

YOUR CHARITIES

Syed aims to serve up a £200k charity treat

In the past five years restaurateur Syed Rahman has helped charities raise more than £100,000.

Now, with a new restaurant in the city, he's aiming to put on even more fund-raising nights to raise twice that amount in the next five years.

In 2007 when Syed opened his Wigston curry house – Cuisine of India – he immediately made a name for himself with the regular charity nights he held.

People wanting to hold fund-raising events simply invited diners who paid £15 each to eat – and £8 of that went to the chosen charity.

Cash was also raised from

by **TOM MACK**

auctions and raffles held at the charity nights, as well as from the profits taken at the bar.

Syed's new restaurant is Chef & Spice in Hinckley Road in Leicester's West End, where he aims to continue that tradition.

It has an all-you-can-eat buffet with Indian, Italian, Chinese and English food, seating 150 people.

This time around, Syed is proposing the same deal for charity nights – but with £9 going to charity.

He said: "It's been great to raise so much money at Cuisine of India and I'm going to keep doing it as long as I'm standing."

"In the next five years we

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should be able to raise £200,000 at the two restaurants and I have high hopes for Chef & Spice.

"It's in a very good location and I think it will be very popular for charity nights."

"I should think we can raise £200,000 in less than five years, really."

In the past five years, Cuisine of India has hosted 120 charity curry nights, raising money

for about 30 different charities including the Loros hospice, the Menphys centre for disabled children, Motor Neurone Disease Association, The Meningitis Trust and MS charities.

David Peake, Menphys' fund-raising manager, said: "We tend to have one or two nights at Syed's restaurant each year and they can raise up to £1,000."

"It's very good what he does as we just wouldn't have these events if he didn't make his restaurant available and I'm sure other charity events wouldn't take place if it wasn't for him. It's excellent curry, too!"

■ To organise your own charity night, call the Wigston restaurant on 0116 281 1926 or the new Chef & Spice restaurant in Hinckley Road on 0116 242 2240.



PICTURE: CHRIS GORDON / LECG20130509

POTS OF CASH: Syed Rahman, who has raised £100,000 charity and now aims for another £200,000 within five years