



Dear Friends of Start Up Stirling,

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen a significant increase in demand for our services this year. From March - June 2020, our home delivery foodbank delivered the equivalent of 51,000 meals across the Stirling area, so that no-one who was referred to us went hungry. We could not have achieved this without your help.

"Food Bank has helped my family so much. Last year before Christmas my husband lost his job, and we had nothing. No money, heating, food and it's not totally important but our child's birthday and Christmas wouldn't have happened! Food Bank helped us weekly with our food, got us in touch with money advice and helped with electricity. For Christmas, we got our Christmas dinner and sweet treats for everyone!"

Client A, Foodbank Recipient

Christmas will be different for everyone this year, but for some, the impact of the pandemic means they cannot afford a Christmas. You can change that by supporting our Community at Christmas campaign and help make the lives of those most in need a little brighter both during and beyond the festive season.



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everyone this year

Please click the image above to watch our Christmas video

Start Up Stirling is delighted to have been chosen as the Thistle Centre's Christmas charity partner for 2020. Their 'Giving Trees' campaign www.thistlesstirling.com/giving-tree allows customers to choose a gift tag from one of the Christmas trees and purchase the selected item from the participating store on the label before returning it to the customer services desk. All the items will be donated to Start Up Stirling and distributed in our Home Starter packs to people entering new accommodation following a crisis.

The Thistle Centre have also very generously created a donation station across from Debenhams for donations of packet and tinned food, as well as toiletries. This goes live on 23rd November and also enables customers to donate to Start Up Stirling using the Tap to Donate machine on the wall, choosing from a donation amount of £3, £5 or £10.



In addition to the activity at the Thistle Centre, there are other ways we are inviting you to help Start Up Stirling this Christmas to support people living in Stirling who face hardship:

1) You can donate items for our Home Starter packs for people who are commencing new tenancies following a crisis. For a list of the items that we need most, please visit our webpage. You can either do this via the Giving Trees at the Thistle Centre as mentioned, or via our [Amazon Wishlist](#), which allows items to be delivered safely and directly to the unit. Alternatively, you can donate Amazon vouchers. Smaller items can be left in donation stations throughout the area.

2) You can donate items for our food packs, so that we can continue to provide emergency food support for individuals and families. We have a special Christmas shopping list, which highlights the food that we need the most this winter. Wherever possible, [please use our donation stations at venues across the Stirling area.](#)

3) You can donate funds via our website which will go towards the purchase of goods and the running of our services - please visit startupstirling.org.uk/donate

4) You can put the fun into Christmas fundraising! We know how innovative Start Up Stirling supporters are, and this year we are asking you to think outside the box for ways to safely fundraise with your family, friends and work colleagues. [We have given you a few fundraising ideas to get you started.](#)

We hope that you have a wonderful festive season and thank you for your ongoing support. Without your kindness throughout the year, Start Up Stirling would not be able to deliver these vital services. Thank you.

