

Snapshot

2025 ~ 2026



Offering hope, support and a future
to homeless and vulnerable people



Welcome to this year's Snapshot where we look back at what the Genesis community achieved between April 2025 and March 2026. This year has seen significant changes at Genesis.

Bath Foodbank became 'Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank' in June 2025. We'd like to thank our staff and volunteers for coming together and for your continued support.

In addition, February 2026 saw Genesis Life Projects return to the Gateway Centre, following a flood in 2024. A total repair and refurbishment has been undertaken to future proof the centre for years to come.

With great celebration we moved back into the Gateway Centre to deliver our services in the safe, inviting space that works best for our clients.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank God for His grace in watching over us and finding a temporary home at Widcombe Baptist Church and for their hospitality. Sincere thanks to the many churches, individuals and organisations who supported us through this challenging time. The most important aspect through all this has

been the opportunity to demonstrate unity and resilience for our clients. By working with the community around us, we have solved problems and created solutions.

On a personal note, I want to thank each volunteer, our church community, financial supporters, fundraisers, and corporate partners for your ongoing support. You make all this possible. Together, we are enabling relationships to thrive and helping to create lasting change in people's lives.

Last but not least, on behalf of myself, the Board and the whole team, I would like to thank our CEO Nick Mayo who retired in January 2026 and Eddie Spruit who stepped in as Interim CEO. We welcomed our new CEO, Susannah Jewell in September.

As you read through these pages please know that this work is made possible by your support and the hard work of our staff and volunteers. Thank you for being part of the Genesis community.

Triss Horwood
Chair of Trustees



Year at a glance

49 families and individuals supported by Genesis Furniture



212 Volunteers across all projects



Genesis Life Projects

577 clients supported over 9,757 visits



31 courses/activities delivered for Life Skills and Life Recovery

912 hours of one-to-one support given through Life Thrive



Moved back to the refurbished Gateway Centre



Av. 34 people per day to Lifeline with av. 11 visits per person

3,465 Life Connect meals



Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank

8,439 people provided with emergency food across all Foodbank areas

11.5% reduction in Foodbank referrals across the region

83 first-time Foodbank referrals each month

Foodbank manager Grainne Moher (left) and longstanding volunteer Angela (right) attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of Foodbank



For up-to-date news, stories and events please sign up to our e-news via our website.

Year in Review

Genesis Life Projects – A Year of Two Halves

This year has bridged two locations, mostly shared with Widcombe Baptist Church at Genesis on the Canal and then continuing in our refurbished home at the Gateway Centre.

Our time at Genesis on the Canal has strengthened team resilience, deepened our understanding of evolving client needs and expanded our community partnerships. Over the year we had **44** agency visits with **368** clients connecting with external support. These partnerships helped break down barriers, build trust and supported clients to access help more independently.

We returned to Gateway in February 2026 following a three-week closure. The transition was smooth, and the refurbishment has created a bright, welcoming environment with significantly improved facilities.

Whilst we moved sites, support remained accessible through phone calls, off-site one-to-one sessions and weekly Life Connect meals at St John's Catholic Church.

The move appears to have been seamless for clients. We are now seeing a mix of individuals from Genesis on the Canal, returning Gateway clients and new arrivals.

[More on p6 >](#)



Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank

This year has seen significant change for Foodbank as three regional areas joined together to form one foodbank. With nearly **200** volunteers, **10** centres, **3** warehouses, **2** vans and **3** part-time staff, there was a lot to coordinate.

There have been challenges and opportunities throughout the year with requirements from both Genesis Trust and Trussell. We will continue to prioritise our clients whilst supporting and encouraging our volunteers in their important roles across the region.

When local people are facing crisis, they can come to one of our **13** weekly sessions where a warm welcome and cup of tea are waiting for them. Together we have provided emergency food parcels for **8,439** people in our community, **2,614** of which were children.

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A Journey of Hope

When we first met Samuel* he was living in a tent. He came to one of our Foodbank distribution centres for several months. The team there had built up a good relationship with Samuel, offering consistency, kindness and support at a time where life was incredibly difficult. It was the trust built at Foodbank that enabled the support Genesis Life Projects followed up with.

