

St Nicholas Care Fund

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Newsletter – December 2024



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In 2024, the St. Nicholas Care Fund has continued to bring hope and practical assistance to individuals and families facing hardship. But also to:

- Vulnerable people battling addiction, isolation, and discrimination;
- Refugees fleeing from wars and the effects of climate change;
- Those without homes or families who are struggling to survive in the harsh realities of today's world

These are not distant strangers but people in our own communities who may view the upcoming Christmas season with fear and uncertainty, rather than the joy and hope that should mark the birth of our Saviour.

The challenges of this year have been immense. Requests for assistance from the Care Fund have surged, and it is only through your donations that we can meet these needs.

So, I ask once more for your generosity, trusting that together, we can continue to direct our aid to where it is most needed—providing grants to community groups, schools, and churches that are at the forefront of helping those in need.

As we prepare for the Holy Year of Hope, let us turn our hearts to the figure of John the Baptist, who proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord." We too can prepare the way for Christ by reaching out to those in need and giving them the gift of hope.

I thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and trust.
Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ Most Reverend William Nolan
Archbishop of Glasgow

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In just a few days' time, the Holy Father will go to the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and strike it three times asking for admission. The Door will then open, the Pope will pause in prayer, and then pass through, thus inaugurating the Jubilee Year of 2025.

He has decreed that the forthcoming 'Holy Year' should be marked as a 'Jubilee of Hope' and that we should live it as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

More than three decades ago, moved by the deep hopelessness and poverty he saw within our communities, the late Cardinal Winning established the St. Nicholas Care Fund to provide aid and hope to those in need throughout the Archdiocese of Glasgow. His compassionate response to the suffering he witnessed has continued to bear fruit, and the Care Fund remains a vital lifeline for many.

**Parish
Collections &
Caring Sunday
£40,732**

**Donations
and
Regular giving
£55,905**

**Advent
Boxes
£1,856**

**Donations
from
Schools
£650**

REVIVE MS SUPPORT

£2524

“The grant has enabled us to refurbish 4 therapy bikes and therefore expand our physiotherapy circuit to full capacity. The therapy bikes are invaluable to MS sufferers helping to improve and increase their mobility and strength. Since receiving the grant, 241 clients have had sessions in the gym to use this much needed equipment. We have found a greater number of participants can access our physiotherapy service and we can provide more exercise opportunities for wheelchair users. This has led to improvements in the physical and emotional wellbeing of our clients.

By enhancing capacity in our exercise classes, we have been able to add value to current NHS services. We are extremely grateful to the St. Nicholas Care Fund for the funds to service and refurbish our MOTO med exercise therapy bikes.”

Bonnie Thomson, Grants Officer



INDIGO CHILDCARE GROUP

£1250

“The St. Nicholas Care Fund grant has enabled us deliver 3 family stay and play sessions themed around Halloween, Science and Christmas - 92 people attended the sessions, including 53 children. The grant also enabled us to deliver several other activities including sensory play; arts and crafts; songs and stories all aimed at encouraging families to engage, learn and play together. Furthermore, the grant allowed us to buy small vouchers to include in hampers distributed to 48 families to help alleviate financial and social exclusion over the Christmas holiday period.”

Laura Francis, Business Development Manager



ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

£1800

“The grant allowed us to offer House Trips as a reward for positive behaviour in St. Brigid’s Primary. The House Families within St. Brigid’s encourages teamwork, respect and taking responsibility. Each child knows that their individual contribution to their House impacts how well their House will do and we see this reflected in many ways such as holding a door open for an adult, befriending an isolated child in the playground, or showing excellent effort with a piece of work in class. The grant also allowed the children of St. Brigid’s the opportunity to experience opportunities not normally open to them due to family finances such as going to the cinema, soft play or ten pin bowling.”

Joseph Woods, Acting Principal Teacher

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH

£4020

The grant helped the Immaculate Conception RC Church and Maryhill Parish Church to provide support to some of the most deprived communities in Glasgow. We will do this by offering a Warm Welcomes Club at both churches over the winter months. These regular sessions offer a heated space, hot food, and a network of support to people isolated because of the covid lockdowns. The evaluations we carried out with people attending indicated they were very grateful to have this new facility, and some said it encouraged them to return to church.

Our family breakfast club is based in St. Gregory's Parish which is also home to a very busy foodbank. It is therefore allowed us to provide hot food to a significant number of vulnerable individuals. The grant has allowed us to operate the club throughout the year which means over the school holidays children have been able to have a warm breakfast. We have provided games and other activities to give the participants the chance to work in the garden and for some to volunteer at the foodbank which means they learn new skills and improve their self-confidence.

We have also expanded our Men's Breakfast Club and we are delighted that the numbers attending continue to grow. Those who attend are often in a vulnerable position and feel supported and encouraged by the wider group. Several new friendships have developed as a result. We are grateful to have received such generous support from the St Nicholas Care Fund, the grant has made it possible for us to develop our work and promote it to the wider community under our motto "all are welcome, and none are judged."

