



# SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY (SOC) SC049428

December 2024	REPORT 2024
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## **FOREWORD: DOUGLAS MCINTOSH, CHAIRPERSON**



I am privileged to have spent another year as chair of this award-winning charity, supporting our community (SOC), where we continue to offer support and opportunities via a wide range of activities and services. I am proud of the way that we have faced the challenges and that we offer continuous services supporting people within the communities of Hillhouse, Blantyre and beyond.

Thanks to the dedication of our fundraising team and the commitment of our volunteers, we have expanded our services and enhanced our relationships with local schools and community partners.

We look forward to building on our success and will be here for the foreseeable future. Come along and see what is on offer, you will be welcomed.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We offer continuous training and development opportunities to our brilliant group of volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our charity. We thank every one of them for their continued commitment to the progress of Supporting our community.

We welcome and encourage anyone who would like to volunteer or to become involved in our charity to contact us to discuss our volunteering opportunities.

Last years featured volunteer, Brooke Carracher, was a finalist for Vaslan annual awards in the young volunteer category.

## **CORRIE REIS**



I have been volunteering at SOC for the last 4 years and it has given me the opportunity to help others and encourage like minded people get out and meet people in the community.

I love helping run and organise the family activity nights and it has been great to watch the kids grow and progress, some of them are now volunteering and helping run the events and activities.

The family camping trip is my favourite event, watching everyone have the chance to get involved in activities they may not have otherwise. Christmas events always go down well, we all put so much effort into making it special for the kids. All the smiles are the best part of it, that's the best part of volunteering.

## **PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

We are always looking for projects locally and engage with other community groups whenever possible. Our Woodwork group, who are working in partnership with seniors together to establish a Men's Shed, constructed, and installed garden benches in the Udston and Glenlee woods.

We have an ongoing project with local High Schools, collaborating with young learners on woodwork projects and helping them gain a dynamic youth qualification.

Thanks to the support of our community and funding from OPOP, we able to fund and install a defibrillator at the heart of Hillhouse.

The countryside ranger has helped us establish a bushcraft program, where we introduce young people to the woodlands around us, we will run this every summer.

Our knitting class have continued to build on their poppy display in Asda, whilst running projects for the Neonatal Unit at Wishaw General and supplying syringe driver bags to the Beaston Hospital. These projects were all sent letters of thanks, and the group plan to continue supporting worthwhile causes.

The community garden and growing initiative began in early 2023 and we have established a working group with the local congregation at Hillhouse Parish and St Ninians & St Cuthberts parishes.

Our annual walk of hope has grown year on year, with members of the community leaving our hub at 5am to start the 5km walk, before returning to the hub as the sun rises behind them. This is part of our ongoing commitment to reduce the stigma of mental health and encourage people to talk to each other.

We offered I wide range of family and intergenerational activities in the community supplemented with day trips and a weekend residential camping trip to Wiston Lodge. Trips to outdoor and indoor adventure centers were well received, with the annual trips to the Edinburgh Festival and a Christmas pantomime proving a hit once again.

Our back-to-school event was supported by local hairdressers providing their services for free, this event was supported by a large donation of school clothing from our local Asda supermarket.

<b>Mission: Improve health and wellbeing across our community</b>
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## **TRAINING**

Providing opportunities for training and development are always at the heart of classes, this year we have managed to focus on four different strands of community learning.

Firstly, we provided our annual training in Protecting Vulnerable Groups. This focuses on providing our staff, volunteers, and community members with up-to-date

training in both Child and Vulnerable Adult protection protocols and makes sure we always have best practice policies in place.

Secondly, we are working on environmental projects to help create a sustainable future for all. We hosted a reuse and a recycle workshop, learning how to make the most of our existing items. The expanding growing project it has taught us how to grow fresh produce and to make better use of our environment.

Thirdly, we were able to provide opportunities in holistic therapy training. 16 community volunteers were certified in Indian Head Massage. Previous participants in Reiki come along for group share sessions, to keep up their skills.

