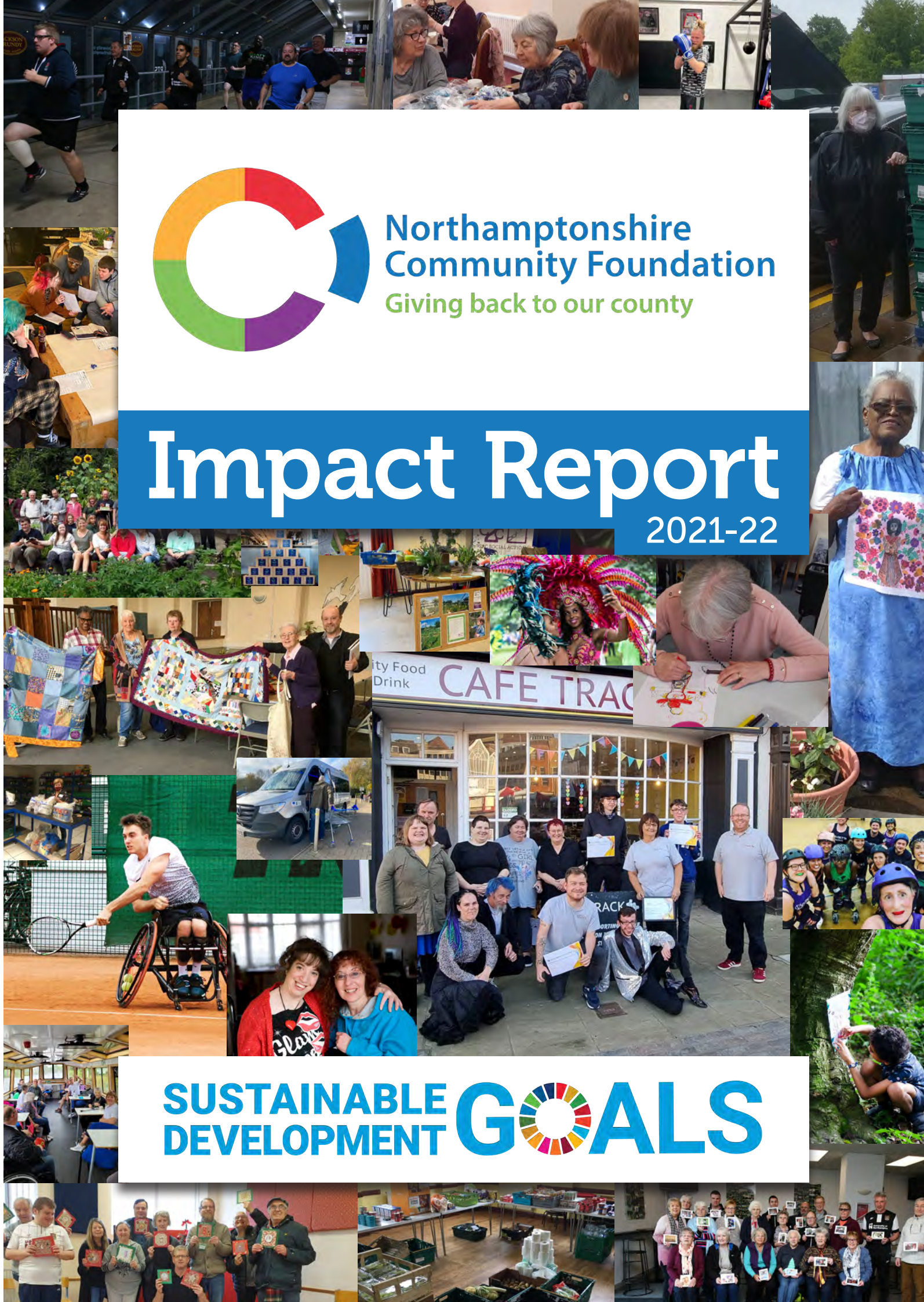


Northamptonshire  
Community Foundation  
Giving back to our county

# Impact Report

2021-22



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Welcome

## This is Northamptonshire Community Foundation's impact report covering our giving over the last year.

These are challenging times for many living within our local communities amidst an uncertain and worrying era in the world. It's at difficult moments like this, that it's reassuring to know we are connected to a global network of 1800 community foundations. Each is striving hard in their locality to harness the power of local philanthropy and generosity to ensure small charities, community groups and caring residents can help support and sustain services that change lives and provide a safety net.

