

Sharing Plates

Dear Friends,

If you're reading this it means you're considering working with us, or already do, and share our determination to do something about hunger in London. In this document we will explain the programme we have set in motion to help tackle it, and the part you can play.

Our motivation for setting up Sharing Plates was the stark reality of seeing people go hungry in one of the world's richest capital cities. Added to the paradox that while increasing numbers go hungry, ten million tonnes of food is being wasted in Britain every year.

Sharing Plates is simple, for every catering order we take, we give our client the option of adding extra meals for the hungry.

Our kitchen has the capacity to do this, as we already run a thriving catering business, so we have the facilities and the expertise. The food itself is donated to us.

Efficiency is at the heart of the programme, because the more efficient we are, the more people get fed. The food donor is City Harvest, a charity with 18 refrigerated vans that collect unwanted food from around London. They have delivered more than 50 million meals in London, serving soup kitchens, churches, food banks and hostels. We also work with other charities, like Streets Kitchen, who serve the homeless in Camden and other locations.

The role of Dinner Ladies is to cook this food and, to our surprise, we found that we're one of the only catering companies in London offering this regular service. Our golden rule is that we prepare meals for the hungry to the same level as those we provide for paying clients, who include corporations, film companies on location and wedding parties.

We began Sharing Plates with Vodafone as our sponsor, who provided funds for 50 meals. We ask for the support from our clients and corporate sponsors to fund the running of the programme including the catering staff and logistics for the evening work.

The other element to the programme is that we can offer your workplace the opportunity of being involved. It might be in the kitchen, or working with our partners in collecting unwanted food from supermarkets, or delivering it to the hungry. We would welcome staff who want to try it for an evening, or like the idea of regular involvement, and would be happy to discuss an arrangement that would suit you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Lily Cai & Emily Plunket
Founders

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**DINNER
LADIES**