

Dear Rowan,

Firstly I'd like to congratulate you in your Master's post at Magdalene College and hope you are enjoying Cambridge. Having lived here for 15 years I also notice we have a common link with Swansea where I also lived for three years.

I am Chairman of a national charity called Foodshare which started in and is based in Cambridge.

The reason I am writing to you is I would like to invite you to visit the Foodshare Garden at the pioneering Milton Primary School, a Church of England school a few minutes from the college.

With your passion for food banks I know that Foodshare and it's UK and global vision will excite you. For the last four years, children between the ages of 5 to 10 have been "Growing To Give" - learning to grow food from seed and nurturing, harvesting and delivering their fresh produce to local charities such as EACH, the Milton Children's Hospice (which Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge is patron) as well as feeding the homeless with their "Grow your own soups" at Jimmy's Night Shelter. Over 7,000 children are now Growing to Give across the UK, inspired by the humble beginnings in Cambridge. Our aim is to grow this to millions.

I could spend many pages telling you the amazing story, but would greatly encourage you to watch the very short news feature by ITV which will really give you a feel for the work the school does:

The First Foodshare School - Milton Primary CoE, Cambridge

<http://www.foodshare.co.uk/cms/2010/06/itv-feature-on-foodshare-school-milton-primary/>

Children Grow Their Own Soup Kitchen:

<http://www.foodshare.co.uk/cms/2011/06/school-soup-kitchen-for-the-homeless/>

Foodshare is now rolling out it's national vision of a Foodshare Garden in every school with the target of school children 'growing to give' £1m of fresh local produce for charities. Through a Taskforce we started, we have also been instrumental in convincing the Government to put Food Growing on the national curriculum.

We have also been doing an outreach pilot with a local Anglican church called Foodshare Neighbourhood - a way for parishioners to become local Foodshare donation points for surplus garden produce. This will have the wonderful bonus of creating a gentle opportunity for those curious about to church to chat with their parishioner neighbour and be invited to go with them one Sunday. With your background and experience I would be very interested to get your feedback on this idea.

Would you be free for 30 minutes to visit Milton Primary, meet with the children and experience the magic of their Foodshare Garden?

We can arrange a visit around your schedule and would be honoured to welcome you.

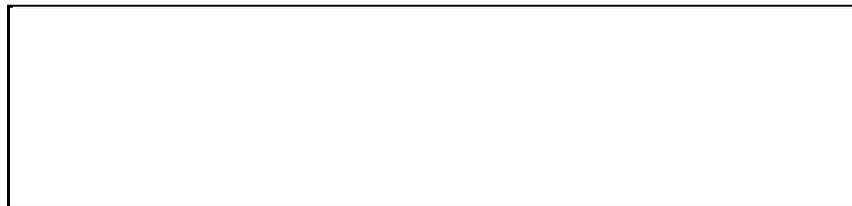
I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Mark

Mark Desvaux

Chairman & Co-Founder



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