

Foodlink Foundation

“Replace Hunger with a Smile”!

After a meditation class at one of the five-star hotels in Hong Kong in 2001, Morni Chen casually asked what was to happen to the remaining buffet which could easily have served another 50 people. After being informed that it was to be thrown away, Morni worked with a small team of volunteers to provide insulated containers to a few charities, linking them with a few hotels. These were the humble beginnings.

Vanessa Hwang, was part of this small team. Exploring the huge extent of waste throughout Hong Kong together with a serious need for hunger alleviation among lower-income groups in Hong Kong, Vanessa, with the help of her family and friends established Foodlink Foundation in 2010 as a registered Hong Kong charity dedicated to fighting hunger, building self-sufficiency, and fostering nutritional wellness among those in need, while simultaneously reducing food wastage in hotels and F&B outlets in Hong Kong.

Currently over 1.6 million people live below the poverty line in Hong Kong. Despite being one of the world's richest cities in terms of GDP per capita, we have one of the world's largest wealth gaps. The vision at Foodlink Foundation is to ensure that every needy person has access to a hot, healthy meal. We collect safe-to-eat surplus food from F&B outlets all over the city and deliver to those in need. The role of Foodlink is to connect the supply to the demand as effectively as possible. The benefits are twofold - while reducing hunger we also reduce the pressure on our city's landfills.



Beneficiary - Hot Food Program



Beneficiaries



A Foodlink van

Foodlink works with **112 donors and 100 beneficiary organizations** to serve people in our community who are vulnerable to hunger. These include children, the elderly, low-income families, asylum seekers, and the homeless, among others. In 2017, Foodlink collected 620 tons of surplus food and provided 1.4 million nutritious meals to those in need.

The facts:

- **3,382** tons of food waste are disposed of in landfills each day in Hong Kong - equivalent to the weight of **7.3** fully-loaded Boeing 747s.
- The remaining capacities of Hong Kong's **3** landfills will be exhausted by **2019**.
- Food waste accounts for **36%** of all municipal solid waste in Hong Kong.
- The volume of food waste has **doubled** in the past **5** years.
- **1/5** of the food waste generated daily is from commercial and industrial sources such as hotels, restaurants, wet markets, food production and processing industries.
- The amount of food waste arising from the commercial and industrial sectors has increased steadily in the recent years - from less than **400** tons per day in **2002** to over **800** tons per day in **2012**.
- **920,000** tons of domestic food waste is produced per year.

Source: Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department, Government Statistical Office

13 June 2018



The Foodlink vans