Finally, we have hosted accredited health a wellbeing training including our annual safe talk course. We encouraged some of our young people to come along to a mini medic's course, and they said it was good. Some of our volunteers completed the MHFA for young people and we feel this course offers a valuable opportunity for everyone involved.

### **ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND CLASSES**

We have a diverse range of ongoing programmes in the centre and workshops and are always keen to add more to encourage and support our community.

The pottery has been progressing well, and they make an interesting selection of items, some of these are then sold at markets and fayres to help generate funds to keep the class sustainable.

The new art class has been a success, and we plan to run that at least once per year.

Coffee mornings are on every Tuesday are inclusive to all, we have an open-door policy and encourage people to drop in.

The outside ins group, of young adults with additional support needs, are growing weekly. They come together every Wednesday and get involved in a variety of activities, including cookery, baking, and the occasional movie afternoon. They set their own plans and goals giving the opportunity to offer support when required.

Our family activity nights are well attended and although we have a waiting list, we try to accommodate everyone when possible. We change the programmes on a weekly basis, sometimes its crafts, games nights, a movie night, or the dreaded painting.

We host traditional needlecraft classes in sewing, crochet, and knitting, on a Thursday. These classes are ideal for any level and even if you don't want join in, you are still welcome to drop in for a chat. We have a woodwork class on Monday, in partnership with Seniors Together, where we encourage men to come along and get involved.

Our Gardening group is on every Monday and as the growing area continues to progress, we hope to have more sessions. With the additional funding we hope to have all the infrastructure in place by the summer of 2025.

During the School holidays at Easter, Summer, and October we offer additional classes for the families, woodwork and crafts are always the most popular.

## ACCOUNTS

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the year: 6th April 2023 - 5th April 2024

Receipts	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds This Year	Total Funds Previous Year
Partner Projects		4,157.54	8,000.00	12,157.54	140.00
Donations		10,428.79	-	10,428.79	570.80
Fundraising activities		2,093.48	-	2,093.48	2,161.60
Grants	4	18,014.38	54,260.00	72,274.38	80,844.95
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>34,694.19</b>	<b>62,260.00</b>	<b>96,954.19</b>	<b>83,717.35</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Salary, Tax, NI Pensions		-	28,556.18	28,556.18	27,089.72
Rent, Utilities and Legals		206.49	5,000.00	5,206.49	6,397.76
Garden Upgrades and maintenance		6,200.00	16,182.87	22,382.87	1,292.52
Tools and Equipment		-	975.97	975.97	386.68
Internal Upgrades and maintenance		-	714.57	714.57	1,068.03
Consumables		657.18	-	657.18	275.10
Training		1,245.87	4,500.00	5,745.87	6,115.25
Miscellaneous		13.72	-	13.72	231.28
Summer Programme		629.50	2,643.65	3,273.15	2,787.38
Halloween Events		-	251.31	251.31	21.97
Christmas/ New Year Events		478.11	-	478.11	578.47
Easter Events		1,307.80	-	1,307.80	607.68
Car		8,361.07	-	8,361.07	-
Governance costs	5	-	-	-	0
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>19,099.74</b>	<b>58,824.55</b>	<b>77,924.29</b>	<b>46,851.84</b>

**Surplus/Deficit**

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

15,594.45	3,435.45	19,029.90	36,865.51
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**CONTACT DETAILS**

Supporting Our Community (SOC)

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**Funding & Developments**

In 2024 we were supported by multiyear funding from the National Lottery community fund and the Robertson Trust, giving us the opportunity for sustainability and long-term planning. We were once again successful in receiving a grant from the community health and wellbeing fund, administered by Vaslan. We were granted unrestricted funding from the Postcode Lottery, allowing us to quickly react and adapt when required. The Asda Foundation have provided grant funding to support the community growing area. We carried out some fundraising activities, selling football cards, bingo nights, and Donna's Walk of hope, and we have at SOC have been privileged to receive funding from several national providers, to compliment fundraising and donations from our volunteers and concerned individuals and charities.

We sincerely wish to thank all our supporters. They are:





**Voluntary Action**  
South Lanarkshire  
Putting the Voluntary Sector FIRST



**TESCO**  
Bags of Help

