

Creating choice and opportunity for people who are homeless and marginalised...

The Empty Shop

The Empty Shop started in Brazil as an inventive twist on the clothing drive for homeless people. In January we held the second ever Empty Shop Manchester with our pop-up charity shop in the Manchester Arndale.



For ten days we collected preloved clothes from people and businesses across Manchester and ended up with 8,225 items of clothing, weighing nearly 2.2 tones and beating our 2014 total. 24 business and 14 brands got involved, donating the equivalent of £40,000 worth of clothing if sold at their original shop prices. We couldn't have done it without the cooperation of Manchester Arndale, the help of

Clarke Gough and Purple Riot as well as all the generous donations from everyone! Thanks guys!

Read more about the Empty Shop Manchester in 2015 on our blog.

Challenge Manchester

Challenge Manchester is a brand new fundraising event that will take place in June and July this year. It involves four exciting challenges and four local charities, one of which is Mustard Tree.

What's it all about? You choose a charity to donate to; Manchester Dogs Home, Challenge Cancer, Duchenne Now and Us, then you pick a challenge; Peak District Challenge, High Rise Abseil, Crystal Maze, and "Get Out Of Here" and get people to sponsor you. Are you a local business that would like to have a positive impact on the local community? Visit the [Challenge Manchester website](#) for all the details and information on how to get involved.

Soup Run

Mustard Tree has its roots in a Soup Run that the founders Dave & Shona Smith started on the streets of Manchester back in 1993.



Since those early days, the Soup Run has grown massively; we served over 3000 people in 2014 and we now have an extremely strong group of soup run leaders: Patrick, Martin, Christine, Estelle, Jamie, Ian and Victoria give up their Friday evenings to lead our volunteers and look after our guests.

The Soup Run takes place between 7 and 8:30pm every Friday at our Ancoats base, where we serve a hot, nutritious meal to 70+ people; many who live on the streets, in hostels, temporary accommodation or are simply struggling to survive in their current situations. We also use this time to build relationships and provide material and emotional support to our guests.

None of this would be possible without our Soup Run leaders and more than 30 volunteers. We recently connected with [The Warehouse](#)

Project, who very kindly supply a member of their security team each Friday to support our volunteers. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has been involved in the Soup Run; past and present, we couldn't do what we do without you.

Little Hulton Food Club

At the end of February, our Little Hulton Mustard Tree branch launched our first food club.

Working closely with Fareshare; a charity who have for many years provided us with fresh food for our weekly soup run, we are providing a weekly food club to our registered clients, as well as clients who have been referred to us for a food parcel in the past.



For £2 a week, Food Club members are able to visit our shop and choose 10 items of food, 50% of which is fresh. The initial response has already shown that there is a great level of need for this initiative; in the first 2 days 24 clients signed up as members with many giving positive feedback, saying this will be a valuable supplement to their weekly grocery shops, which often don't contain fresh fruit and veg because of the expense. We see this initiative as a significant move away from dependency on our food banks with the introduction of choice, investment and a sense of progression. This month we are looking forward to launching a Food Club from our Ancoats shop.

Welcome to the Team, Jocylin

Jocylin is our Food Club Coordinator and joins us with a varied and interesting background.



In 1999, after working for Great Universal Stores for 22 years, she decided to go to university to get a qualification in Psychology and has worked within the Probation Service, ADS and Housing Associations ever since.

Leadership Faculty

Mustard Tree is in the business of transforming lives. Historically we have provided a variety of crisis intervention measures designed to give practical support to people on the margins of our society: those struggling with poverty, disadvantage, unemployment, addiction and much more.

For the last seven years, our focus has increasingly moved to a model that provides training, mentoring, counselling and access to volunteering and creative activities. This work, delivered in a personalised way, has transformed lives and brought health and vitality to individuals and to families. However, while the work of transforming individual lives is of inestimable value, we recognise that it needs to be supplemented by challenging chronic poverty and inequality, to bring transformation

into society as a whole. We believe the leadership and the full and active participation of those who have come from within the sector is the essential ingredient that will make the difference.

We have already been inspired by the entrepreneurial skills, change making and leadership acumen exhibited by some of those who engage in our programmes and access our support, which has led us to the conclusion that we need to allow leaders the space and the place to grow.

In April we launched a 4 month bespoke leadership programme pilot with our own trained and experienced performance coach, Jez Green at the helm. The programme has a mix of group training sessions, a practical assignment giving the programme participants a genuine opportunity to lead and to influence, and individual coaching sessions. At the end of the pilot we will know what and how to implement leadership development as a core part of Mustard Tree's future mission.

Welcome to the Team, Peter

Peter joined our Salford team (Eccles and Little Hulton) in January. He is based at our Eccles branch

and is already supporting Ian with some creativity and a pair of fresh eyes as we seek to play our part in combatting homelessness and exclusion in Salford.

Beyond the day to day sales in the shop, Pete has worked with Salford Dadz to improve our Food Bank storage, with City West to try and



improve display and storage options on site, and with Salford City Council for Dementia awareness training for the Eccles volunteers. Pete adds, "The highlights so far include the great volunteers, the banter with local Eccles residents and using the Greater Manchester Severe Weather Protocol to get a homeless person off the street and into accommodation during the coldest week in January."

Gill's Story

I joined the Freedom Project through Learn Direct for a period of 4 weeks. I enjoyed participating at Mustard Tree so applied for the 20 weeks Project.

When I initially joined Mustard Tree, I felt really nervous and scared as I



had not been exposed to a working environment for over 8 years. I had spent the past few years in a vicious cycle of drinking alcohol, smoking weed and sleeping. In all honesty, I felt 'a bit lost in life'.

I can openly say Mustard Tree has given me a chance in life which I am ever so grateful. Since taking on the responsibility of working in the facilities management team, I have regained self-belief and developed key skills to remain focused and organised with my time. The project has also helped me improve my lifestyle, I eat more regularly now and I have formed new friends with people who have helped me keep away from bad habits. I feel I have developed as a person. I have become confident and I enjoy working as a team at Mustard Tree. More importantly, I am able to see my future in a positive light.

Eventually, I want to settle down with a nice girl and find a suitable job. I am currently attending a weekly Job

Club at Mustard Tree and I have been allocated a mentor who has become a close friend of mine. Both provisions are assisting with moving one step closer to securing a job. The project has equipped me with the appropriate tools to pursue my future journey.

Adrian writes

"We are grateful to all our friends, volunteers and supporters who make our work possible. If you believe that you are able to help us in more ways, I would love to hear from you; info@mustardtree.co.uk. The regular donations of food, time and money are the life blood of this charity; please do help us to do more."

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