



# SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY (SOC) SC049428

December 2023

REPORT 2023

## **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 of the ongoing cost of living crisis enabling us to offer a continuous service while 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.

## **BROOKE CARRACHER**



I'm Brooke, and I have been a volunteer at SOC for almost 3 years. I enjoy getting involved in the variety of the programs and classes on offer, both as a volunteer and participant.

I attend the pottery class on a Monday evening, working with a group of other community members, we all support and encourage each other, we and are learning how to make a lot of different items, some as gifts and others with specific themes around the traditional holidays. I am also involved with knitting, crocheting, and sewing groups which take place on Thursdays. This class works on things to support our community partners and some larger appeals, ranging from stuffed doorstops in the winter to the syringe driver bags donated to the hospitals. The coffee morning is on every Tuesday and is a great place to meet new people, pop in for a cup of tea and have a chat.

I started volunteering for the family activity nights where we work very closely with children of various ages, and their family members. Working with family groups

continues to help those taking part feel valued members of the community We meet every Wednesday night from 5pm to 7pm and try different activities each week, including cooking, baking, crafts, and movie nights. We also have some trips on throughout the year, days out and a weekend residential camping trip. I look forward to continuing supporting all the projects that are going on, especially working with the younger generation. I absolutely love helping Mark with any charity night or events that are happening, but I need to retain myself as I sometimes take over a little too much xxx

## **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.

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 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 a 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.

**Mission: Improve health and wellbeing across our community**

## 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 continue to offer our Dynamic Youth Award courses. We offer young people from Holy Cross an opportunity to take part in a six-to-eight-week programme, where the work within our workshop on a woodwork project, gaining lifelong skills and a qualification. The project will be expanded to include other schools as we grow.

Thirdly, we were able to provide opportunities in holistic therapy training. The first course was Reiki, where participants completed a six-week course and completed level one and two. They were keen to learn more about other holistic treatments and engaged in a Crystal healing course, once again completing both level one and two training in the therapy.

Finally, thanks to our partnerships with NHS Lanarkshire, and St Andrews ambulance service we were able to offer an introductory class in CPR and defibrillator training to our family group.

## 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.

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 Friday, in partnership with Seniors Together, where we encourage men to come along and get involved. Our Gardening group is on every Friday and as the growing area continues to progress, we hope to have more sessions.

The guitar classes are still ongoing, but with a smaller more advanced group of learners.

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 2022 - 5th April 2023

<b>Receipts</b>	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds This Year	Total Funds Previous Year
Partner Projects		140.00	-	140.00	28.39
Donations		570.80	-	570.80	367.75
Fundraising activities		2,161.60	-	2,161.60	2,839.61
Grants	4	19,336.41	61,508.54	80,844.95	62,940.00
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>22,208.81</b>	<b>61,508.54</b>	<b>83,717.35</b>	66,175.75
<b>Payments</b>					
Salary, Tax, NI Pensions		-	27,089.72	27,089.72	24,714.60
Rent, Utilities and Legals		1,397.76	5,000.00	6,397.76	6,879.18
Garden Upgrades and maintenance		292.52	1,000.00	1,292.52	1,699.45
Construction of Outdoor Centre		-	-	-	11,507.99
Tools and Equipment		86.68	300.00	386.68	1,267.62
Internal Upgrades and maintenance		568.03	500.00	1,068.03	1,753.06
Consumables		275.10	-	275.10	578.82
Training		1,115.25	5,000.00	6,115.25	4,668.07
Covid 19 Response		-	-	-	862.60
IT Equipment		-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous		231.28	-	231.28	332.52
Summer Programme		287.38	2,500.00	2,787.38	1,945.06

Halloween Events	21.97	-	21.97	265.41
Christmas/ New Year Events	78.47	500.00	578.47	813.80
Easter Events	107.68	500.00	607.68	1,281.86
Clothing Grant	-	-	-	279.49
Governance costs	5	-	-	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>4,462.12</b>	<b>42,389.72</b>	<b>46,851.84</b>	<b>58,849.53</b>

**Surplus/Deficit**

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

<b>17,746.69</b>	<b>19,118.82</b>	<b>36,865.51</b>	<b>7,326.22</b>
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**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Funding & Developments**

In 2023 we able to secure 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 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:



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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