

Updated: January 30, 2021

**Sample Answers for Frequently Asked Questions about MMM**

This document outlines sample answers for frequently asked questions about Million Meals Mission. These answers (or close variations of them) can be used on social media, in interviews, on the website, in print, etc. If you look to veer from the content in the answers, please use your best judgement. If you have any questions or need some clarification, reach out to Samay (samaybansal2008@gmail.com).

1. **When did you start?**

Million Meals Mission first started in June of 2016, when our founder Samay, Bansal was on his gap year. The organization began its work in Ludhiana, in North India and that is where its primary focus is still today.

1. **How did you start?**

Million Meals Mission first started with a free food distribution stall in Ludhiana, in the north of India. This free food distribution stall is fairly traditional in the hot summer months to help support laborers and lower income members of the community. It allows them some respite from the summer heat, as well as the opportunity to eat some food and have a drink. We then made our approach more sustainable by partnering with local kitchens that provide food on a daily basis to a smaller pool of individuals.

1. **How can I support if I’m unable to donate?**

Great question – there are many ways!

1. **Join our team**. You can be a team member, or you can volunteer at a corporate level at “MMMHQ”, or at a campus or a community level.

2. **Share our content**. You can share our content through all of our social media channels and tell your friends and family all our work.

3. **Learn about Food Insecurity**. You can learn more and tell your peers about food insecurity and educate the community around.

4. **Bring MMM to your community**. As we continue to grow our reach, we need passionate partners to bring our mission to their communities and schools. If you are interested, reach out to us at info@millionmealsmission.org

1. **What is the team like?**

The team is young and passionate. It is dynamic, it is made of individuals who are truly passionate about making a difference in the communities in which they live. Every team member believes it is their responsibility to do good. We are diverse and represent different cultures and backgrounds. We come from all over the world with all sorts of interests, but we are united by our mission to decrease food insecurity around the world and educate individuals all around the world by food and security.

We are also encouraged by our team of directors of which 66% are women, and 66% are people of colour!

1. **If I get involved, what is the time commitment?**

Short answer – it depends.

Longer answer – It will really depend on your role and your level of involvement. At MMM, we want to make sure that involvement is sustainable for you, so we are more than happy to create a role at any level that works for your time availability. Rest assured no matter what your time commitment allows, we have an opportunity for you, and we would love to have you join us.

1. **If I get involved, will I get paid?**

At this stage, our organization relies on volunteer work. Currently, our only administrative expenses are the technology needed to secure your payments and run our website. Paying our team members is something we are prioritizing heavily. As our fundraising increases and our organization grows, we excitedly anticipate financially compensating our team members for their invaluable contribution

1. **How can I reach MMM?**

**Instagram:** @millionmealsmission (instagram.com/millionmealsmission)

**LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/company/millionmealsmission

**Facebook:** /themillionmealsmission (facebook.com/themillionmealsmission)

**Twitter:** @million\_meals (twitter.com/million\_meals)

**Emails:** info@millionmealsmission.org | millionmealsmission@gmail.com

**Phone:** US: +1 (781) 658-8588 IND: +91 XXXXX-XXXXX

**Address:** XX, XXXXX XXXXXXXXXX, XXXXX, XX XXXXX

1. **How can I set up a Million Meals Mission chapter at my school/university?**

Starting a Million Meals Mission chapter at your university, or any other location within your community is simple. You need to gather a group of people who share your passion to increase fundraising for an awareness of food and security. You can establish it as officially or as unofficially as you'd like. What we request is that you have at least one person as a point of contact that speaks to our director of campus relationships – Insiya Naim. You can then engage in community level fundraising, and community level awareness raising, with support of resources available to you. We're working actively to develop this infrastructure. And as soon as we have specific information, and processes in place, all of this will be available on our website.

Our first two chapters are actually going to be Cornell University, based in upstate New York, and Tufts University located just outside of Boston. Using those two schools we will actually continue to refine the process and offer a really exciting university partnership and chapter type level of engagement.

1. **Why did you choose to fight food insecurity?**

Our founder chose to fight food insecurity because he believes that a core *need* for survival is food and water. Paired with his own passion for food and his love for feeding people, he wanted to make sure that his organization stood for alleviating food insecurity. Additionally, it supports other organizations who work hard to increase welfare, quality of life and life expectancy around the world.

1. **If I’m not based out of the US, can I still volunteer with you?**

Yes, absolutely. We have several roles available all around the world at across all different levels. The most important thing is that you have access to a computer/tablet and an internet connection. In fact, our current team has people from over seven countries, and we work with time zones and varying schedules on a regular basis. If you want to work with us, or volunteer for us, we would love to have you on board, from no matter where you.

1. **Can I choose which project I want to donate my money to?**

That is definitely something that is in the works. For right now, your donations go to the Million Meals Mission general fund, where we will use our discretion to fund the projects we are supporting. At this time, **100%** of your donation is used for our mission. **All expenses** are sponsored by private supporters.

During disaster relief efforts, donations from specific fundraisers will go directly to the advertised cause.

