



PRESS KIT

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**THORNE
MEDIA**

FEEDING A NATION



**2.5 MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR HUNGRY.
IN PLAIN SIGHT.**

FEEDING A NATION looks into why people using a local community food bank come in increasing numbers in search of help, and how volunteers are feeling the impact of a nationwide issue.

Taking place within Eastleigh Basics Bank, a church-led food bank serving the town of Eastleigh and the surrounding areas, this short documentary explores the perspectives of the volunteers, those who work behind the scenes, the community and the food bank's clients.

In 2020/21, around 2.5 million people used a food bank in the UK, nearly a million more than 2 years ago. Though exasperated by the Covid-19 pandemic, more people than ever are having to resort to food banks. And with that comes a unique sense of shame and stigma, of which, is rarely talked about. Feeding A Nation aims to capture the story of not only those who run a local food bank, but those who use it. The short film focuses on connecting to the human element of those who toe the line of food insecurity, those who heavily rely on the food bank, and the volunteers that have seen their client-base expand year on year. Why does this happen in one of the world's richest countries? How does food insecurity affect so many ordinary people, and how complex are the reasons that people resort to donations to feed their families and themselves?



I am Andrew Thorne, a third-year student at Solent University studying Media Production. I'm fortunate to have never needed to rely on the kindness of the community I live in for support financially or with basic needs such as food, but for many more people than I realized, that is not the case.

I have an interest in social issues that affect people without voices or coverage - in second-year I produced my first short documentary, It's Not Weak To Speak, named after the slogan of men's mental health support group, Man Gang UK. Men's mental health, often stigmatized and hardly discussed, was the sole topic of the film which followed the group and its members as they gave their perspective on support and outreach that men receive.

This led me to this project, Feeding A Nation. During the height of the pandemic, I saw appeals from my local food bank, Eastleigh Basics Bank, for food and other essentials as demand had soared. This made me think about the people who were truly struggling because of the economic consequences of what was happening, and that the supposed support the government was giving was clearly not enough.

My ultimate goal of the documentary is to give perspective, and voices. Too often, those in need go unheard. I want to explore how misconceptions often shape how people view food banks and their clients, and hear from the people who really use them, and why.

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