



THE MANCHESTER CHRISTMAS DINNER: A Magical Christmas Dinner for Care Leavers in Manchester.

The Christmas Dinner movement was founded in Manchester by poet Lemn Sissay in 2013. Dinners are organised by teams of volunteers who work together to provide a special and fun-filled day, along with a most scrumptious dinner on Christmas Day for young adult care leavers who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. As well as a Christmas dinner, guests are gifted presents and treats along the way. **Lemn Sissay** 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...'*

The Manchester Dinner, now in its 9th year is delighted to have a secret venue provided by the University of Manchester. We're looking for volunteers to help us with our planning, preparing and delivering a magical day..

Want to get involved? Read below to find out more.

- **Inviting Guests:** If you're a care experienced young person in the Manchester area, or know someone who is, you can be nominated to attend on the day. Please get in touch ASAP. You can download the guest registration form here: www.thechristmasdinner.org.uk/manchester
- **Gifts for Guests:** We want to make this a special day for our Guests, and we hope to provide some gifts so guests feel special and cared about. If you are an immensely generous company or individual who can help us, drop us a line at mcr@thechristmasdinner.org.uk.
- **Contributing to the planning:** We have a small organising team who coordinate planning transport, sourcing gifts, organising volunteers and event planning. We meet once a month in the run up to December, and fortnightly in December. If you have event planning experience, if you know of fantastic companies who might wish to donate gifts to us or if you have other relevant experience – please get in touch at mcr@thechristmasdinner.org.uk
- **Helping on Christmas Eve:** We need people to help in advance of the day, wrapping presents; peeling potatoes – all the usual preparations to ensure Christmas Day goes with a sparkle. We can promise a fabulously festive environment and Christmas songs aplenty to help fuel the work! If you can spare some time on Christmas Eve and in the lead up to the day and can help us prepare, download the information sheets here: www.thechristmasdinner.org.uk/manchester or email us at mcr@thechristmasdinner.org.uk
- **Hosts on Christmas Day:** On the day, our volunteer **Hosts** play a hugely important role in ensuring the day goes smoothly. We're looking for volunteers who are able to join us on Christmas Day to meet & greet our guests, to give out presents, to lead games and activities and many more little jobs along the way. Have a read of the information sheets available at www.thechristmasdinner.org.uk/manchester or email us at mcr@thechristmasdinner.org.uk

- **Drivers:** Christmas Day Dinner Guests' Christmas start on Christmas Eve with a home delivery of decorations and a Christmas Eve Goody Box. WE also need Drivers on Christmas Day to deliver meals to Guest who can't join us on the Day. Have a read of the information sheets available at www.thechristmasdinner.org.uk/manchester or email us at mcr@thechristmasdinner.org.uk.
- **Please Note: The minimum age for a Hosts and Drivers is 25 and all Christmas Day volunteers will be asked to provide references.**
- **If you think you can support us in another way** – the above list is not exhaustive! Please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!

Finally, to remind you why we're all so passionate about this project, below are some quotes from guests of previous Christmas Dinners:

"I'm so grateful for any presents because they were the only presents I got last year"

"It's such a relief to not have to put up with the crap I usually have to face on Christmas Day, I can't wait"

Thanks for taking the time to read this, **The Manchester Christmas Dinner Team.**

To find out more about The Christmas Dinners, have a look at www.thechristmasdinner.org.uk
The Manchester Christmas Dinner has its own webpage here: www.thechristmasdinner.org.uk/manchester
Join the Manchester Dinner Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1670920986553483>
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