



The charity you help us support..

emmaus **Greenwich**

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Street Souls



Solidarity in the City!



Street Souls is one of the *Solidarity Initiatives* projects led by Emmaus Greenwich that is financially supported by Lloyd's Art Group's donations.

Street Souls is not just a project; it's a bridge connecting diverse communities; a testament to the power of compassion and unity. Street Souls stands as a powerful example of solidarity, not charity. While charity often involves one-sided giving from a position of privilege to those in need, solidarity embodies a different ethos. Solidarity implies a sense of unity, shared purpose, and mutual support among all members of the community, regardless of their circumstances.

As part of their Solidarity Initiatives, Emmaus Greenwich delivers a range of community-based services to reach out to people experiencing homelessness (and those at risk of homelessness), in need of advice, hot food, and signposting to other services. Street Soul's outreach work is delivered by the staff and companions (these are Emmaus residents who have lived with the experience of homelessness) as acts of 'Solidarity' through which the community supports others like themselves. Street Souls operates in settings

such as community centres with the aim of setting up Solidarity Points in libraries and day centres operated across Greenwich.

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Imagine a freezing winter night with no place to call home. For many, this is their reality.

The impact our companions have

A driving force of the Street Souls project is one of Emmaus Greenwich's companions, Luli.

Luli understands the harsh reality of living on the streets and, since re-launching Street Souls after the pandemic, Luli has been advocating for the service to reach out and provide hot food for those in need in the local community. His commitment to cooking delicious meals and serving people in crisis goes beyond the role of a chef. Luli gives people hope and reassurance. His Angel Delights are famous for being a conversation starter - a colourful dessert which helps people to open up and feel connected.



Luli's input into Street Souls service delivery makes us all proud and inspired to act. It shows us all that Solidarity is not a transaction, but an act of kindness and resilience in building a sustainable community. Luli's approach is an inspiration for new companions joining our community. His positive attitude helps people to relax and socialise. Through his work, Luli gives people a chance to help others, learn from others and make a difference in their lives.

People who attended the sessions reported improvement of their well-being. They feel safe and valued. Luli's work has helped us demonstrate need, evaluate our project, and put in a bid for funding to enhance the service.

Since February 2022, Emmaus Greenwich has prepared and served approximately 700 meals. Each session provides a sense of belonging to over 20 people at one given time – encourages conversation, self-help and resilience. For those living in the community, the cost-of-living crisis makes it difficult to cover the cost of a hot meal, heating or getting advice. Street Souls brings people together and helps them to save money on gas and electricity. It gives staff an opportunity to signpost people in need to relevant services and offer advice.



Emmaus Greenwich

Emmaus Greenwich is a homelessness charity, part of the broader Emmaus movement, a network of more than 400 communities located in over 40 countries around the world.

Founded on the principles of solidarity, self-sufficiency, and social inclusion, this exceptional organisation has been a pillar of support for individuals who have fallen on hard times. Emmaus don't just give people a bed for the night; Emmaus offer a home, meaningful work and a sense of belonging.

For many people who have experienced homelessness, losing their self-esteem can be the most damaging part of the experience. Being on your own, with no support around you, can be soul destroying, leaving you feeling worthless. Finding your way out of that situation isn't easy, particularly when the only options available are temporary fixes - the offer of a bed for the night but little to occupy your days.

Emmaus is different. It provides a home for as long as someone needs it and gives people the opportunity to take stock of their lives, deal with any issues they might have and often re-establish relationships with loved ones. There are currently over 850 companions living at 29 Emmaus communities across the UK.

Rather than relying on benefits, Emmaus Greenwich has social enterprises which for the past 30 years have consistently stood by its mission to alleviate poverty and homelessness, warming the hearts and souls of the less fortunate. The revenue generated by the social enterprises pays for our companions' (residents) home,

food and upkeep, as well as support with well-being. This is key to restoring feelings of self-worth, showing companions that their actions make a real difference, both to their own life, and the lives of others.

Alongside our three charity shops based in Plumstead, Lewisham and Poplar, Emmaus Greenwich runs a house clearance service with all proceeds going towards helping people overcome homelessness. We also run regular outreach projects, offering support to some of the most vulnerable people in the capital.



Furniture Aid Project

The impact of Emmaus Greenwich's Solidarity Initiatives goes far beyond the immediate relief it provides via Street Souls.

Emmaus Greenwich is also passionate about addressing furniture poverty and ensuring that everyone has access to a comfortable and dignified living space, regardless of their financial circumstances.

The *Furniture Aid* project aims to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and families who cannot afford furniture by providing them with household essentials. The project helps young people leaving care to furnish their first homes and formerly homeless families moving from temporary accommodation into a permanent home.

Pre-selected packages contain household items (such as a bed and a mattress) and gently-used furniture items generously donated by the local community. Through *Furniture Aid*, Emmaus strives to create a sense of solidarity and compassion, ensuring that no one feels alone in their struggle.



A Christmas message to our friends at Lloyd's of London...

In the spirit of the arts and the warmth of this winter gathering, we invite all art enthusiasts to contribute towards Emmaus' remarkable cause and, in doing so, become a vital part of the transformative canvas that is being painted every day on the streets of London.

Art transcends barriers, bringing colour to our lives, igniting emotions, and sparking change. The same is true of Street Souls.

This initiative transcends the barriers of homelessness, bringing warmth to those in need, igniting hope and sparking a transformation in the lives of those it touches.

With your support, the impact of your contribution will be as profound and beautiful as any work of art you've ever admired. In this winter season, let us remember that we are all members of a global community, and our shared responsibility is to uplift those in need.

**Emmaus Greenwich stands as a beacon of hope.
Even in the harshest of winters, with your help
the warmth of Solidarity
can make all the difference**