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The Manchester Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner is an annual project founded in 2013 by Lemn Sissay. It started as one dinner in Manchester and has grown into a UK wide movement. The vision remains the same that no Care Leaver aged 18 to 25 years feels alone on Christmas Day.

Lemn says, "Many care leavers are sat in flats, B&B's and hostels, away from family, or sofa surfing and some are indeed living on the streets on their own at Christmas. Christmas is a reminder of everything they never had.....I know because I've shared their experiences...Thanks to the work, effort and donations of many generous people we have hosted a scrumptious Christmas meal and created magical days to remember in cities and towns across the country."

For Care Leavers, Christmas Day is not the celebration that it is for the majority of people, it can be the most dreaded, loneliest day of the year. This year will be particularly challenging for Care Leavers, who may be alone in a bed sit or flat with little support around them. The restrictions enforced by Covid 19 mean that this year it is not possible to host a sit-down Christmas Dinner like we have in previous years so we are being as creative and innovative as we can to make the day as magical as possible. There most definitely will be Christmas decorations, dinner, cheesy Christmas tunes and plenty of presents!

Normally we would host the dinner on Christmas Day in a University of Manchester venue with volunteer chefs cooking a traditional turkey dinner. Clearly, this is not possible this year so the plan is for us to take Christmas to our guests. And we need help.

You can get involved in a number of ways:

Volunteer opportunities

19th December. We are looking for a small team of up to 25 people to help wrap our guest's presents, put together hampers and prepare decoration packs for distribution.

Christmas Eve. We are looking for a small team of 20 people with cars who can assist in the delivery of Christmas Eve surprise packs.

Christmas Day. We are looking for a small team of 20 people with cars who can deliver presents, a pre-packed Christmas Dinner and a smile.

If you can help, please email hosts@thechristmasdinner.org.uk

Want to help in other ways? You can make a donation:

Donate to our Crowd Funder:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-manchester-christmas-dinner-2020>

Buy a gift from our Amazon wish list <https://tinyurl.com/MCRChristmasDinners>

To learn more about The Christmas Dinners <http://thechristmasdinners.org.uk> Join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1670920986553483/?ref=bookmarks>

Tell your friends, spread the word.