

BE ENRICHED



Annual Report

OCT 2021-SEPT 2022

'Enriching communities through food'

CHARITY OVERVIEW

Charity Name: Be Enriched Elements

Charity No: 1170219

Charity Incorporation date: 16 November 2016

Trustees Annual Report for period
1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

Trustees for period: Ngoc Nguyen, Orlando
Wethered, Sarah Coulson, Terence Mitchison

CEO: Kemi Akinola

Accountant: Pamela Kappa, Smart PA

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CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

- To prevent and relieve poverty, and to relieve and assist people from socially and economically disadvantaged communities who are in need by reason of financial hardship, by delivering free community meals and by advancing health and nutrition education for the public benefit.
- To relieve, assist and provide support for people in need by reason of disability or disadvantage by providing free therapeutic sessions for the public benefit
- For the public benefit, to relieve those in need by reason of youth, age, financial hardship or other disadvantage, and to advance education through expeditions carried out in the UK and abroad for the purpose of providing experiential learning and non-formal education and developing individual competencies, skills and understanding.
- For the public benefit, to relieve those in need by reason of youth, age, financial hardship or social or economic disadvantage and to advance education through learning opportunities and non-formal education and mentoring programmes for and with young people, which promote participation and integration in society and the development of key personal skills.


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021-2022 period marked a phase of growth and adaptation for Be Enriched, as we remain committed to addressing the challenges faced by the communities we serve. Like many small organisations, we navigated the aftermath of COVID-19 and confronted the ongoing pressures of the cost of living crisis, affecting both our beneficiaries and ourselves.

During this time, Be Enriched underwent significant transformations to meet the increasing needs of our communities. As part of this evolution, we are in the process of crafting a new five year strategy, which addresses the changing world and the environment we find ourselves in.

Our vision for the future is centred around creating a world buzzing with connections, where people, community, and planet are connected in positive, meaningful, and practical ways. As we approached the conclusion of our 9th year of operation, our primary goal is to forge stronger and more connected communities while alleviating the impact of poverty on marginalised individuals. We aim to achieve this by leveraging our years of experience and reputable standing to provide support and empowerment in two key areas: food access and addressing holiday hunger.

At Be Enriched, we remain steadfast in our commitment to being a diverse organization that fosters unity, promotes knowledge-sharing, and encourages skill sharing and learning.



We are immensely proud of our efforts in supporting five new learners through the Kickstart program, facilitating their entry into the workforce, with some choosing to stay with our organization.

As we look to the future, we cannot ignore the concerning widening inequality gap and the escalating demand for our services. Unfortunately, the UK government has chosen to maintain benefits at an all-time low, failing to keep up with inflation and adequately cover basic needs. In response, we have collaborated with partners on numerous occasions during this period to challenge the reduction of the £20 ‘uplift’ in benefits, advocate for the extension of free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and to increase the value of Healthy Start vouchers, which have a significant impact on countless lives.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers, donors, and partners who have supported, donated, and commissioned our services. With your invaluable contributions, we can work together to build a well-connected and supported world, where we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

With gratitude

Kemi A

FOUNDER/ CEO



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BE ENRICHED



WHAT WE DO?

Welcome to Be Enriched's Annual Impact Report. Our efforts are driven by the belief that by breaking bread together, we can break down barriers of social isolation and cultivate a sense of belonging and understanding.

With a firm commitment to strengthening communities, we have embraced the challenges and triumphs of the past year, all while nurturing bonds that bridge divides.

How we deliver this:

- Community Canteens
- The Food Bus project
- Wandsworth Food Partnership



COMMUNITY CANTEENS

Our community canteens have been a beacon of hope and nourishment, providing a welcoming space for individuals to connect, build relationships, and share in the joy of a nutritious meal. From October 2021 to September 2022, Be Enriched proudly operated two canteens: Castle Canteen in Elephant & Castle and Tooting Canteen (formerly Graveney) in Tooting Broadway. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we remained resilient, ensuring our guests' well-being and the continuity of our vital services.

