



ONE CHICKEN FEST

HATCHING POSITIVE CHANGE!

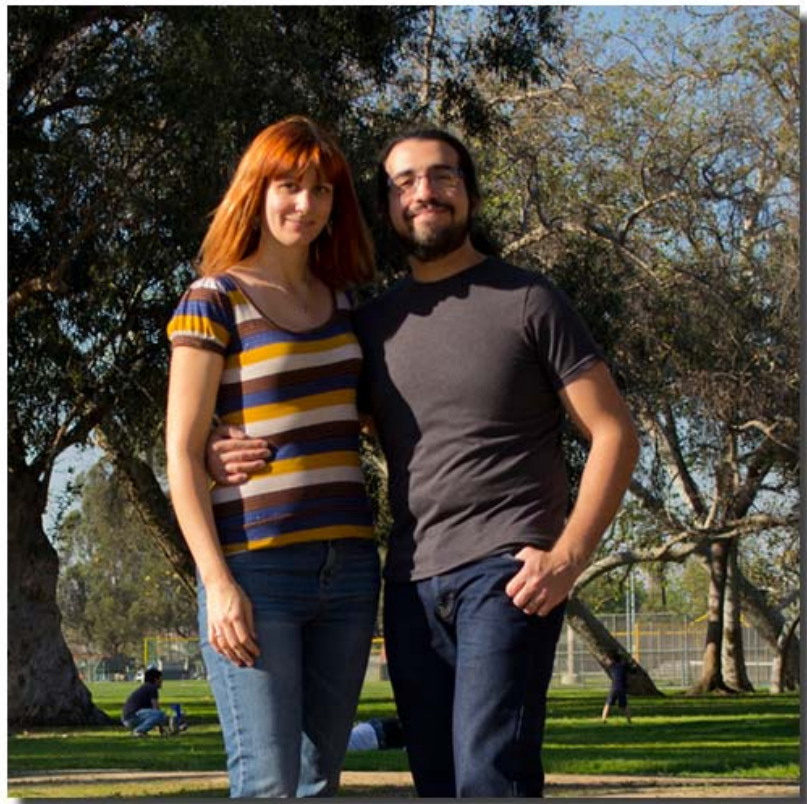


ABOUT

Deirdre & Charles Wiley, co-founders of One Chicken Fest, are pictured here at the site of the first festival.

What is One Chicken Fest?

One Chicken Fest is a festival aimed at connecting people to the organizations that can help us create positive change in the world. The idea is that "just one chicken" can make a difference, and our aim is to encourage everyone to do what they can, when they can. As problems like global warming and factory farming are starting to become a constant worry and threat to the planet, we'd like to do our part to get everyone involved in working together to make strides in a more positive, healthy direction that takes into account the health of the planet as part of our own health and future.



Charles and I have been thinking about doing a festival of this kind for some time. We care a lot about helping the planet, and we had noticed that there are a lot of great organizations and programs that many people do not even know about. There are groups that many people would be interested in - groups to help conserve water, groups to help us dispose of electronics safely, groups to help us recycle more of our trash - even groups helping with things as specific as spaying and neutering our pets! However, a lot of the people who could really benefit from these services might not even know they exist.

So how do we get people - who, like most of us, are not necessarily thinking about the environment every day - nonetheless connected and involved in the movement to protect our planet? This question led us to the idea of a planet-based festival, which would be fun and

entertaining and would draw people in with crafts from local artists, sustainable local food, and interactive booths from local and national organizations.

So...what's with the chicken?

The idea of the "one chicken" actually came about through an argument - or, as Charles would put it, a "discussion." Like a lot of people these days, money is pretty tight in our household, and I have always been a bargain hunter. At the same time, we have often talked about "voting with our dollar" as much as possible, and realize that there are larger costs to buying cheap foods full of high fructose corn syrup, and cheap meats from factory farms pumped full of hormones. However - it's hard to keep that in mind sometimes when you are living paycheck to paycheck. One fateful day, Charles had done the grocery shopping and brought home a roaster chicken to make sandwiches with (anyone who knows my husband would be unsurprised that a big part of our grocery bill goes toward various sandwich fixings). I was a little annoyed, looking at the chicken that he brought home, to see that it was some fancy-schmancy, no hormones, free range creature that cost twice as much as the usual chicken that I would typically buy. After some "discussion," I asked in annoyance: "What difference does one chicken make, anyway?" To which Charles replied: "That's all it takes - just one chicken. It makes all the difference in the world."

Well, okay. I had to admit he had a point. It was then and there that we decided to call our festival "**One Chicken Fest.**" That's when the whole idea got a little more real.

One Chicken Fest Today

While the idea of One Chicken Fest was born a few years ago, it took awhile to get to this point. It was always something that we would do "someday." Someday when we had more money, more time, more connections, more... something. However, we finally realized that if we continued to wait for the perfect time to do this festival, we would never do it. And just like the whole idea of this festival, we realized that it's better to get out there and do what we can now - never mind that it's not perfect, never mind that it's only one small part of what needs to be done. That kind of thinking will continue digging us deeper, instead of looking for a way to start filling in the hole and climbing out.

The First Annual One Chicken Fest took place at North Hollywood Park on April 18, 2015. We had a great time and hope to see you at the next one!

Please stop by the next One Chicken Fest to share and discover some new ways of making a difference in our lives, our community, and our world! We aren't here to complain about what you could have done, we aren't here to shame or blame or preach. One Chicken Fest is about discovering that one, helpful change to implement in your life - and then maybe one more. It's about getting the word out about all of the good in our communities - maybe about your organization - and how we can leverage knowledge, support and personal connections to make even more of a difference in all of our lives. It will be fun, casual, and informative, and it will be a good time. Please join us in hatching positive change!

Stay tuned for the date of the next One Chicken Fest. We also hope to see you around our local community! If you'd like to let us know about YOUR One Chicken, tweet about it and use #OneChicken!

Charles and Deirdre have been married seven years and share a passion for the environment, the arts and doing unusual things. As previously mentioned, Charles also has a passion for sandwiches. While not planning a festival, Charles is a full time musician (www.charleswiley.net) and Deirdre works in communications and marketing.