



Hello,

Thank you for your interest in supporting the Soup Kitchen! Established in 1986, the Soup Kitchen is a resource for the homeless, elderly, lonely and vulnerable in London. We are a secular organisation providing free nutritious meals, clothing, toiletries and a sense of belonging to nearly 150 people each day. We recently launched Europe's first-ever on-site mental health drop-in centre within a soup kitchen to address our guests' mental health needs. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, we aim to provide a nourishing meal in a safe and warm environment that welcomes everyone.

We do not receive any government assistance and are entirely privately funded. We depend on a combination of private and corporate donations, grants and trusts to feed & support our homeless friends. The pandemic has heightened the many crippling aspects of homelessness that no one should have to endure. Thankfully, because of our incredible supporters, we've been able to provide an uninterrupted, critically needed service.

We are currently receiving an influx of offers to volunteer and we may not have availability for group volunteering until the new year. In the meantime, we want to offer an alternative means of showing your support through our 'Footsteps of the Homeless' walk.

The 4.5-mile walk has been designed to give you an idea of what the average rough sleeper has to endure to find food, clothing, safety and shelter each day. One of our employees will guide your walk, answer any questions you have and explain more about what we do and the people we help. Starting and ending at our centre on Tottenham Court Road, the route takes participants past eight centres for the homeless in central London, some of which have closed because of the pandemic and will never reopen. We provide weighted rucksacks that we ask participants to carry as well. Our homeless friends carry everything they own with them each day, including their homes, beds, clothing and memories. Along the way, you'll distribute some of the contents of the rucksacks to rough sleepers that you meet.

We've designed this walk so that our supporters can get a group together on a date & time of their choice. We hope your organisation can use the walk as a sponsored event involving as many employees as possible. We encourage all participants to set a funding goal & register for the event on JustGiving or a similar platform. Many companies use this as a team-building exercise. We always need general funds and anything raised through the walk would be very helpful.

We hope we can get you involved this way for now and we look forward to welcoming you in to do some hands-on volunteering soon. If you have any questions or need any guidance, please let us know. Thank you again!

Gratefully,

Alexander Brown
Director
The Whitefield Charity SK Corporation

