



CARING AT CHRISTMAS 2023

Supporting those experiencing homelessness in Bristol for
over three decades





Introduction

For the 34th consecutive year, Caring in Bristol proudly orchestrated its Caring at Christmas initiative, welcoming more guests than ever before through our doors. This surge in demand reflects the growing challenges posed by the prevailing economic conditions, both on a national and local scale.

From the 24th to the 30th of December, our week-long pop-up Day Centre and delivery service operated tirelessly, providing warm meals, empathy, essential provisions, and crucial health and well-being care to individuals facing or at risk of homelessness.

Caring at Christmas stands as a beacon of hope, bridging the gap left when other services temporarily close over the festive period. Through the selfless dedication of countless volunteers and the unwavering commitment of our staff, this project emerges as a lifeline for vulnerable individuals throughout the city during this time.

Guest Feedback

"It's amazing what people do when they come together."

"I feel like I'm at home."

"...the volunteers made it perfect."

"I was made very welcome, the staff were very helpful."



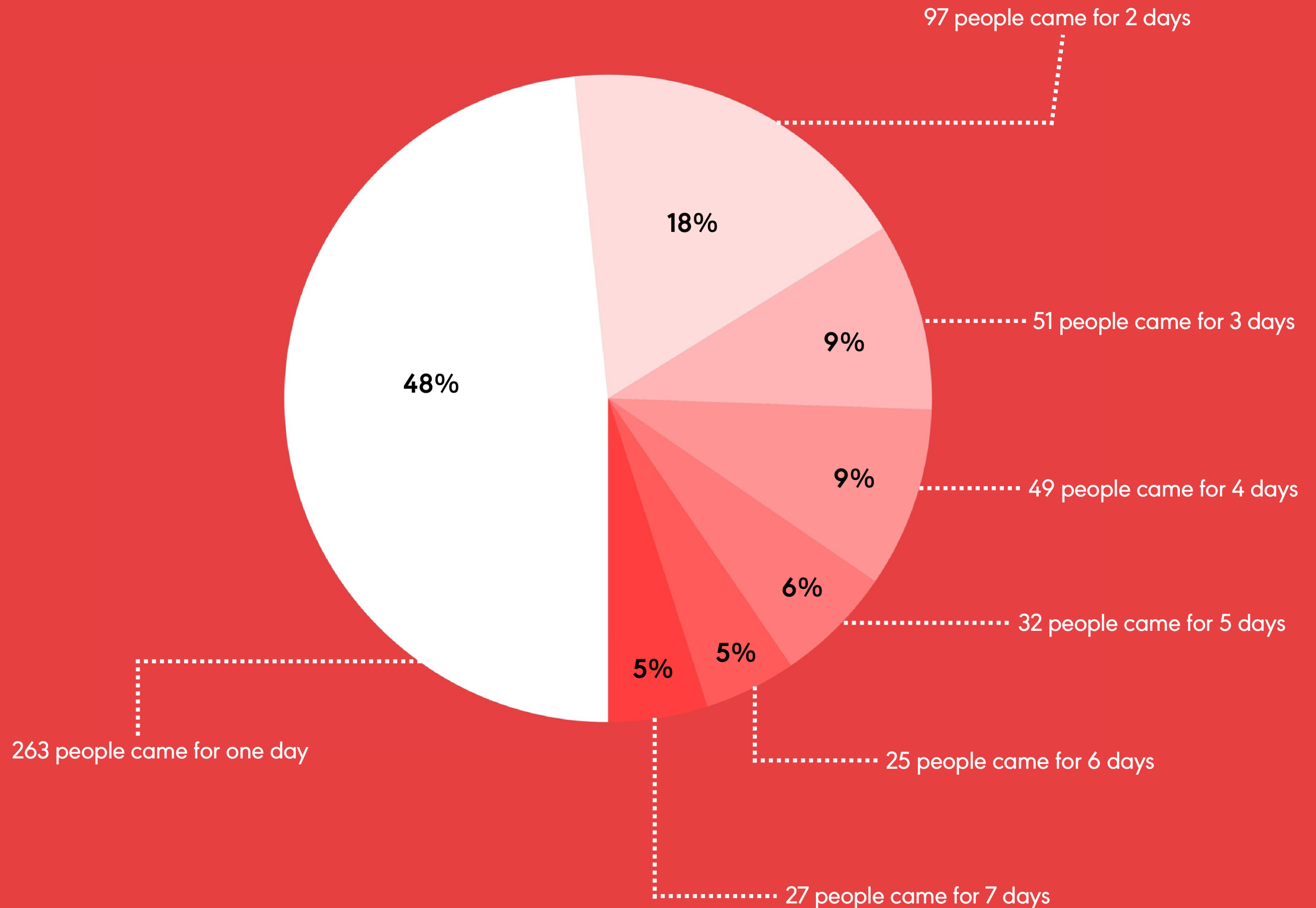
Guest Feedback - Themes



Visits

547
guests

1,213 visits



Extra Support & Entertainment

We invited a number of external support, health and wellbeing services including:

- The Samaritans
- Sirona Healthcare
- Footworks Bristol
- Bristol Drugs Project
- St Mungos
- Street Vet
- Haircuts and nail treatments
- Massage therapists
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Cocaine Anonymous
- Next Link
- Hepatitis C, HIV and liver function testing
- Dental Health Promotion Team
- Bike repairs
- Clothing/tent repairs



Caring at Christmas also provided entertainment to guest, such as:

- A choir
- Musicians (guitarist, pianist)
- A cinema
- Arts and crafts workshops

Food

We served up to 300 hot meals per day in the Day Centre as well as delivering 300 meals and 150 gift hampers to people in their own accomodation over the 25th and 26th December.