Adapting Amidst COVID:

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, compelling us to adapt to new limitations until March 2022. Despite these obstacles, our canteens persevered, operating every week with a steadfast commitment to nourishing our guests' bodies and souls during these trying times.

Growing Community Impact:

As the aftermath of COVID-19 and the Cost of Living Crisis unfolded, we witnessed a notable rise in the number of visitors seeking support from our canteens throughout 2022. Our doors remained open, and our services expanded to meet the increasing demand for food security and community connection.



Castle Canteen's Growth:

Throughout 2022, Castle Canteen experienced remarkable growth. At the end of 2021, the canteen welcomed an average of 15-20 guests per session. Today, we proudly serve an average of 25-30 guests per session, a testament to our dedication in catering to the needs of our community.

Tooting Canteen's Milestone:

Tooting Canteen, celebrating its nine years of operation in 2022, continued to be a beacon of support and friendship. The canteen experienced an impressive growth rate, currently hosting an average of 30-35 visitors per session, proving our commitment to nurturing lasting connections.

Farewell to Battersea Canteen:

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Battersea Canteen. Due to the owners' decision to sell the property, we made the difficult decision to permanently shut down the canteen. We extend our gratitude to all the guests, volunteers, and supporters who made Battersea Canteen a place of warmth and compassion throughout its journey.





THE FOOD BUS

In November 2021, the Food Bus embarked on its remarkable journey, bringing hope and fresh produce to marginalised areas in Wandsworth and Lambeth. As a converted double-decker bus, it serves as a symbol of accessibility and affordability, ensuring that nutritious food is within reach for all. This section highlights our achievements, challenges, and plans for the future as we continue our mission to make a positive impact on the communities we serve.

Overcoming Challenges and Fostering Relationships:

Shortly after our triumphant launch, the Food Bus faced unexpected mechanical issues, leading to a six-month hiatus for repairs. Despite this setback, our dedicated team kept their connections alive with the communities we serve.

Collaborating with Brixton Peoples Kitchen, we organized Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) for children and families in receipt of Free School Meals. Additionally, we provided essential food parcels to Wandsworth residents through the Wandsworth Family Food fund, ensuring that no one went hungry during this time of need.

Making a Splash at Local Festivals:

When the Food Bus hit the road again in the summer of 2022, we were eager to bring joy and nourishment to our communities. At Brockwell Bounce, a vibrant family festival in Lambeth, we partnered with Brixton Peoples Kitchen and Too Good To Go UK, hosting food workshops and an unforgettable supper club. We also attended summer fetes with two of the schools we work with, Henry Fawcett and Allen Edwards Primary Schools, further strengthening our bonds with the youth and their families.



Summer of Nourishment and Creativity:

July and August 2022 were particularly eventful for the Food Bus team. In collaboration with Brixton Peoples Kitchen, we organized a week-long Summer HAF, providing meals to 135 children and their parents. During this time, we held engaging workshops on food, drama, and arts & crafts, fostering creativity and learning. Our team took the children on exciting excursions to both Battersea and Burgess Park, enriching their experiences. The collaboration with various members of our community brought storytelling, puppet shows, salsa classes, and Makaton lessons, further adding to the magic of the Summer HAF.

Next Steps and Aspirations:

As we look to the future, the Food Bus remains steadfast in its commitment to creating lasting impact. Our next goal is to increase our returning customer rate, aiming to support 50 individuals at each bus stop, culminating in 250 customers per week. By fostering stronger ties with our community partners, schools, and local organizations, we believe we can achieve this ambitious target.





WANDSWORTH FOOD PARTNERSHIP

The Food Partnership's unwavering commitment to its goals and objectives shone brightly during the reporting period. We remained steadfast in our mission to create positive change and address pressing societal issues. This section highlights some of our notable accomplishments and endeavors that have made a tangible impact on the communities we serve.

