



ABOUT SHARE MEALS

Share Meals is dedicated to ending college hunger. Share Meals wants to empower college students to strengthen their own communities through sharing food and aims to accomplish this through technology, activism, and advocacy.

Share Meals was started in 2013 at New York University. An anonymous post from an NYU student on social media revealed that she was relying on \$5 McDonald giftcards, given to her by her grandmother and saved for many years, to feed herself. She was financially unable to access enough nutritious food because she was poorer than she had ever been before. That spoke deeply to Share Meals' founder, Jon Chin, since he struggled with food insecurity throughout childhood and college himself. Due to the anonymous nature, Jon was unable to send food, money, or even good thoughts.

Driven to help, he created a meal sharing digital platform prototype in 24 hours, called NYU Meal Swipes. The prototype was unpolished in many ways but filled a huge gap in the needs of NYU students who are food insecure. In just 7 days, 400 students were able to find a meal and there were enough donations to feed 400 more. Over the summer of 2013, Jon studied enterprise level software frameworks and matching algorithms to expand it beyond NYU. This is when NYU Meal Swipes evolved into Share Meals, showing how even in the early stages, the mission has always been the same: end college hunger, wherever it is.

FOUNDER, JON CHIN

Jon Chin is an educator, poet, software engineer, 2nd degree black belt, and social entrepreneur. His greatest concern is how to leverage breakthrough technology to address the human condition in new, disarming ways. He's taught something something something

FOOD INSECURITY FACTS

- 42% of college students are food insecure
- 9% of students went entire days without eating because they couldn't afford food
- An estimated \$5.8M in unused meal plans every semester at NYU

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Founder Jon Chin, [Winner of the Clinton Hunger Leadership Award 2017](#)
- Founder Jon Chin, NYC Food Policy Center's 40 Under 40 2018 class
- Share Meals, [Grand Winner of the 2017 \\$300K Entrepreneur's Challenge for Social Ventures](#)
- Featured in NYC Food Policy Center's report *The Food System: Innovation and Technology*