

Template for talking with food bank volunteers

Introduction with group: I am part of a group of people who volunteer at food banks. We are proud of the service we provide. We are also worried about the growing need and whether it will ever end and whether we will ever be able to 'retire' from this volunteer work. What once seemed to be a temporary emergency has grown into a permanent condition and we feel the government has become too reliant on food banks.

One member in our group said this

“ In 1990 I started to volunteer at the food bank. I thought it would last two or three years. Twenty-one years later I am still volunteering. Now I am seventy-two. The way things are going I wonder if I will be able to retire from this volunteer work before I am ninety?”

So we said we would tell this story to volunteers we work with and see if they have any similar feelings. We'd like to hear from you – using the template as a guide – and I'll take them back to the committee to share and compare with our group.

- My name is _____
 - I started volunteering at the food bank/emergency meal programme at the age of _____ in the year _____.
 - I have been volunteering here for _____ years and now I am _____ years old.
 - I think the need for 'emergency' food in my community is (please check one)
_____ growing _____ declining _____ staying the same _____ - don't know
 - When I began to volunteer I thought it would be for _____ years
 - I hope I am able to retire from this volunteering by the time I am _____
 - I would also like to say _____
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