Completion of the Food Roots Programme:

A major milestone for the Food Partnership was the successful completion of the Food Roots programme. This achievement represents our dedication to fostering sustainable and resilient food systems. Through collaborative efforts, we laid the groundwork for lasting change and a healthier, more equitable future.

Catch-Up Events and Inspiring On-Site Visits:

During the reporting period, the Food Partnership actively participated in catch-up events and conducted on-site visits to commendable food projects across London. Witnessing the transformative work of organizations like the Granville Kitchen inspired us, reaffirming the importance of collaborative action to address food insecurity.

Confronting the Cost-of-Living Crisis:

In November 2021, a pivotal meeting convened the Food Partnership to delve into critical societal issues. The cost-of-living crisis, compounded by challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic's aftermath, took center stage. Joined by organisations Feeding Britain and SW Leap, we engaged in insightful discussions on their efforts to tackle this pressing matter.

Elevating the Healthy Start Scheme:

A key priority during the reporting period was elevating the visibility of the Healthy Start Scheme. This vital program plays a crucial role in enhancing public health and well-being. To amplify its impact, the Food Partnership collaborated with Sustain and co-signed an open letter addressed to the Health Secretary. This letter emphasized the pressing issues surrounding the Healthy Start system and expressed concerns about the government's insufficient promotion of this essential scheme.

Gratitude and Looking Ahead:

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the collective effort of our partners, stakeholders, and dedicated team. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the Food Partnership's success during this reporting period.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission and vision. Our journey to create resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems continues. Together, we will rise to the challenges before us and build a brighter future for all.



Castle Canteen

The canteen had some regular volunteers and corporate groups attended the session as individual volunteers. AECOM and Spokemead supported the sessions by referring their colleagues to attend the session. Their consistent support helped the canteen to increase the number of volunteers and delivered the session successfully.

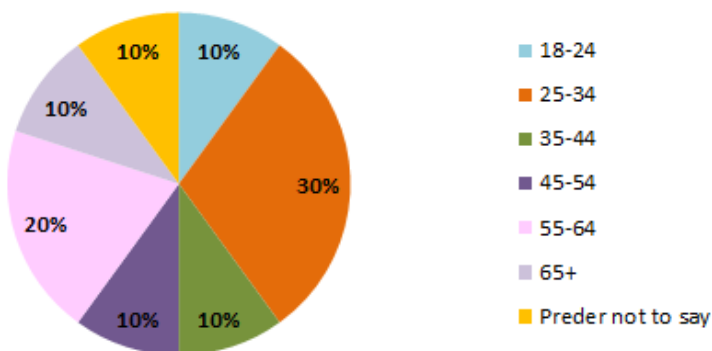
- Total Number of Volunteers: 271

Tooting Canteen

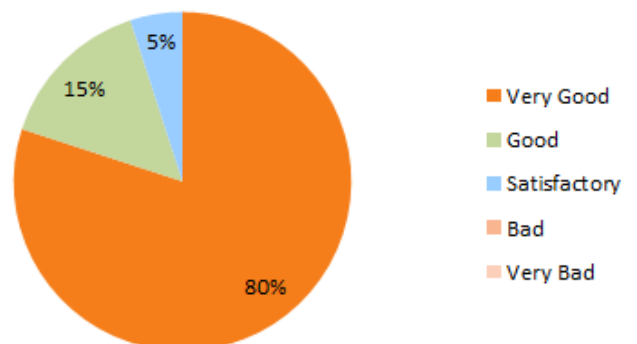
The canteen hosted both regular volunteers and saw an increased numbers of new volunteers who attended the sessions after March (post-pandemic). We also hosted eight corporate group sessions in Tooting canteen, each with at least six new volunteers per occasion.

- Individual Volunteers: 280
- Corporate Volunteers: 8 groups/66 volunteers
- Total Number of Volunteers: 346

Volunteer Ages



Volunteering Experience



"Felt part of a team doing good things. Nice friendly people."

"It is a meaningful work, nice time to work together."

