

# CHRONICLE

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## Your generosity helps the elderly and vulnerable

Our appeal raises more than **£8,000** in just **six** weeks

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THE Chronicle's Surviving Winter Appeal has raised more than £8,000 to help vulnerable and elderly people in just six weeks.

Thanks to generous donations from you, our loyal readers, charities like the Braintree Area Foodbank are able to provide food to the people most in need throughout the harsh winter months.

Running three days a week and offering three-day emergency food parcels to people and families who have fallen on hard times, the food bank, which got a £1,000 grant from the Essex Community Foundation appeal, makes a huge impact on the lives of those most in need.

### Difference

At Braintree's food banks, organisers say they have seen everyone from families hit by unexpected bills to injured labourers unable to pay the mortgage on statutory sick pay.

"The money from the Surviving Winter Appeal makes a big difference in letting us continue to function," said Sarah Maddox, voluntary publicity officer for Braintree Area Foodbank.

"The difference it makes to people is huge. It's also the kindness people miss out on – people can come and have that kindness here, and there is no one who will judge you."



**HELPING THE NEEDY:** Braintree Area Foodbank volunteers making up parcels of food. From left, Brenda Brown, Nick Brown, Jane Walker, Dave McDonald and Linda Eveling



It's not just food banks that will get a helping hand from the Surviving Winter Appeal this year.

A women's refuge centre, a homeless charity, the Rural Community Council of Essex, supporting eld-

erly and vulnerable people, and a Catch-up Café, which tackles loneliness and isolation, are just some of the very worthy causes the appeal has supported.

"We have been very pleased to support the food banks because they provide a very valuable service to some of the most vulnerable people," said Essex Community Foundation's head of communications, Jo Murphy.

"And the overall response to the appeal has been amazing, especially as we know that at this time of year people are often short of money because of Christmas.

"We're so pleased that people are happy to give to charity, and that so many of them remember smaller, local charities like the Surviving Winter Appeal. We are very grateful."

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