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One World Cafe is Starting to Eliminate Hunger in Utah.

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John Lennon had a vision and a dream when he wrote the lyrics "Imagine all the people sharing all the world," in the song "Imagine."

Lennon added his prophetic words in the chorus with "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one / I hope someday you'll join us and the world will live as one." Lennon was not the only one. There are many people who strive daily to change this world for the better by sharing their knowledge and talents with their community.

Denise Cerreta, owner and creator of One World Café and founder of One World Everybody Eats Foundation, is one of those dreamers.

Cerreta grew up in Canton, Ohio. She was a member of the local 4H club from the age of 9 until she was 19. She never dreamed that that a small town girl would have such a life-altering epiphany.

"It was an inspired idea. It was a Field of Dreams experience and I didn't talk myself out of it," Cerreta said of the idea behind One Word Café.

When a customers walk into the cozy café, they are greeted by one or more of the friendly staff. The uniqueness of the restaurant starts with the fact that there is no set menu. The cook/server behind the counter picks up a plate and asks the customer what they would like to eat, as well as how much. The point behind this model is to not waste food. Customers can get as many servings as they would like. At the end of the meal, the customer pays what they feel the meal was worth by dropping their money into a wooden box. If the customer cannot pay, then they can volunteer at the restaurant.

"The mission is to eliminate waste of food, eliminate hunger on the planet and to serve organic food," said Cerreta. "I rely on people paying a fair price for the food they eat. Profitably is not as high because organic food is more expensive. People sometimes give more because they like our philosophy, but we certainly don't expect it. It is all anonymous."

Another way Cerreta has separated her restaurant from the rest is she pays all of her employees a living wage. This belief is very important to her.

"An adult cannot live very easily on minimum wage. All of the employees are paid with a living wage. A lot of people in the food industry don't do that. I start my employees out at $10.00. Plus, they get free meals whether they are working or not."

Cerreta's hope is to spread this concept worldwide. Cerreta has shared her philosophy with numerous media outlets, as well as with anyone who wants to listen. She is currently in Denver helping to start up another café there that will implement the same model as the café in Utah.
Cerreta also started the non-profit One World Everybody Eats Foundation organization so she could set up

Cafes all over the world. She is still waiting for the non-profit status, but she has not let that "tiny" detail slow her down.

"If you have an idea and you want to do it, do it now. That's what I'm doing," Cerreta said.

Cerreta is also in the middle of writing a book called "Spirit in Business."

"It's a combination of how to effectively run a business driven by a spiritual philosophy. How to find your higher purpose in life and incorporate it. Find your higher cause and run your business with that as the underlying factor not what is usually the bottom line. Also, there is a how-to manual on how to set up a One World Café," said Carreta.

Cerreta believes that people are ready for this change. She believes that people are starting to look at food in a new light and are ready to take accountability for their actions. Cerreta knows that this was an inspired idea.

"I truly believe I am doing exactly what I should be doing. I feel lucky everyday to be a part of this. Seeing it work and that it can work. People are doing it and wanting to do it."

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