

The Nigerian Community Association feeding people in Kent thanks to Tesco food donations.

A community group which supports local vulnerable families and individuals in Kent and the surrounding area is being aided in its vital work thanks to food donations from Tesco.

The Nigerian Community Association Kent and Medway, is a fantastic example of just some of the community spirit demonstrated now more than ever during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Association is a voluntary organisation supporting the socio-economic and welfare needs of Nigerians in Kent and Medway. The main aim is to be a support channel for every Nigerian living within Kent and Medway and surplus food donated by Tesco is part of that service. On a weekly basis, volunteers distribute surplus food items from Tesco to individuals, families, shelters, the homeless, various community centres and other charitable organisations.

Oluseyi Obadare, President at the Nigerian Community Association Kent and Medway, said: “These are exceptional circumstances and unlike anything many of us have experienced before. We’ve double the number of volunteers and have almost tripled our donations each week as there are more people in need given the current challenges. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Tesco customers and colleagues alike in their dedication to ensure that those most in need within our community have all they need during these trying times. No food goes to waste, it’s distributed to those in need within two hours of collection.

“We’re here to help so would encourage anyone in need in the Kent and Medway area to reach out if we can support.”

The Nigerian Community Association is just one of thousands of food banks, charities and community groups across the UK being supported in their work amid the Covid-19 crisis thanks to donations from the supermarket. In addition to its usual supplies of surplus food to charities and community groups Tesco is providing an additional £15m of food to support charities supplied by FareShare and foodbanks that are part of the Trussell Trust’s network.

Already 62 trucks full of Tesco food donations have been delivered to the two charities, with 19 tonnes of food being delivered to the FareShare regional centre in South Central to support 241 charities with 45,239 meals-worth of food, and enough long-life food to provide almost 1,000 meals for people in crisis being supplied to local Trussell Trust food banks each week.

Claire Martin, Development Manager at FareShare Southern Central said the additional donations from Tesco were making a huge difference to charities and community groups which receive supplies from them.

Claire said: “We are immensely thankful to Tesco for their continued support during the coronavirus pandemic. Many of the frontline charities we work with continue to provide essential support within their communities, and the additional donations from Tesco will help us to keep up a steady supply of food to them during this difficult time.”

The £15m of additional food donated by Tesco is part of a £30m package of support from the supermarket to aid charities and voluntary groups in their response to the crisis. It also includes a £1m cash donation to the Trussell Trust and FareShare to support their running costs, a £2m donation to the British Red Cross and a £2m pot from its Bags of Help community donation scheme to support local charities and community groups supporting vulnerable people with £500 grants

“In every part of the UK there are charities and community groups doing amazing work to feed people during the pandemic, and we are glad that we have been able to support them in helping so many vulnerable people,” said Tesco’s Head of Community, Claire De Silva.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- Each month Tesco donates more than a million meals of surplus food to 7,000 charities and community groups supported by FareShare.
- Tesco operates permanent collection points for the two food partner charities at 540 large stores across the UK.

About the Trussell Trust:

- We’re here to end the need for food banks in UK.
- We support a UK-wide network of more than 1,200 food bank centres and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.
- Our most recent figures for the number of emergency food supplies provided by our network: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/>
- You can read more about our work at [trusselltrust.org](https://www.trusselltrust.org)

About FareShare

FareShare is the UK’s largest food redistribution charity, with 21 Regional Centres across the country. It takes food from the food industry that can’t be sold in shops, either because of packaging errors or a short shelf life. That food, which is the same as the food you’d eat at home, is then redistributed through a network of 11,000 frontline organisations, across the UK such as homeless hostels, school breakfast clubs, domestic violence refuges, older people’s lunch clubs, food banks and hospices.

FareShare provides enough food to create almost a million meals for vulnerable people every week.

- Last year we saved 20,838 tonnes of food from waste
- We provided enough food for 46.4 million meals (that’s 893,737 meals for vulnerable people every week)
- We supported 10,942 charities and community groups
- The food we supplied enabled the charity sector to make £33.7 million in savings
- We have 21 regional centres across the country, and deliver food to over 1,900 towns and cities
- We get food from 500 food companies right across the food supply chain
- We saved 74,171,500 kg of carbon