

# St Nicholas Care Fund

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Newsletter – December 2023



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## ***My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,***

Thirty-one years ago this year, the late Cardinal Winning established the St. Nicholas Care Fund in response to the poverty and need he witnessed throughout the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

The St Nicholas Care Fund has, over the years, provided support to people and communities throughout the Archdiocese and beyond who are facing hardship – vulnerable groups and individuals affected by addiction, loneliness or discrimination; refugees fleeing conflict and the impact of climate change, and people without homes or families of their own who are struggling to survive this winter.

Support is provided to all regardless of their religion, their race, or their circumstances.

The Care Fund relies mainly on the generous donations of the people of the parishes, so this year, once again, I ask you to dig deep and give what you can so that we can continue to direct our support where it is most needed – grants to community groups, schools, and churches providing practical support to individuals and families in need ... People in our midst. People who view the upcoming feast of Christmas with fear and anxiety rather than hope and joy.

This year more than ever before, the cost-of-living crisis and international events have meant a surge in requests for assistance from the Care Fund - widening health inequalities, food inflation and diminishing financial support has badly affected those already struggling and it is the money you entrust to us that enables us to continue our work.

This Advent - and every Advent - we focus on the figure of John the Baptist who 'prepares the way for the Lord'. We can do something similar by helping those whose need is greatest. They too are waiting for the Lord, and we can be His heralds in bringing them assistance and care.

Thank you for your continued generosity and trust.

Yours devotedly,

+ Most Reverend William Nolan

Archbishop of Glasgow

**Parish  
Collections &  
Caring Sunday  
£41,772**

**Donations  
and  
Regular giving  
£13,096**

**Advent  
Boxes  
£4,442**

**Donations  
from  
Schools  
£1,638**

## HOPSCOTCH CHILDREN'S CHARITY

£2000

"We were awarded £2,000 from the St. Nicholas Care Fund to provide activities for disadvantaged children aged between 7-12 years from the Glasgow area. The grant allowed the children to choose from a selection of activities from segways, horse riding, tubing, and indoor climbing. The children who visit our holiday centre, Ardvullin House, may suffer because of parental substance abuse/parental mental health issues/parental chronic or terminal illness; as a result, they act as a main carer for close family members. Others suffer due to domestic violence, bereavement, poverty, and neglect. With increased mental health issues and lack of face-to-face contact due to covid, these young children need our support more than ever. The activities develop their self-confidence, peer relationships and teamwork, allowing them to challenge themselves and ultimately be children again and have fun.

Most of these children will never get the chance to experience some of these activities due to the context in which they live and the socio-economic challenges within this. The break and activities have such a positive impact on their health and wellbeing as they can leave so many stresses and worries back home. Having fun and achieving goals is so crucial to the children's development. We cannot thank you enough for giving the children the opportunity to be carefree, come out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves in activities they would not otherwise be able to experience back home."

## ISARO COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

£4124

"The grant Isaro Community Initiative received from the St. Nicholas Care Fund was spent on different activities for children from asylum seekers and refugees' families in Glasgow. Parents and their children had fun together and enjoyed outings to a Safari Park (36 children), the Burrell Collection Museum (24 children), and Strathclyde Park (36 children). 20 children were offered tickets for a cinema trip. 5 iPads were purchased and distributed to children newly arrived in Scotland. This meant that the children could participate in learning activities offered by ISARO via zoom. Moreover, those iPads are still helping them to do school assignments and homework.

The trips helped everyone to discover places to go for fun, with both parents and their children enjoying good quality time together despite their financial limitations. The families were grateful for the activities as they helped to improve their learning, their mental and physical wellbeing. In total 121 kids benefited from the grant."

## WEEKDAY WOW FACTOR

£2823

"The grant has been crucial for us to co-create and co-design fun and exciting activities to motivate our members, who suffer from dementia, to engage in healthy and social activities to



keep active and connected to others. The grant has allowed us to purchase the right DJ equipment to enable us to motivate our members and their support network to move to pop music and therefore enhance their physical health. This pop music and movement opportunity has helped to enhance the mental health of

community members. It provided an opportunity following the COVID19 lockdown for community members to meet new people and reconnect with community members they knew previously. The grant really helped us to deliver on our mission to enhance physical, mental, social, cognitive health and wellness and to reduce



loneliness, isolation, health and leisure inequalities and ageism. It also helped us to get back to working in opartnership with NHS, Social Work, Third Sector and private providers to benefit our local communities. BIG Thank you !!"

## RCAG YOUTH

£6400

"The grant helped fund young pilgrims from Glasgow to attend World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon where 1.5 million other young Catholics gathered to pray with Pope Francis. This was an inspiring experience for our pilgrims and many of them have shared how it

has been transformative, and in most cases 'life changing'.

"It was a life changing ten days which strengthened my faith and gave me memories and friendships that I will cherish forever."

The whole experience saw our young people grow in their understanding of who God is, and as a

result, who they are in Him: willed, loved, and necessary! They had many wonderful experiences of prayer and the Sacraments and found a real sense of belonging in the Church.

It was also a time of great joy and freedom for the young pilgrims, with many realising that they do not need to conform with the way the world thinks and nearly all of them being unburdened through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.





“A very joy filled and eye-opening experience sharing the faith with millions of other young people and making lifelong memories.”

“Confession! It gave me the courage to finally go more often after not going for years and I felt so much greater about myself after it.”

In conclusion, this pilgrimage was more impactful than we could have hoped and now that we have returned, we are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for our 64 excited pilgrims who want to continue to journey together, and to explore how they can serve in their parishes and local communities.

