

8. DCDP Case Study: Dundee Foodbank

Our case study, Andy left Whitfield High School, Dundee in 1983 with 5 'O' grades. Since then, he has generally been in full time employment within Dundee, as a machine operator, labourer, forklift driver, warehouseman, product tester and product inspector.

Sadly, in January 2016, Andy was 'let go' by his employer and found himself unemployed and put on 'Universal Credit' by the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP). This meant he had to go on line and carry out at least 16 hours of job searches per week, handing his CV into relevant businesses throughout the city, as well as phoning various employment agencies and companies to find out if they had any job vacancies. All this information had to be recorded in a Job Centre Plus booklet which was shown to his key worker on a weekly basis.

In April 2016, Andy approached Dundee Foodbank for the first time as he had no income, other than his Universal Credit, and no money to buy food or any luxuries. Dundee Foodbank provided Andy with a nutritionally based three-day emergency food parcel. After this, Andy visited the Foodbank on several occasions after this to receive further food parcels.

In June 2016, Andy returned to Dundee Foodbank to offer his assistance as a volunteer. He had not been successful in obtaining employment, but had been encouraged by the volunteers who had looked after him when receiving food parcels.

Dundee Foodbank were delighted to take Andy on as a volunteer, as it takes eighty volunteers per week to run Dundee Foodbank at its six distribution centres across the city. Andy was initially trained at Full Gospel Church in the process of making up a food parcel and the importance of welcoming clients. After this, he was placed in our new warehouse in Dunsinane Avenue, Dundee sorting out the donations received from the public.

Andy has been a dedicated volunteer over the past few months and has worked tirelessly in the warehouse and at Full Gospel, sometimes doing six hours per day. Dundee Foodbank carries out ad hoc collections at Tesco and Asda supermarkets in Dundee, and Andy has been a willing helper: handing out leaflets to members of the public and encouraging them to add an extra food item to their trolley to place into the Foodbank collection basket. To enable Andy to get to the warehouse from his home, the Foodbank provide him with a weekly bus ticket.

By the start of November 2016, Andy had completed 334.5 hours over 80 sessions for Dundee Foodbank. He is an asset to our team of volunteers both in the warehouse and at Full Gospel distribution centre.

Kenneth Linton
December 2016