1. **Is my donation tax-deductible?**

If you are a donor based out of the United States, yes! Million Meals Mission is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organistion per the Internal Revenue Service of the United States. Our EIN number is 85-3572572 and if you require a receipt as proof of your donation, please contact us at info@millionmealsmission.org, you will receive a copy of a receipt within three (3) workind days.

All non-United States based donations are not currently tax deductible. However, that is definitely something that we are working on as we establish ourselves in different countries around the world.

1. **How does million meals mission choose the projects its support?**

Our projects fit into two categories: core and disaster relief.

For our regular partners, there is a currently an extensive, in-person vetting process where we spot check the organisation, and if possible, volunteer ourselves to see how their donations are used. We focus on their commitment to the cause, fiscal prudence, and meals / dollar to maximise transparency and impact for our supporters.

Our disaster relief partners are typically larger organisations that deploy themselves in disaster-stricken areas to provide immediate support. In those instances, we advertise their efforts through our social media and create a ‘funnel-like’ campaign where donations go directly to the partners.

1. **Which cards can I use to donate online?**

Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover cards are accepted on our online platforms. PayPal and GiveButter are the two main platforms we use for donations. GiveButter also supports Apple Pay and Venmo.

For donors in USA, we also accept direct bank transfers and Zelle Pay.

For donors in Singapore, we also accept direct bank transfers, DBS PayNow, and DBS PayLah.

For donors in India, we also accept direct bank transfers. In the coming months, we are exploring PayTM, Google Pay, WhatsApp Pay, and UPI transfers.

For donors in the UK, we are exploring other direct transferring options; in the meanwhile, PayPal and GiveButter are active through our website.

Starting in 2021, Million Meals Mission will not be able to accept donations through Venmo directly due to Venmo’s legal restrictions.

1. **How can I set up a million meals mission campus level group if I am outside the United States?**

If you are outside the United States, you would follow the same procedure that group in the United States would do. Please see the answer to question 8: “How can I set up a Million Meals Mission chapter at my school/university?”

1. **How do I donate?**

There are several ways that you can donate. Please see the answer to question 14: “Which cards can I use to donate online?”

1. **Can I fundraise for Million Meals Mission on Facebook, Instagram, or other platforms?**

Soon you will be able to! We are working hard to make Million Meals Mission a fundraising recipient on Facebook, Instagram, Gofundme for nonprofits, etc.

As soon as we have that set-up, donors will be able to assign Million Meals Mission as the recipient of fundraisers and typically be charged no fees for direct transfers.

We are also looking into becoming an Amazon Smile partner. Stay tuned!

1. **What if I don’t have a PayPal account?**

No problem at all, you don’t need one! Our PayPal link allows you to make a one time or a monthly donation without an account. Enter your credit or debit card information from wherever you are in the world, and the system will take care of the rest. You can also use GiveButter or many of the other ways we accept donations. To see a comprehensive list, please see the answer to question 14: “Which cards can I use to donate online?”

1. **What can I do to help?**

That is an excellent question. In addition to donating to our cause, you can also make an incredible difference through non-monetary contributions.

Refer to question 3: How can I support if I’m unable to donate? to learn more!

We are grateful for all of your support, thank you for thinking of us and doing your part to tackle food insecurity.

I get a million for two reasons. One, honestly the flow of mmm million meals mission sounds exciting and it flows well. The others because million has an enhanced tangibility to it seems large, but in the context of the world that is small. So it serves as a great benchmark to work for, but also a very great place when we reach to say that this is now the beginning our core philosophy You don't need a kitchen to feed the world. We wholeheartedly believe that what is million meals and missions?

1. **Why a million?**

According to our founder (From “Our Founder’s Story”):

*Two reasons.*

*First, 1,000,000 feels like a big number. Providing 1,000,000 meals takes work and gave me an aspirational target to work towards. When MMM first started, I told myself, it’s my life goal to hit 1,000,000 meals, no matter how long it takes. I was eager to reach my goal and worked hard whenever an opportunity presented itself to promote the organistion, raise some funds, share my experience, and chip away at that target. Conveniently, Million Meals Mission (and MMM) have a nice ring to them too!*

*Second, if I did reach 1,000,000 meals – which we are on track to do, 216,000 meals to date – I’d most likely have created an organisation that can achieve so much more. Mary’s Meals, for example, provides several million meals each day. 1,000,000 presented itself as a challenge that needed well thought out, intentionally created systems to achieve. As such, 1,000,000 serves as a ‘starting point’ for the work I anticipate we will do in the future.”*

1. **What is Million Meals Mission’s model?**

Our model to create a “lean organisation” to connect donors with grassroot level organisations that support the communities in which they.

Million Meals Mission raises awareness on behalf of grassroots at no charge and no fees. We increase their awareness and the awareness of food insecurity in general to appeal to our donors. We aim to solicit their donations directly and/or encourage them to fundraise on their own behalf. When that is not possible, we request that our supporters learn more about food insecurity and share our cause and content.

**Intended for internal or external distribution.**