As part of a UK Network of 47 place-based experts and community foundations, we are nationally the fourth biggest grant maker. We work alongside each other to ensure we share innovative ways to champion the cause of place-based philanthropy and be at the forefront of good grant making.

Here at Northamptonshire Community Foundation, we are privileged to see the difference made every day through the generosity of donors, the hard work of brilliant local charities and collaboration with local partners who want to provide local solutions to tackle poverty, support good health and well-being, reduce inequalities and build sustainable and thriving communities.

We know all too well the significant impact that voluntary community groups and smaller charities have in making a big difference to the well-being of local communities. They provide an extraordinary range of activities and projects that connect, help people, and change lives: from community choirs to counselling services, friends of parks to food aid projects, sports clubs to support services, village hall committees to volunteer action. They make up

our local civil society and help build a sense of place and belonging for residents.

We're so proud of Northamptonshire Community Foundation's donors and their generosity and it is what makes our work continue. Thank you to all, whether you are a personal, public or business donor. Your belief in the fact that small charities and community groups do and can make a big impact makes all the difference in the world. Last year we awarded £1.2 million in grants, thanks to our generous donors and partners who support our work. Sadly, we know that the very groups and charities we fund are struggling due to a very tough funding landscape.

We need to work hard to help those groups and charities that are helping people deal with the cost-of-living crisis, through sustainable funding. It was those very small charities that kept our most vulnerable residents safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. We commit here, at Northamptonshire Community Foundation, to championing those very groups that help our most vulnerable residents because we recognise the incredible difference place-based charities make. We are deeply privileged to be surrounded by fantastic and caring VCSE staff and volunteers; and you may not personally need their services, but to your neighbour, friend, or family, they just might be a lifeline. Let's harness the power of generosity and together we can and will continue to build better lives during difficult times.

If you want to find out more about Northamptonshire Community Foundation then please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you. Please join us to do good right here on our doorstep.

*Rachel McGrath*  
CEO of  
Northamptonshire  
Community  
Foundation



# Message from our Patron

Northamptonshire Community Foundation has established itself as the go to organisation for community groups, charities and donors across Northamptonshire. Through the deep understanding and extensive due diligence of the needs across the county, the organisation has built the confidence of fund recipients and funders alike. This has proved to be very evident during the current crisis where NCF has ensured that the most vulnerable individuals have received help through grants and resources.

volunteers being inspired to take up the mantel of helping out fellow neighbours and those in need across the county.

However, in spite of so much success over the last few years there is still much to do to address community needs and build better lives. Making a meaningful difference in our communities close to home is an obvious place for any new potential donor to support and place-based philanthropy is a wonderfully rewarding place to start.

*James Saunders Watson LL  
HM Lord-Lieutenant of  
Northamptonshire*

As the funded work has grown, it has been wonderful to see so many new



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# Impact Overview

## Welcome to the Foundation's impact review for 2021-22

We are delighted to share with you insights and highlights into the social impact and value that donations and grants are making to our county and local communities within Northamptonshire.

The data paints a picture of the demonstrated difference grant awards have made to local people and communities on behalf of a range of donors. The information is based on completed end of grant reports from funded groups and charities within the previous year. The impact measurement tool that we use enables the Foundation to capture and demonstrate the value of the broad range of awards given out.

We provide impact case studies and reports across individual awards and donor programmes. The themes, outcomes and indicators of the framework enable us to capture

the kind of change that groups are achieving and make us better able to track transformation and communicate this to current and potential donors and the wider community.

Based on projects completed in the last year, the Foundation has supported 211,082\* beneficiaries which reflects the greatly increased support provided to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through our funded activity and impact work we have supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to contributing to tackle the Global Goals locally as part of our commitment to improve quality of life for all embracing 'think global, act local'. We wish to ensure that no one is left behind and everyone feels that they belong to the local community now and in the future.