Partner organisations who referred people to our meal delivery service included:

- LiveWest
- NHS
- Borderlands
- Salvation Army
- one25
- Recovery4all
- St Mungos
- Bristol City Council
- Second Step
- Changing Futures
- 16-25 Independant People
- Addiction Recovery Agency



Meal/Hamper Delivery Feedback

Our referral partners told us just how important the delivery aspect of the project is to the people they support.

“Having this service makes such a difference to them and their mental health during this difficult period.”

“The human contact and empathetic staff give the young people a really important boost at an already difficult time of year.”

“It made it feel like Christmas, they were really nice and kind. They help people in a less fortunate position.”

“She was so grateful and praised the quality of the food highly. It made a difficult time significantly easier for her.”

“Loved the doggie treats and the volunteers who delivered the meals were friendly and polite.”

Volunteers

The Caring at Christmas project relies on a team of over 400 volunteers who give up their time across the month of December. We could not run the project without them and we are hugely grateful for the support they give.

"The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly for guests and volunteers."

"I found all guests so appreciative. A very humbling and joyous experience."

"I was so glad to be able to help."

"I love interacting with the guests and making them feel a little bit special by serving them at the table, so that I think is my favourite bit."

"I saw a lot of guests smiling and happy they were able to receive more clothing."

"It's an eye opener. Shows you that there's things going on that you might not know about. But also just knowing that you giving back and helping people that might be lonely or just need a friendly face and somewhere they're not going to be judged."

Total number of volunteer hours logged: 2,741

Volunteers

"The whole experience is tremendously worthwhile."

"We've lost touch a little bit with what Christmas is really about... [The part about] giving back to society. That's what drives me to do this and my favourite bit about it is being out with the guests."

"I really enjoy [volunteering here]. They've done amazing. It's really nice to see. People smiling and enjoying and laughing together."

"It was great to chat with the guests and hear parts of their story."

"I was really proud that I'm part of something amazing. I tell everyone I know how important it is. You know, that we take care of each other when things get hard."

"I just find it so rewarding, I love it."

"A highlight for me was seeing the guests' artwork - so many of the guests enjoyed drawing."

Total number of volunteer hours logged: 2,741

A big thank you to...

Food partners

- Team Canteen
- Emmeline
- Bianchi's
- Bristol Cheesemonger
- Kensington Arms (Josh Eggleton)
- Square Food Foundation
- Pump House
- Box E
- Pasture
- Bristol Loaf

Donations & Gifts

- Yeo Valley
- Community Farm
- Essential Trading
- Baxter Storey



A big thank you to..

Caring at Christmas Donations

- BLOC Productions
- Mango Consulting
- Index Medical Limited
- Offspring Films
- Binlets
- H. G Harris Funeral Directors
- Spaceworks
- Squareworks
- Howden
- Launch
- Cryer & Coe Ltd
 - TLT LL
- Lettus Grow
- Lost and Grounded Brewery
- Caffeinated Development Ltd
- Veezu
- ALD Automotive
- Burges Salmon
- Nexus Planning
- Purple Fish Agency
- Our Media
- Solarsense
- Clifton Emery Design
- Craddys
- Ocean Estate Agents
- Bristol Dermatology Centre
UHBW
- Channel Yacht Sales
- Echo
- Rose Savage Bridal
- Taylor Wimpey
- Lawlight Solicitors
- Wiper and True





A big thank you to..

Community Groups that donated to the campaign

- Newtown Park Cycle Club
- Bristol Masons
- The Community Farm
- Chew Magna Baptist Church
- Christ Church Clifton
- Gasworks Choir
- Nailsea Methodist Church
- Stoke Gifford Parochial Council
- The Inn On The Green
- Christchurch Hanham Mother's Union
- Gordano School
- Soroptimist International Club of Bristol
- Westbury School
- The Yatton Moor Team Ministry
- United Parish of Abbots Leigh with Leigh Woods
- All Voices Aloud Choir
- Leigh Woods Residents Group
- Bristol Arts Monster
- Boardmills Quizzers
- The Parish of Wraxall with Failand
- Redland Park Church
- Sound Your Voice
- Publow with Pensford PCC
- Sing Clifton
- Wrington Women's Institute
- Tickenham WI
- St Michael's Church Compton Martin
- Bristol Downend Christadelphian Church
- Tots at Ten
- University of Bristol Library Team
- Thornbury United Reformed Church
- Dancercise Sea Mills
- Richmond Road Choir
- Southmead Hospital Patients Catering Department
- Lions Club of Thornbury



Caring in Bristol

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