



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Gate Charity

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the gate

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Chair statement 2017 OSCR return

The Gate has continued to be recognised in 2017 as a 'community hub' for help and support within our county. We work closely with our service users, partners and referrers to provide practical help and support when required. While our work remains focused on supporting the most vulnerable in our area, we also introduced some projects in 2017 aimed at people living alone, and individuals and families on low incomes. We have reached this group through our Community Café, where we serve cheap, nutritious food and give a warm welcome to all. We have expanded our School Uniform Bank which provides good quality recycled uniforms or new items when available to 318 children, an increase of 50% on last year. In addition, other activities for example, a bread making project, 'Gig at the Gate', and other peer led groups like 'Books and Blether', 'Knit and Natter', gives an enjoyable social focus to our services and helps to alleviate social isolation.

Demand for our Foodbank has increased year on year and this year has provided approximately 78,200 meals to some 3865 people, a third of whom were children. Our Soup Pot served over 1500 meals, including providing a Christmas dinner to almost 50 people. 21 home starter packs were delivered to vulnerable people and families moving into new tenancies.

We are fortunate to have the support of grant giving organisations that support our staff costs and overheads, however, the vast majority of the food, household items and clothing used in our projects is donated by local residents and through volunteer led food drives and fundraising activities. The Gate Charity is extremely grateful for all donations, whatever the size. We know the incredible impact that each and every donation makes to support the most vulnerable in our community and we never underestimate the effect of even the smallest contribution.

I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks for the support of our loyal and committed donors and volunteers, without them we could not provide what is needed within our community.

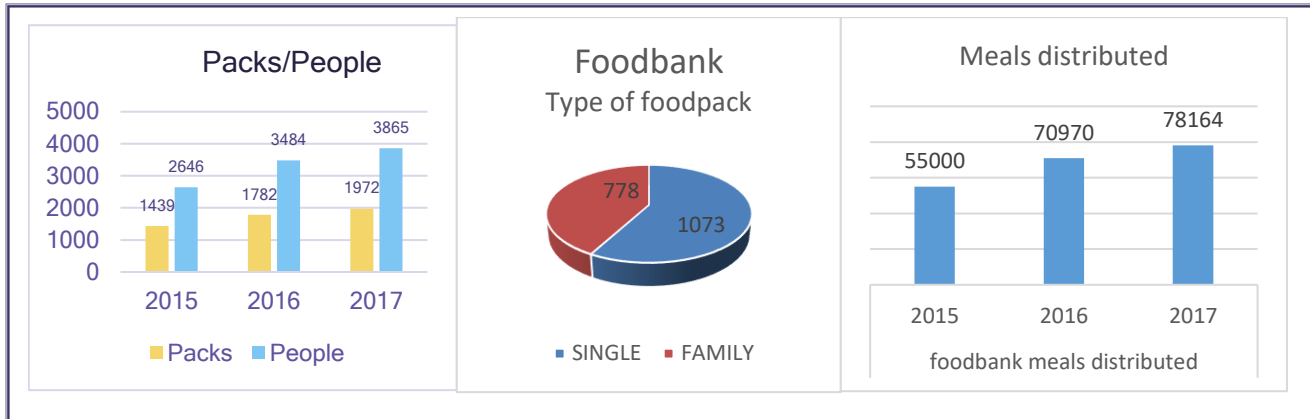
Whilst we have achieved a considerable amount this year, together with our staff and team of around 70 volunteers, the Charity continues to have exciting and ambitious plans for future services and projects in 2018.

Evelyn Paterson

Chair

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Operating Highlights



- 23 tonnes of food were donated to our Foodbank
- 3865 people were helped with food parcels
- 1361 of these were children
- 78164 meals were provided through our food parcels
- 1,520 customers attended our Soup Pot
- 48 people attended our Soup Pot's Christmas lunch
- 21 people received a Home Starter Pack (serving 22 adults & 18 children)
- Around 20 people attended FVRC's Recovery Café every week
- Around 1250 people enjoyed lunch at our Friday Cafe
- 318 children were provided with school uniforms and equipment via our 2017 School Uniform Bank

'People get more than just warmth in their stomach when they visit The Gate, they feel warmth in their hearts too, thanks to the Gate Volunteers!'

