



Friday 22nd December 2023

Happy The Friday Before!



It's been a lovely week. We have truly enjoyed the opportunity to pause, reflect and chat with many of you over a mince pie and snowman bao bun! We've been joined by friends old and new. We've peeled plenty of sprouts as we prepared for the first despatch of Christmas meals today. Thank you to all who have signed up to do deliveries on Christmas Day and across the holidays! There are plenty of spaces across the holidays for those who can come along.

So, to this week's edition. We open with a reflection from our Chair, Linda Rosborough, then we update on our Winter Campaign - please do continue to share, and we encourage you, your family and friends, to join us over the holidays, before we close the final Roundup of 2023. The next publication will be Friday 5th January.

Message from our Chair - Linda Rosborough

“Looking back, it's been quite a year. We provided meals for those who would otherwise go hungry, but we also put a lot of effort into getting to know the people we support better. We formed new partnerships across Edinburgh, providing good food to communities in need. We started to reduce our environmental footprint, experimenting with new containers. We made our new, beautiful, productive garden. We started an outdoor lunch service, and then moved it indoors when the colder weather started.

But most importantly we provided our service to those most in need, throughout the city, day by day and week by week. Hundreds of volunteers, working with our creative staff, turned food that would otherwise go to waste into healthy meals.

A huge thanks to everyone who was part of making this happen. We depend on you, whether you volunteer several times a week or occasionally. Thanks also to all who have supported us financially or helped with fundraising.

We are very close to having made 2 million meals. Everyone should feel very proud of being part of this amazing achievement.

A very Happy Christmas to all our staff, volunteers, funders and service users and very best wishes for the New Year.”

Linda

Fundraising Updates



Just a quick update to say thank you to everyone who has donated and shared our **Winter Fundraising Appeal**, which is now at 85% of the target!

Thank you to everyone who has shared the link, told friends and family, or donated - every mention and share makes a huge difference.

One last push will get us to the £15,000 finish line, so if there's anyone else you could share it with, we would be very grateful!

<https://emptykitchens.enthuse.com/cf/winter-appeal>

This week, we were also pleased to receive confirmation of funding from the Mazars Charitable Trust - some lovely pre-Christmas news and we're looking forward to welcoming some more Mazars team members on site for group volunteering in the New Year.



Gathering Around the Packing Table.....There are plenty of spaces to join us between Christmas and New Year. Please have a look on Rota Central. Can you come along? You can bring along family or friends. It's a tremendous way to spend a few hours and don't think you need to do the full shift, it's great if you can, but if

not why not come along and help for an hour or two? Ideally Let [Martin](#) know in advance if you can but if it's a more spontaneous thing let the team on site know when you arrive. There's a brief form available on the Welcome Desk to complete.



So folks, as the lights twinkle and carols fill the air, we too take a moment to reflect on the year gone by. It wouldn't have been possible without you, our incredible volunteers. Your dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts, as Linda says, have touched countless lives and made a world of difference. We are deeply grateful for every hour you've given, every smile you've shared, and every challenge you've helped us overcome.

To those of you who'll be spending Christmas with us, bringing not just sustenance but hope and joy to those in need, thank you for choosing to share your holiday spirit in such a meaningful way. Your presence is a precious gift, and we are honoured to stand alongside you in service.

As we turn the page to a new year, we do so with renewed hope and optimism. With your continued support, we know we can achieve even more in the months ahead. May the lights of the season illuminate your path, and may the coming year be filled with peace, joy, and boundless blessings.



[Mike](#), [Janet](#) & [Martin](#)

THE NOTICE BOARD

Volunteer Services & Rota Central

Shift availability is now live for **February 2024** on all departments.

Please, if you can, let us know if you're unable to attend for a shift, we know sometimes it's not possible to give us notice, but if you can it's really helpful!

If you are not receiving the Wednesday Rota Central email or you are but the role(s) are not the one(s) you signed up for, do let us know.

If you would like to leave anonymous feedback about volunteering with us, you can always complete [this form here](#). We check the responses regularly.

Let us know if you wish us to add or remove roles, have any volunteering or shift queries or problems with Rota Central or are leaving us.

Contact us via the WhatsApp channel (07918 121606) or to **Volunteer Services** at volunteer@emptykitchens.co.uk Our **Volunteer Coordinator**, Sarah, can be contacted on sarah.hutchison@emptykitchens.co.uk

Health & Safety

There are a number of viruses doing the rounds. If you are unwell or are sensing the onset of symptoms, please do stay home and let us know you are unable to attend. We wish you a swift recovery.

If you have a gastro related illness or are displaying symptoms please remember that we ask you not to attend a shift until you've been symptom free for at least 48 hrs.

Board of Trustees

The next Board Meeting is on 23rd January 2024.

If you are interested in attending future Board meetings then do let the Secretary, Sam, know.... sam@emptykitchens.co.uk

Membership:

We always welcome new applications to be Empty Kitchens Full Hearts Members! As a Member, you have oversight of what we do, you'll influence strategy, and be voting on matters of constitution and governance including electing our Trustees. Members' meetings take place approximately twice a year, so we hope it's not too big a commitment! You can always come and talk to us about it if you'd like to know more before you apply... Registration forms are available from the Welcome Desk.

