

# How to: bag pack

Many large shops and supermarkets offer opportunities for people to run bag packs for charity, where you help the customers to bag up their shopping, speeding up the process for everyone. Here are six quick steps on how to arrange your own bag session:



1. **Find a store** – the best method is to call or turn up in person at the major stores near your home and ask to speak to their charity representative. Explain that you are collecting for a UK registered charity – the FutureSense Foundation – which supports disadvantaged communities overseas.
2. **Fix the date** – ask the store for available dates. If they can't offer you one soon, don't give up, just get a few dates booked in for the future or try other stores.
3. **Rope in your friends** – find out from the store how many checkouts will be open and then recruit enough friends to give you a hand, and so multiply the amount you can raise. Shifts need only be a couple of hours per person.
4. **Be prepared** – on the day make it is obvious to shoppers that you are fundraising for charity. Wear your yellow T-shirt, have FSF-branded buckets and tins on the checkouts and be ready to tell your customers about the great work you will be doing next summer.
5. **Be friendly** – the most successful bag packers are those who keep smiling and offer their services politely. Pay attention to any instructions the shoppers give you (such as putting frozen goods in a specific bag). Not all shoppers will want your help, so accept that gracefully and don't be put off. Remember to thank anyone who does give you a donation.
6. **Pay your donations onto your VMG page** – when you have finished, thank the store and count your money (best done alongside another person). You can now pay it onto your Virgin Money Giving and watch your total rise towards your target.

When applying to stores, let us know if you need a letter of support from the charity, (although you will probably have received a template for one in your Challenges Abroad welcome pack). Good luck!