'You always know when you come to The Gate, things will get sorted, things will get better.'

'I would be very lonely without the Gate, I need the contact, I would be very sad without the volunteers in my life'.

Service users feedback

On behalf of the board, management, staff and most importantly, the service users, of Signpost Recovery, I would like to say thanks to all at the Gate for making this a better Christmas for some of Forth Valley's most vulnerable families'

Norrie Moane, Referrer feedback

Project Highlights

As well as our main projects listed above, the Foodbank, Soup Pot, Community Café, Starter Packs and School Uniform Bank of which we are extremely proud we also continued to introduce new projects or run social activities to provide practical support within our community.

Bread Making Workshops

We were delighted to work in partnership with the CTSI, Forth Valley Recovery Community and Riverside Bakery to secure funding to operate bread making courses well into 2018. The purpose of the workshops was to help people in recovery learn new skills whilst socialising with others. The first phase was made in partnership with the Recovery Café group, encouraging bread making as a part of the participant's recovery process from addiction, and in the future we are hoping to expand the programme to a wider audience and to integrate it more into the community". CTSI's Business Manager Anthea Coulter says *"We hope that participants will go on to teach others, bake together and possibly sell their wares in the future"*.

Annual School Uniform Bank, our partners and volunteers who helped support over 300 local children. Thank you to all who donated uniforms and equipment for every school in Clacks.



Gig at the Gate

With funding secured from the ASDA Foundation, we have purchase sound equipment to ensure that the 'Gig at the Gate' is a permanent activity. Around 30 people enjoy dancing and a sing a long on a regular basis. This project specifically helps people to socialize in a safe, fun and welcoming environment. The dancers above show how the 'Slosh' is done!

Books and Blether

A group of around twelve people meet monthly to discuss their latest read. Alloa library support the group by loaning books that encourage discussion and debate.

Knit and Natter

Another peer led social group where people can meet together and enjoy sharing skills and friendship. There is something for all abilities and if knitting isn't for you there are board games to keep you occupied.

Volunteer Highlights

2017 saw approximately 70 volunteers play a vital role in the operations of our Charity, from Trustees, project leaders, project workers to general helpers, all are extremely valued and are key to everything we do. Our team are enthusiastic, hardworking, dedicated and show great empathy for vulnerable people in our community.

The Gate, and particularly Marie Brownhill, works hard to show our appreciation to the team for their contribution, this year several of our volunteers were recognised externally for their contribution, which was very special, and much appreciated by all concerned. Clackmannanshire Council awarded one of our youngest volunteers, Lily Christie, 'runner up' in 'The Young Citizen of the Year', a very prestigious award, presented at the Council Chambers by Provost Gary Womersley. In addition, Lily also received the CTSI Super hero award of 'Young Volunteer of the Year' (runner up)! At only 11 years old



this was a great achievement! Robyn Brooks received 'Newcomer of the year' award and Anne Johnstone, Howard Townsend and the late Ernest Sangster received 'Certificates of Thanks' for their contribution, at a wonderful presentation event in Lornshill Academy.

Volunteering at the Gate is not always about glittering ceremonies, as you can see from the above photo, our volunteers work hard in all conditions. Andy from the Yorkshire Building Society helps David, another regular volunteer, clear up in dreadful weather conditions!

Grateful thanks to Howard Townshend

We were sad to say goodbye to Howard and his wife Shannon, who recently moved to England. Both supported a number of our projects, but Howard's dedication to keeping our finances in check was very much appreciated. He embraced the role of Treasurer with great zeal and enthusiasm and for his service to The Gate we are very grateful. Howard is now using his financial skills to support another Faith organisation, The Olive Branch in Lancashire that does very similar work to us. Thank you and good luck in all you do in the future!!



