

**stelios**

STELIOS PHILANTHROPIC  
FOUNDATION

**Food from the heart**

Φαγητό από καρδιάς

## **Stelios Philanthropic Foundation steps up food aid in Greece as forced bank closures lead to a 25% increase in beneficiaries in just two weeks.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Stelios Philanthropic Foundation, the charity created and run by **easyJet** founder Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou is on standby to increase help to the needy as many Athenians struggle to put food on the table.

Its "Food from the Heart" (FFTH) programme was set up two years ago in Cyprus and one year ago in Greece to help those facing poverty as a result of the financial collapse there.

Stelios was born in Athens and both his parents were born in Cyprus.

Since its start up in the Greek capital just over a year ago daily demand has risen steadily to around 2,700 free lunchtime snacks daily.

The Foundation also operates from four outlets in Cyprus, which has faced similar problems since March 2013 when its banks were forced to close in response to the growing financial crisis.

Applicants register – without discrimination – for an entitlement card which allows free lunchtime snacks every working day – typically a sandwich or croissant – "no questions asked".

Sir Stelios said: "The food from the heart program is very simple and yet very powerful in offering immediate assistance to the neediest. We offer daily nutrition to people who need it...so as to live another day.

It is sad but true that there are so many people in my birthplace that need just that... some food from the heart."

With the uncertainty surrounding this Sunday's referendum unlikely to lead to an early resolution of the Greek financial crisis, the Foundation has not made any forecast as to when its help will no longer be needed.

"I hope that one day we will open the shutters and there is no-one queuing outside. Then we can declare our job done and get out," Sir Stelios added.