



Supporting the food banks of our region

The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury is providing \$127,000 in funding to food cupboards and foodbanks in our region for this year and the same amount in each of the next two years. This will reduce the administration for the foodbanks and allow them to plan for the future.

The Community Trust supports 12 organisations across our region. Most groups use the funding to top up food parcels that they assemble from donated and rescued foods. Items such as fresh vegetables, meat, sanitary items and nappies can be included in parcels as need is identified. All these groups rely on volunteers to make up and distribute the food parcels. "Without this contribution every year, we couldn't stock the shelves and give out the amount of food we do to the community and other community." Liz Nolan, General Manager - Family Works, Timaru.

When people access Foodbanks not only are their food needs satisfied but organisations also assess other requirements the recipients may have whether immediate, such as heating, or strategic, such as budgeting advice or connection with education or employment support. The funding provided by the Community Trust will ensure that Foodbank organisations not only identify need but are able to also put in systems to resolve it.

Community Trust CEO Liz Shea says "We have been told by numerous Foodbanks that it is a common misconception that only homeless or unemployed people get food parcels. The main recipients now are families managing low incomes or those who are facing crises like job loss or unexpected medical or maintenance bills. The face of hunger across the motu is diverse, and the increase in the cost of living have seen more people facing hardship for the first time in our region."

The recipients are the St Mark's Foodbank Rakaia, the Salvation Army Ashburton, St Vincent de Paul Ashburton, St Andrew's Food Bank Geraldine, the Temuka Combined Churches Foodbank, Presbyterian Support South Canterbury, St Vincent de Paul Timaru, The Salvation Army Timaru, The Salvation Army Waimate, Waimate Community Hub, Mackenzie District Enhancement Board and Foodbank Canterbury with a total distribution in 2023 of \$127,000.



Community Trust CEO Liz Shea meets with Liz Nolan, Caroline Cooper and Kirsty Burnett from Family Works- Presbyterian Support South Canterbury

The Community Trust is interested in hearing from any other foodbanks or food cupboards in our region, especially in our more rural areas. If you are part of such an organisation running a foodbank, please get in contact with the Community Trust so you can be invited to apply at a future date.

The Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury uses the returns from investments to fund its philanthropy. The Community Trust supports not-for-profit organisations and projects which contribute towards achieving a region of healthy, vibrant and caring communities. To learn more please visit www.comtrust.org.nz