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

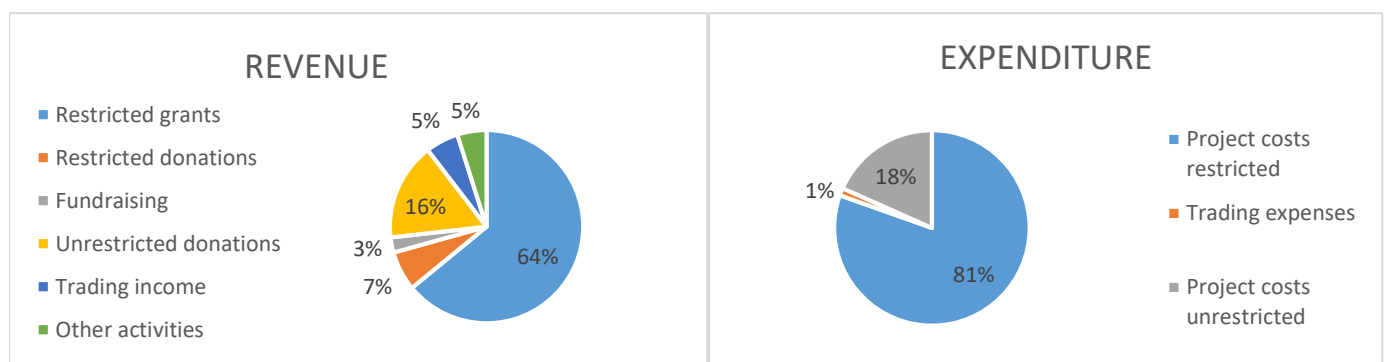
REVENUE	2016	2017
Restricted Grants	£ 54,533	£67,491
Restricted Donations	£ 1,931	£ 6,961
Unrestricted Donations	£ 16,052	£17,258
Fundraising	£ 4,550	£ 2,673
Trading income	£ 7,363	£ 5,805
Other activities	£ 1,615	£ 5,153
Bank Interest	£ 21	£ 0
TOTAL REVENUE	£ 86,065	£105,341

EXPENDITURE

Project Costs restricted	£ 30,753	£70,496
Trading Expenses	£ 1,645	£ 1,052
Fundraising	£ 36	£ 29
Project Costs Unrestricted	£ 43,016	£16,078
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 75,450	£87,655

Highlights

- With the help of grant funding we were able to meet current costs of running the Centre and the projects.
- The increase in donations reflects the heightened awareness within the community of our aims and corresponding increase in support.
- The increase in expenditure on project costs is predominantly due to substantial spending on capital refurbishment and increased spend on foodbank and soup pot food, to meet demand.
- The 2017 grant funding awarded ensured that overheads were covered.
- Capital refurbishment and project grant applications are ongoing.



Word from the Treasurer

Welcome to our new Treasurer

Anne Marchant is a retired Moths Teacher and has been a local resident for over 16 years. She has volunteered for the Gate for over 3 years, baking our delicious pies for the café amongst other duties.

Anne keeps herself very busy, as well as her Treasurers duties and her baking skills her other hobbies include amateur dramatics, skiing, and walking. Anne is passionate about helping others and shows this through her efforts for the Gate and her church work as Elder at Dunipace Church.

The Gate continues to be an effective support to the community, and has attracted new grant funding to help cover the cost of essential aspects of our service.

The shift in balance between project costs covered by restricted and unrestricted funds reflects the fact that grant funding (restricted) paid for a much larger proportion of salaries and a number of other overheads in 2017 than in 2016.

The cost of gas and electricity is always significant, and due to a renegotiation of our contracts we were able to make substantial savings on these bills in 2017, although we have to bear in mind that in 2018 these prices have increased again.

A grant of £7500 from Clackmannanshire Council towards a new boiler, increasing our

income in December 2017, but not spent until early 2018 accounts for the increased surplus at the end of the year.

This increase in grant funding combined with an increase in generous donations from businesses and individuals in the locality has enabled us to meet the costs of running various projects beneficial, and sometimes vital, to the vulnerable. The need has increased, and fortunately in 2017 our income increased to help us meet that need. However we know that more can be done and continue to look for savings and avenues of revenue to improve the service we offer.

Anne Marchant, Treasurer

Our Vision

'To serve the needs of the community by offering practical help and choices for positive change. We will provide a safe and welcoming environment that is open to all, particularly the vulnerable, marginalised and homeless. We will work to provide opportunities to build confidence, release potential and realise aspirations that all have an equal place in our community.'



Bingo night



Recovery café



Soup Pot

Thank you to our funders, our project partners, our supporters and our loyal volunteers, together through our projects, we will make a difference to people in our community!

the gate

