



LIVERY FOOD INITIATIVE UPDATE #2

Autumn 2023

Our van is up and running for the next three years

By March, 30 Companies had contributed and the

Lord Mayor was able to hand over the keys of our first van to City Harvest, just three months after our launch. Over the summer we reached our initial target of £190,000 with contributions from 50 Companies and Guilds, usually in cash but sometimes helping in other ways. Our van will run for three years, collecting surplus produce that



would otherwise go to waste and delivering to charities food for 2.4 million meals. In November we will be publishing an Impact report so you can see what difference the van has already made.

We now need a truck - and more food

Sadly, in recent months, the need from charities for food has grown exponentially and the cost of living crisis has meant surplus good food is proving more difficult to come by. That is why over the summer we wrote to you explaining our next target was not another van, but a 7.5 tonne truck which could help City Harvest source more food from earlier in the supply chain. Thank you so much to those of you who have already contributed towards the £270,000 we hope to raise to cover three years' costs. In December we will be launching our ask for the second year of this three year initiative. We will be asking Livery Charities to help us raise the funds to enable the 7.5 tonne truck to operate for three years and in addition we will be asking Livery Companies if your members have contacts who can help City Harvest source surplus produce from farms around the country.

Livery Companies working together

We have also become aware over recent months of how much else is being done by Livery Charities to help with food poverty and the cost of living crisis. Our third request will therefore be to ask you to tell us about what all your Charities have been doing in this area so we can recognise our collective endeavours. So more funding, more food and more other Livery Company endeavours. Connecting the dots will enable us all to have a bigger impact.

Much to celebrate

In the meantime we have much to celebrate as you can read below:

Old Bailey Thank You Reception on 16th September

Over 80 of us were at the Old Bailey to see Sheriff Andrew Marsden and City Harvest Chief Executive Sarah Calcutt present thank you plaques to the contributing Companies and Guilds who could be present. In his remarks Sheriff Marsden mentioned that despite some 8.4m people in the UK being in food poverty some 30% of our food (9.5m tonnes) is wasted each year – a statistic that resonated hugely with those present. He emphasised the importance of the Livery Food Initiative adding that more important than just meals, this van will also deliver hope.



City Harvest Festival at St Paul's on 1st October



At this first City Harvest Festival Service, the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett had invited City Harvest Chief Executive Sarah Calcutt to speak to the congregation about the value of food. After the service City Harvest launched its first Food Report at '[The Beauty of Food Redistribution](#)' exhibition in the crypt. Alderman and Sheriff Broniek Masojada, Alderwoman and Sheriff Dame Susan Langley and Alderman Alison Gowman represented the City of London and many representatives from Livery Companies joined the congregation. You can watch a short video [here](#).

Others ways you have been supporting us

Not content with conquering Kilimanjaro to raise money for us, Fuellers' Senior Warden Elena Oderstone persuaded Junior Warden Ashutosh Shastri to join her in the Royal Parks Half Marathon on 8th October. Not only did they complete the course, raising sponsorship for us, but they carried their banner round for the whole 13+ miles!! If anyone would still like to sponsor them you can do so [here](#).



"Anyone lucky enough to have an allotment will know that every year, significant amounts of fruit and vegetables are grown but, sadly, never harvested. Every week from July to October, City Harvest picks up the surplus fresh fruit and vegetables donated by our members, for free.

There is great enthusiasm for the scheme among our members, who feel very positive about helping the less fortunate, and who have come together with impressive community spirit.

None of this would have been possible without City Harvest, and we strongly recommend this wonderful partnership to other allotments."

Caroline, Barn Elms Allotment Society



Meanwhile World Trader Paul Benbow was delighted to support an initiative at his local allotment where City Harvest has been able to collect food over the summer months.

A huge thank you

Thank you so much to the 50 Livery Companies and Guilds and their Charities who contributed to help us reach the £190,000 needed for the van: the Actuaries, Air Pilots, Arbitrators, Barbers, Basketmakers, Blacksmiths, Bowyers, Builders Merchants, Chartered Accountants, Chartered Architects, Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, Clockmakers, Clothworkers, Cooks, Cordwainers, Drapers, Engineers, Financial Services Group, Fishmongers, Framework Knitters, Fruiterers, Fuellers, Gardeners, Glovers, Grocers, Hackney Carriage Drivers, Horners, Human Resource Professionals, Innholders, Insurers, Investment Managers, Joiners and Ceilers, Leathersellers, Makers of Playing Cards, Management Consultants, Marketors, Mercers, Merchant Taylors, Musicians, Nurses, Parish Clerks, Pattenmakers, Plumbers, Saddlers, Security Professionals, Solicitors, Stationers, Tax Advisers, Water Conservators and World Traders.

How you can get involved

In December we will be launching our ask for the second year of this three year initiative. We will be asking Charities to donate towards the costs of a bigger truck which will be able to do much more to help; we will be asking Companies to help us source food from around the country; and we will be asking Charities what else you are doing in this area so we can share our endeavours and have a bigger collective impact.

The Livery Food Initiative was started by the Livery Charity Chairs Group. For further information please [visit the website](#) or contact Hilary Lindsay at liveryfoodinitiative@gmail.com