Grainne Moher, Foodbank Manager, spoke to the Genesis Life Projects team about Samuel. It took Nathan Gale from Genesis Life Projects a few attempts to make contact with Samuel on the phone. But eventually Nathan arranged to meet, not at our centre, but at Samuel's tent. Nathan arrived with two bacon and egg rolls and they ate together. This is how the relationship began.



From there the focus was on practical support. Nathan enabled Samuel to register at the local doctor's surgery and move his pharmacy closer. Nathan helped with laundry and to keep warm and dry in difficult weather. As time passed, conversations became easier and flowed into further support. Samuel connected with a 'stop smoking' service and started working through alcohol dependency.

The biggest change for Samuel was Nathan's support into accommodation. Samuel no longer lives in isolation in a tent and is connected with local support services. Genesis Life Projects will continue to journey with Samuel as he navigates his new living situation and finds new hope for his future.

Both Foodbank and Genesis Life Projects played an important part in Samuel's journey and we will continue to work together to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

**His name has been changed to protect his identity.*

Genesis Life Projects



Our support is underpinned by Psychologically Informed Environment principles, emphasising safety, trust, choice and dignity. As our understanding of clients' behaviours, trauma and underlying needs grow, we are increasingly able to tailor support effectively.

This year has seen a rise in the complexity of needs. Many clients present with overlapping and long-term challenges, including addiction, trauma, mental health issues and chronic physical illness. Supporting these needs takes significant time, navigating complex systems and advocating across services. In response we have reduced drop-in hours to allow for increased one-to-one support (Life Thrive).



Lifeline – crisis support

Open for 145 days

**Av. 34 visits per day and
av. 11 visits per person**

Practical support including access to food, clothing and essential facilities remained vital in supporting our clients with ongoing and often complex needs. Our clients face food insecurity, housing instability, benefit issues and daily living challenges. Attendance has remained strong despite revised hours and operating from the smaller space whilst at Genesis on the Canal.



Donated clothing is our most distributed item, followed by food. Whether it be a few food items, supermarket donations or a Foodbank referral, these are essential for those affected by addiction, limited budget or debt.

530 people accessed showers and **372** used charging points to stay connected. Laundry facilities at Gateway have been a welcomed vital provision, with continuous use since reopening.

5% of our clients attend weekly with many more attending regularly. These clients use Lifeline drop-in times as a key social space as well as engaging with ongoing one-to-one support and Life Skills.



Life Thrive – one-to-one support

**183 clients engaged
over 1,189 sessions**

Our continued emphasis on one-to-one support enables more meaningful engagement, stronger multi-agency collaboration, and effective wrap-around care. They provide protected time and consistency with focused responses, supporting both immediate stabilisation and longer-term change.

Structured sessions promote preparedness, reduce anxiety and strengthen therapeutic relationships, creating the conditions for sustained engagement and meaningful progress.

Life Connect – meals

**394 clients engaged in
3,465 interactions**

Av. 25 clients per meal

Our weekly meal provision continues to play a key role in fostering connection and building trust. These sessions provide a safe, structured environment that encourages positive social interaction with a strong emphasis on conversation, relationship-building and understanding everyone's personal circumstances.

Returning to the Gateway Centre has enabled us to re-introduce both Wednesday cooked breakfasts and Friday lunches. These meals have both seen a healthy return in client engagement. Along with St John's Catholic Church's Thursday lunch, the meals remain an important connection point.



Life Skills and Life Recovery

**31 courses and activities,
205 sessions**

**106 clients attended
over 1,112 visits**

Within Life Skills we held multiple activities including knitting, Grow for Life gardening, faith group, men's group, ukelele course and tree planting. We also have two recovery courses, The Life Course and SMART Recovery.

All offer a safe space to grow in confidence, skills and social engagement.

Overall, we've seen healthy participation and strong engagement. The Life Course was our longest course running for ten weeks. Several community events such as tree planting and walking groups offered a more flexible engagement opportunity.



Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank

Alongside supporting clients with emergency food parcels, our focus and priority has been integrating the three foodbanks across the region. There was a lot of work involved and some difficult changes, but we have done all we can to create a smooth transition.

Amongst the changes are the closures of Odd Down's centre in Bath and Marksbury's warehouse. These decisions have enabled us to use our resources effectively. We are thankful for our volunteers at these locations and are pleased some have been able to continue at other sites.



