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Ethos Corporate Finance

Asset based lenders cook up a storm at Leeds Ministry of Food



The Yorkshire asset based lending community is making a meal of charitable giving this Christmas with a donation to the Jamie’s Ministry of Food project in Leeds.

Following a charity golf day in June that raised £2,500, Yorkshire Asset Based Lending (YABL) has pledged to allocate a third of the money raised to fund 25 people on low incomes to attend classes at the Ministry of Food centre at Kirkgate Market in Leeds, where they will learn how to cook simple, nutritious meals. YABL is also donating a third of the money to Leeds youth charity The Zone and is currently looking for a third local charity to receive the remaining funds.

Chris Silverwood, managing director of Leeds-based Ethos Corporate Finance and the founder of YABL, which has now raised over £30,000 for good causes, said: “YABL is really pleased to be able to help fund cookery courses at the Ministry of Food. These courses have the potential to vastly enhance the lives of the people who will now have the chance to learn to cook, as well as their families. As an avid cook myself with a collection of more than 500 cookbooks, I’m all too aware of the value of being able to cook healthy meals from fresh, seasonal ingredients, which is an essential life skill.”

The brainchild of Jamie Oliver, the Ministry of Food was set up in 2008 to teach people with no experience of cooking how to create nutritious meals from scratch on a tight budget, rather than resort



media relations and profile

to take away meals and junk food. With six regional centres across England, the Leeds Ministry of Food opened in 2010 and is based in Kirkgate Market. The centre is largely funded by Leeds City Council and operated by Leeds charity Zest – Health for Life. Staffed by five cookery trainers, it provides low-cost classes to teach people how to make simple meals using fresh ingredients sourced from the market, as well as passing on information and tips about healthier eating.

Simon Chappelow, project co-ordinator at Leeds Ministry of Food, said: “Thanks to the generous donation from YABL, 25 people from Leeds who would not normally be able to afford to attend will get the chance to learn skills that could really make long-term improvements to their lives and those of their families.”

He added: “Eating a balanced diet plays a huge part in helping people to keep well, and learning how to cook meals from scratch can have massive health benefits for long-term eating habits. Unfortunately, a lot of people just don't know how to cook any more – it's a skill that wasn't passed on to them by their parents, or they weren't taught to cook at school. At the Ministry of Food we're doing our bit to change that by showing people the simple skills they need to for a healthy and satisfying diet.”

Representatives from Yorkshire charities interested in receiving the remaining funds from the YABL charity golf day should contact Chris Silverwood at cps@ethoscf.com.

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Photo shows (L to R): Simon Chappelow, project co-ordinator at Leeds Ministry of Food with Chris Silverwood of Ethos Corporate Finance

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