings people together.

Nikki Jeffery (Executive Director, King Charles III Charitable Fund)

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“

Food security is an issue for many families, and the support given by UKHarvest not only goes a long way towards supporting our customers and other families, but helps the planet too.

Sarah Owen (Projects and Partnerships Manager, Hyde Charitable Trust)

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“

**UKHarvest is providing nourishment to those who need it, bringing people together, educating and reducing food waste in the process.
We're proud to support UKHarvest!**

Kim Barfoot-Brace (Brand and Marketing Manager, Barfoots)

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“

We wanted to partner with a charity that not only fights food waste but ensures surplus food reaches those who need it most. That's why working with UKHarvest felt like the perfect fit.

Harrison Dark (Co-Founder, Wonky Coffee)

”



THANK YOU!

We could not have reached so many people or provided so much food or support without your help. We would like to thank everybody, from individuals to organisations who have donated their time, money, resources and food to help us nourish our nation.



Goodman Foundation
(our founding partners)



Mayor's Fund for London



King Charles III
Charitable Fund



Tesco Stronger Starts



Goodwood Estate



The Greater London
Authority



Hammersmith & Fulham
London Borough Council



West Sussex
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



Chichester
District Council



Hyde Charitable Trust



A2 Dominion



Lendlease



Clarion Futures



VIVID Housing



Barfoots



APS Group



Infinity Foods
Wholesale



Tangmere Airfield
Nurseries



CityHarvest



Imperial College London



Rotary Club of London



Acts 20:35



Collaborate Global



Innocent Drinks



Nationwide Building Society



Thakeham Homes



Chichester Festival Theatre



Feeding Britain

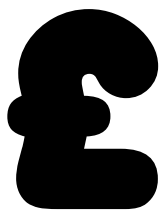


Wonky Coffee



SUPPORT US NOW

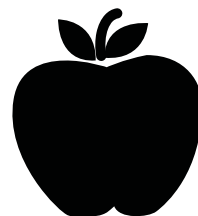
Every donation makes a huge difference in the fight against hunger and food waste in our local communities. Your donation helps us plan and commit resources to meet the increasing demand for our free services.



**DONATE
MONEY**



**DONATE
TIME**



**DONATE
FOOD**

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