"I love your canteens initiative. Inspired so many people to do volunteering that never thought of doing before! BIG THANK YOU"

"Be Enriched staff and volunteers have a very positive attitude and look to make a positive impact on people's lives."

Customers attend from all walks of life, some attend for the company and to meet people but they also attend because they are trying to rebuild their lives, e.g. recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction, and the Centre offers a friendly face and a chat, and most importantly no one is there to judge them.



" The overall experience was great. All staff were helpful and engaging. The head chef was inspiring and created a fun day for us volunteers. Seeing the impact the canteen makes to those who attend was the best part - services like Be Enriched are so important and being a part of it for one day was an incredibly valuable experience."

"I had a great day helping the local community with a work colleague."
"It was a fun day, produced a great service."

COLLABORATION AND CORPORATES

In our engagement with Be Enriched, we have been fortunate to garner significant support from a variety of stakeholders including corporate entities, local colleges, universities, and other organisations. These invaluable collaborations have provided substantial assistance to our projects.

Corporates

- Newton Europe
- Mayfair Capital
- Blackstone
- Waypoint
- Braze
- Liberty Global
- Axa
- Baringa

Schools/Colleges

- Southwark College
- Orchard Hill College
- LSE
- SBC Youth Group
- UnityWorks

Funders

- Feeding Britain
- Lambeth Council
- City Hall Mayor of London's Incubator Fund
- UNLTD

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

During the specified timeframe, our operations were bolstered by the invaluable contributions of three Communication Interns. These individuals were sourced through the Kickstarter program, a platform designed to extend a six-month employment opportunity to individuals aged 18 to 25 who are recipients of Universal Credit.

Our presence on social media underwent significant expansion, evidenced by our consistent achievement of an average of two daily posts. Notably, we ventured into the realm of TikTok, complementing our existing suite of social media platforms. Moreover, we directed particular attention to LinkedIn, leveraging its potential to engage corporate volunteers effectively. This concerted digital effort was particularly instrumental in propelling our fundraising initiatives forward. Remarkably, our December Christmas campaign yielded over £5,000 in donations, a sum further augmented by matching funds secured for each contribution received.

Our online presence extended to the enhancement of our website, where we focused on improving the visual appeal and comprehensive detailing of numerous pages, as well as the introduction of new sections. These additions encompassed dedicated segments housing Cost-of-Living guidance, health-conscious yet affordable recipes, and a dedicated blog section.

The media landscape also bore witness to our organization's prominence. Be Enriched garnered attention from prominent sources, including a feature on BBC News, participation in three separate radio interviews, and a successful podcast appearance that even brought a donation in support of our endeavors.

A testament to our impactful work was the recognition accorded to the Food Bus, which received high commendation in the Social Value Awards. Additionally, one of our most dedicated volunteers earned distinction through the Wandsworth Civic Award, underscoring their exemplary commitment.

Throughout this period, our success was underpinned by the generous support of our funders. We extend our gratitude to entities such as Feeding Britain, Lambeth Council, City Hall Mayor of London's Incubator Fund, and UNLTD, whose contributions played an indispensable role in enabling our continued operations and accomplishments.



THE FUTURE

As we reflect upon the unexpected challenges posed by the prolonged pandemic, Be Enriched stands resolute, having transformed adversity into an opportunity for growth. The increased engagement with our projects during this time exemplifies the critical role Be Enriched plays in nourishing both bodies and spirits within our communities.

Be Enriched is embarking on a deliberate transition from emergency response to a sustainable model of operation. This shift not only ensures the longevity of our efforts but also enables us to enhance our impact through a more strategic approach.

Amidst our evolution, the heartbeat of our efforts remains the Food Bus. This mobile haven of nourishment and community will persist as a symbol of our dedication to reaching those most in need of our services.

The road ahead is one illuminated by the collective resilience of our community, the dedication of our team, and the potential for transformative impact. Armed with the experiences of the past, the wisdom of our partnerships, and the fervor of our mission, we stride into the future with optimism and purpose.