Catherine McGhie, Volunteer.

CROOKSTON COMMUNITY GROUP

£2000

"Receiving the award from St. Nicholas Care Fund enabled us to purchase essential food items which we distributed through our foodbank to people facing hardship and hunger.

The initiative has been hugely successful and the feedback we received from our attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Coming from a place where they experienced feelings of isolation and shame to realising that they are not alone in this crisis and that support is available. We also sign posted some to other service providers as appropriate.

This award has meant that we could support 70 families to be able to feed themselves with dignity, be better able to manage their finances, feel less isolated and lonely and have improved mental health and feelings of wellbeing."

Nasreen Ali, Chairperson.

CEREBRAL PALSY, SCOTLAND

£2640

"With the generous support of the St. Nicholas Care Fund we have installed a new boiler when our original boiler failed. This meant that we could continue our service and provide a safe environment for therapy for children and adults with cerebral palsy to take place. Cancelling therapy would have had a huge impact on our service users, however this grant has allowed us to continue to deliver the support and therapy our service users need."

Alex Robertson, Fundraising Manager.

ST PAUL THE APOSTLE COMMUNITY HUB

£2000

The grant from St. Nicholas Care Fund was added to the money we raised from local businesses, a Sunday Mass second collection and anonymous donations for the start-up costs for St Paul the Apostle Community Hub – A Wee Blether and Bite. All the money raised was put to good use. In terms of start-up costs, it helped us with such items as installing a serving kitchen, putting in a separate wash hand basin, purchasing cleaning equipment and other essentials required to meet our registration commitments with Glasgow City Council, catering equipment such as soup kettles, front of house equipment such as volunteer aprons, cake tongs, cake stands, tablecloths. The grant also assisted with other costs, most notably publicity materials.

The grant has played a key role in the success of our community hub and we would not have got the Hub off the ground without it. We recently carried out a survey of service users and received the following feedback:

"Always a nice welcome. Gospel in action." "This is wonderful and has helped me with loneliness" "Thanks from my Christian heart for this mercy provided by St Paul's!"

Tony Valbonesi, Volunteer.



**GRANTS AWARDED
OCTOBER 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2024**

Lourdes Secondary School.....	£1000
Wise Mentoring	£2000
Revive	£2524
St Mungo’s Primary School.....	£2500
St Joseph’s and St Joachim’s Foodbanks	£2436
St Roch’s Secondary School.....	£2500
Maryhill Activity Directory.....	£2000
NotAlone	£2000
St Mirin’s Primary School.....	£2000
St Marnock’s Primary School.....	£2500
Parents for Change.....	£2322
The Scottish Pantry Network.....	£1500
Cranhill Development Trust	£3385
Youth Initiative Scotland	£2200
Glasgow Sling Library.....	£1200
Time for Tully	£1500
St Mary’s Primary School PTA	£1598
Jeely Piece Club.....	£1000
Total	£51,165

For more information about any of the projects supported by the St Nicholas Care Fund or if you would like to know more 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)

PARENTS FOR CHANGE

£2322

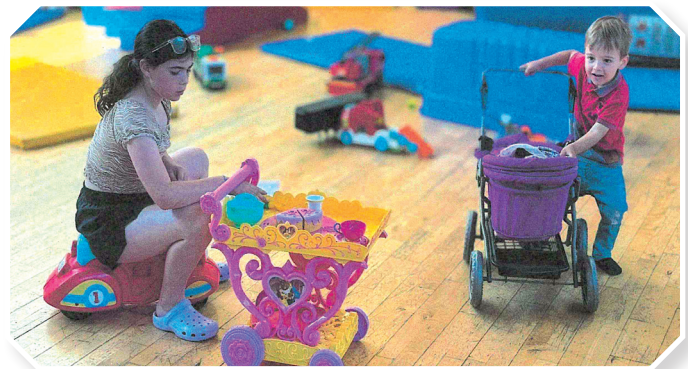
The grant was to support the creation of a club for children with additional support needs in the Helensburgh area. It will offer these children an opportunity for social inclusion and fun alongside peers and a space for parents to link with one another in an informal setting for peer support and to combat social isolation. The Sunday Funday club is now running on a fortnightly basis with regular attenders and is really meeting the needs of all who attend.

The children are enjoying art activities, sensory play fun including bouncing on the bouncy castle, rolling around in the ball pool and getting their hands in and around the tactile sensory items all purchased using the grant received from the St Nicholas Care Fund.

Parents and children alike have commented on their appreciation of the club – children appear happy and excited on arrival and throughout their play session, playing alongside or with their friends, and parents are forming links and familiarity offering that informal ‘check-in’ and enjoying a shared play experience with their children.

Many thanks to the St Nicholas Care Fund for your support in helping us get this club off the ground.”

Kelly Church, Group Treasurer.



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