

A look back to Christmas with the food Team

Christmas is a time that as Christians we remember that in the midst of darkness, the light of God has shone for all people to see. Through the unexpected gift of a baby, hope came into the world. On the 23rd of December 2024, we provided 2,015 Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers across Bolton, feeding 6,581 people. This small act of kindness is intended to bring a glimmer of hope, a light to those who may need it.

What is so special about this project is that it is only possible because a community of people rally together to give something special to others. From those who donate crackers (those that you pull and those that you eat), cranberry sauces, and everything else you would need for a great Christmas meal. There is also no shortage of jobs that need doing, that wonderful volunteers have given their time and energy to, from packing boxes, to counting out items, sorting vegetables and chickens, and helping distribute the parcels on the day.

We have been sent messages of thanks and appreciation from some of those who had been given a parcel, which indicates to us how meaningful these boxes and bags of food really are. So, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported CDOJ. Your work, time, money and effort has helped bring some hope and light into our town.

**A BIG thank you to
all who took part!**



**Christmas Dinner
on Jesus 2024**
6,581 people were
able to benefit
from hampers.

Our food team
provided Lunches in
December feeding
around 600 young
people.

More lunch packs were
provided in February
half term and across
Easter.

Our Friends of Fun Food
team have been busy
again cooking with
young people and
making food FUN!



Volunteer with us!

We are busy planning for Bolton Lunches this year.

As always it is only possible with the army of volunteers who kindly give their time to help.

If you are interested in volunteering over summer, please see our "get involved" section on our website.

www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

Adult's Team Spring into action



The Eve's Space team celebrated International Women's day in March by taking a group of Women to a gym to try out box-fit. This was a wonderful day of fun, we saw friendships continue to build and confidence rise. Those who took part commented on how they were often intimidated in the gym by others but now would feel more comfortable attending a gym by themselves. For some, this was the first time they had been in a gym.

Spring into Action at the Amber Centre

As the season changes and spring blooms, our Amber Centre is budding with life! The hard work of the Genesis community and volunteers is paying off. Thank you! It is becoming a vibrant and welcoming space.

What's Growing on?

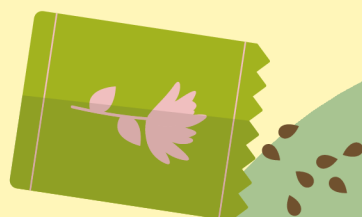
Our vegetable patches are growing strong and will be ready to harvest in the near future. Our Genesis community at the Amber Centre were busy last year planting garlic, chard, onions and more!

Street Life in the spotlight

Last year Apr 24 – Mar 25, **Street Life** supported a huge **312** households into accommodation!

We also supported many others with housing advice, eviction support, advice and more.

Our Street Life project continues to thrive, providing vital support to those in need. By offering tailored support we help people to remain in their homes where possible, empowering them to regain stability and independence. Street Life is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges faced by those finding themselves homeless or in need of suitable housing and we are proud to be making a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.



We invited **"Step together"** to come and deliver a course called "For My Future" for the women we are working with. It was well attended and those who came each week decided to keep meeting on a weekly basis at the Amber Centre. These women were crucial in forming the beginnings of our new women's group.



Children & Families Team



We were delighted to be able to attend the premier Bolton Together Celebration and Award event. This was a wonderful evening commending the amazing work achieved by the voluntary sector in Bolton.

RUNA and our No Hiding Place project has continued to deliver its Missing from Home and Child Criminal Exploitation Sessions to young people across Bolton. We recieved great feedback from the last quarter:

"It was fun and interactive and helped me lots"
"I really like how you can help us with any situation"

Throughout the next few months we are excited to get stuck in to developing our a new project with the aim of helping young people in their transition from primary to secondary school.

During the last three months RISE have offered some emotional health groups for young people from ages 8 upwards, making use of our Amber Centre building. Sessions were staffed well to allow for conversations with parents. Parents have chatted together, made friends and shared how this format has helped them to feel less isolated.



Over the last quarter RUNA have completed **246** return interviews with young people who have been reported missing. RISE have worked with a total of **78** young people and **72** parents.

Team News



A HUGE thank you to all who sponsored us in March for the **Big Sleep Out!**

Some of our staff took part, sleeping outdoors in the Bolton stadium in partnership with Bolton Wanderers in the community (BWic) to help raise money for UOB and BWic.

Staff away day

In March we enjoyed some much needed time together away from the office at the Bolton Stadium. This was a time of prayer, ministry and fellowship.

We said goodbye to a few of our lovely staff team over the past few months.

In April we said farewell to **Laura** who was our Food Team Leader and has worked at UOB for just over 10 years! Her hard work ethic and passion for those in need will continue to drive her next steps. We wish her all the best for her next big adventure.

We have said goodbye to **Dave H** and **Graham** who worked diligently in our Food Team for a number of years. They have been such a large part of the evolution of the food team and have seen such change over their time with us. We wish them both all the best for the future.

In December we said farewell to **Louise** from the Adult's Team. Lou worked with women as a case worker in the Eve's Space project. Her gentle nature and passion for the women we work with has been invaluable to the team. We wish her all the best in her new role.

We have also said "goodbye" to **Roger** from our board of trustees. Roger, alongside his wife Ruth continue to support to all we do at UOB.

Our Location

Office: Environ House, Salop Street, BL2 1DZ

Food Hub: Unit 4, Trinity Retail Park, Springfield, BL2 1HY

Amber Centre, Snowden Street, BL1 2PU



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Visit Our Website
www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