Thank you for all that you do and the time you give to this work and a massive thank you to all benefactors of the fund, we have been most blessed by your partnership!”

### ST. FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

£2000

“The grant meant that we were able to fully fund 8 places on our P7’s residential trip. During their trip the children learned how to be independent and how to balance risk and adventure.

They took part in a wide range of inclusive activities such as abseiling, archery, canoeing, climbing, kayaking, orienteering, rafting, team challenges, hill walking, cycling and water sports, which they would not have been able to have, had they not had the funding to go on the trip.

They have made memories that will last and helped to bond friendship groups as they move into the next phase of their education journey at secondary school.”

### PARTICK PLUCKERS

£528



“The grant enabled us to build up our resources by purchasing ukuleles, music stands, tuners and song books. These resources mean that we can continue to entertain people living in care homes or attending day care centres. We are very grateful for the support given to us by the St Nicholas Care Fund”

### NEWLANDS PARK

£790

“The grant transformed our annual Fete and activities from being accessed only by local and able participants, to being more inclusive. We reached out to refugees and asylum seekers. When they attended the fête, arriving by hired coach (funded by St Nicholas Care Fund), they participated in tennis coaching, boules, and a free second-hand book stall. The children and their parents listened to professional storytellers from The Village Storytelling Centre. The children were able to climb inside a fire service appliance provided by Strathclyde Fire Service and meet fire service personnel. All the group had a substantial afternoon tea, courtesy of Morrison’s supermarket, in our VIP tent.

The grant also paid for Glasgow Disabled Scouts to receive tennis coaching from a Level 2 coach, a Level 1 coach, and a volunteer co-ordinator,

thus ensuring our activities become more proactively inclusive for people with physical disabilities, mental ill health, and with additional support needs. St Nicholas Care Fund’s support is helping us to open up the park to people who wouldn’t otherwise have the resources or confidence or practical ability to enjoy this greenspace.”



### CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

£4000

“The grant allowed us to provide a contribution towards lowering the overall cost of the Pilgrimage to Lourdes for every pupil. We were also able to purchase hoodies and t-shirts for the group meaning that this potential cost was not passed onto parents or lessened the need for fundraising for these.

Throughout the week we participated in activities such as the tourist train which pupils enjoyed. The contribution assisted in the overall cost of this.

The grant helped us as a school to assist parents and carers who are already struggling during these difficult times and meant that other streams

of fundraising could be focused on assisting specific pupils with more support therefore making the Pilgrimage more affordable and lessening the stress on parents / carers to budget to be able to pay for this trip.



Feedback from the pupils

and staff has been very positive. Pupils liked the fact that they were able to get a hoodie and t-shirts that they could continue to wear after the Pilgrimage reminding them of the experience they had. They also remarked that they enjoyed the “Little Train” and the fact that it allowed them to see areas to revisit in their own free time.

Without the support of the St Nicholas Care Fund the staff, pupils and parents would have struggled to meet the costs of the additional materials and activities for which funding was requested. We would not have been able to support specific pupils with additional directed support as these funds would have had to be used to buy hoodies etc.”

## GRANTS AWARDED OCTOBER 2022 – SEPTEMBER 2023

St Denis's Primary School .....	£1,000
Our Lady of Loretto Primary School .....	£1,000
St Angela's Primary School .....	£1,000
St Francis's Primary School .....	£2,000
Faith in Community, Scotland .....	£15,000
St. Bartholomew's Primary School .....	£165
Pollock United Soccer Academy .....	£1300
Partick Pluckers .....	£528
EKTA Elderly Forum .....	£1545
Boots and Beards .....	£880
Urban Youth Project .....	£2500
RCAG Youth Team .....	£6400
St Margaret's OHR .....	£2600
Benview Early Years Centre .....	£130
Crookston Community Group .....	£2000
ICONS Boxing Club .....	£500
Families of Auchinairn Coming Together.....	£1440
Safety Awareness .....	£1000
Made With Love (JMJ) .....	£2000
Listening Heart Project .....	£2000
St Brigid's Primary School .....	£1800
Indigo Childcare Group .....	£1250
Cerebral Palsy Scotland .....	£2640
Church of the Immaculate Conception .....	£4020
St Paul the Apostle RC Church .....	£2000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>£56,698</b>

*For more information about any of the projects supported by the St Nicholas Care Fund or if you would like to know about how we can support a small, local charity in your community contact the Pastoral Care Trust Co-ordinator, Sheena Kenny.*

You can now make an instant donation to the St Nicolas Care Fund by using your mobile phone camera to scan the QR code.



TO DONATE PLEASE SCAN HERE

Scottish Registered Charity:  
The Pastoral Care Trust-The St Nicholas Care Fund (SC 029832)



St Nicholas Care Fund also awards FAITH IN COMMUNITY SCOTLAND an annual grant of £15 000 so that they can continue to support faith groups throughout Glasgow with small grants for community self-help initiatives.

“We are delighted that the St Nicholas Care Fund has once again decided to support the work of FiCS in the coming year – this is really appreciated, especially given the difficult financial circumstances facing everyone now.

We used the funding towards the small grants work in 2023. Recently we've had a focus on climate justice, cost of living crisis and work with refugees and asylum seekers and the grant meant that we could continue to deliver support this work. Although the grants we give now are small (usually around £500) they allow local groups to respond to immediate needs, try out new ideas and build relationships with people in their communities in a variety of different ways. The ongoing support enables Faith in Community Scotland to unlock additional funding from Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal Church, the Quakers, and others.”

*Iain Johnston, Director.*



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