This year has seen a **11.5%** decrease in referrals, which is consistent with Trussell's national data. More needs to be done to fully understand this decrease, but a contributing factor will be the Financial Inclusion Project, a three-year Trussell-funded initiative delivered by many foodbanks across the UK.

This included having Citizens Advice and Clean Slate at our sessions, offering support with issues that brought clients to the foodbank. A positive outcome has been less people returning to foodbank.

On a monthly basis we are still seeing an average of **83** first-time referrals. Foodbank had **4,525** referrals from **1,591** households over the year. That equates to **8,439** people supported, **2,614** of which were children. The most frequent reasons for referrals are low income, debt and homelessness.



Thank you!

We have **184** amazing volunteers across the region and couldn't provide emergency food parcels without their hard work. Thank you so much to you all.

Thanks to the community around us, we've received **83,800kg** of donated food! Thank you to all the schools, churches, supermarkets, businesses and community groups who keep these donations coming in. And to all who support the foodbank financially.

We've also had Tesco food drives in Keynsham and Midsomer Norton with many volunteers involved and lots of food donated. These days are great for spreading the word too. Thank you to everyone who helped.



Genesis Furniture

This year Genesis Furniture has collected **1,080** pieces of donated furniture from the local community. Sales from these items have supported a turnover of **£413,000**, with profit contributing to the wider charity. Thank you to everyone who has given us furniture and volunteered in our warehouse.

We also provided **49** families or individuals with furniture items. These were people being newly housed by local agencies such as welfare support.

Your donations have helped provide for homeless and vulnerable people in our community.



Fun Facts...

Our eBay store is ranked second out of 15,600 sellers in the UK for used sofas.



The vans travelled 100,000 miles last year, collecting and delivering – the equivalent of 4 trips around the earth!

The new mattresses we supply for agency clients are manufactured in Bristol and are 100% recycled from local fabrics and metals.



Thank you!

Thank you to our community of volunteers, supporters and fundraisers. We're so grateful for your hard work and commitment to helping homeless and vulnerable people locally.



Bath Half Marathon



London Marathon



Abseil



Student Fundraiser



Corporate Fundraising



Tesco Food Drive



Corporate Volunteering



Ceilidh



Skydive



Bike Bath

The Future

As we look toward the future of Genesis Trust, we are delighted to have welcomed our **new CEO Susannah Jewell**, former volunteer and trustee. Susannah started in September and will be informing how we move forward as a charity in the coming years.

With Genesis Life Projects back home at the Gateway Centre and the Foodbanks merger into its second year, we will begin to review how we can best serve our clients.

Whilst our client-facing work will always be our focus, we are also aware that events on the global stage are shifting the financial environment for the charity sector. This is creating challenges for all charity work and Genesis is no exception. In addition, this is heightened by the continued rise in the cost of living.



We want to take this opportunity to reflect on these challenges and the changes in local provision for our clients. Susannah has said:

“ We aim to continue building strong collaboration with other agencies to provide a comprehensive service for all our clients. We will be seeking to strengthen our partnerships with local churches, businesses and the community, ensuring we can continue our mission; to walk alongside the most vulnerable in our community, supporting them into new beginnings and better futures.”

We are forever grateful for the strong community of support we have around Genesis, enabling homeless and vulnerable people to get the support they need for a better future. Thank you to all our supporters, volunteers and staff, for all the ways you support our clients. Together we are creating lasting change and providing hope for the future.



Gift in Wills

After supporting loved ones in your Will, how might a gift given to Genesis Trust, however small, have an impact?

From the moment a client first comes into contact, every interaction they have with our staff, volunteers and each other is part of the process of building relationships. These relationships lead to trust, community and positive change.

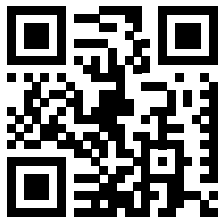
But relationships take time and that is where Gift in Wills comes in.

A gift given in the future means the relationship that starts now can continue to be nurtured for as long as it needs to. Gift in Wills enables the next interactions to develop and grow into hope and transformation.



Find out more on our website or email Emma Drew
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Find out more and donate
www.genesistrust.org.uk



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