**UN SDG 1:  
No Poverty**  
**35,032**  
beneficiaries

Number of evictions avoided:  
**7**

Number of people accessing support services for the first time as a result of the project:  
**1652**

Number of people accessing support services as a result of the project:  
**11,964**

Number of people achieving independent living/no longer requiring support as a result of the project:  
**1344**

Number of people coming off work related benefits:  
**25**

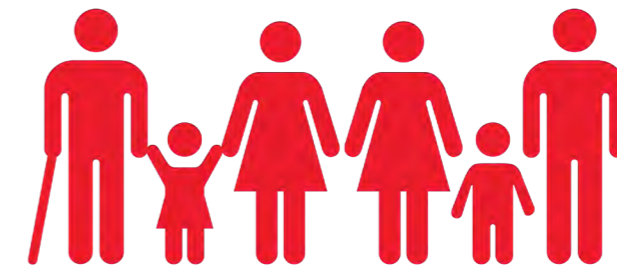
Number of people receiving emergency supplies:  
**3776**

Number of people referred to and accessing other advice/support services:  
**1411**

Number of people supported to achieve independent living/ requiring less living support as a result of the project:  
**11,208**

Number of people reporting better access to services or support:  
**3580**

Number of people reporting that they have an increased ability to heat their home and stay warm:  
**65**



\* Please note that one beneficiary may have benefitted by more than one project but this is not information we can track; also an individual may have benefitted in several different ways via a project or several projects.

### Impact Case Study: Northampton Hope Centre



The Hope Centre has been supporting the Northampton community since 1974. Their aim is to relieve poverty in Northampton whether that presents as homelessness, whether it is an inability to provide food or whether poverty has caused isolation and exclusion. Northampton Hope Centre also provides practical support, training, and development opportunities to help people experiencing financial hardship. The charity was awarded £6000 from

the Constance Travis Endowment Fund to support the Hand Up service which is a dedicated homelessness project focussing on support, employability and learning activities. People can attend for hot food, showers, take away food parcels, welfare packs and clothing. The project also provides health checks, mental health and addiction support services. 383 people benefited from the service including 157 new clients. 80 clients have now been independently housed.



**UN SDG 2:  
Zero Hunger**  
**4842**  
beneficiaries



Number of people reporting improvements in their diet to be more healthy and balanced:

**284**



Number of people reporting improved access to healthy food:

**4558**



**UN SDG 3:  
Good Health &  
Well-being**  
**85,924**  
beneficiaries

Number of new people engaged in gardening:  
**1077**

Number of people attending activity sessions:  
**347**

Number of people attending regular social activities as a result of the project:  
**24,397**

Number of people reporting improved physical / mental / emotional health:  
**34,549**

Number of people reporting a reduction of stress, anxiety and/or symptoms of depression:  
**188**

Number of people reporting improved mental health or well-being:  
**713**

Number of people reporting that they feel less lonely:  
**69**



Number of people reporting improved social networks:  
**3051**

Number of people reporting increased resilience and/or self-care:  
**549**

Number of people who participated in sport, exercise & leisure activities:  
**18,309**

Number of people reporting increased self-esteem and confidence:  
**955**

Number of people reporting that they are more physically active:  
**1385**

Number of people undertaking treatment/therapy to meet their needs:  
**335**

**Impact Case Study: Sikh Community Centre and Youth Club (SCCYC)**

SCCYC is an innovative established organisation providing user led services to diverse communities in the county to improve their quality of life especially addressing poverty and health inequalities. The organisation has received an award of £2000 via the Family Food Aid Fund to continue a critical food aid service across Northampton which will benefit 220 families including lone parents. This included the purchase of food reflecting the dietary needs of beneficiaries, culturally appropriate foods and health issues related food such as allergies, diabetic, gluten free and specific foods for babies. The project has been providing a hot meal service for people who are homeless or rough sleeping and a

family food box 'Cook Together' initiative with ingredients and recipe cards. The project also provides links to family support services.



**Impact Case Study: Outside In Theatre**

Outside In Theatre is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation based in Northamptonshire. They are passionate about creating innovative



projects that promote health and well-being through the arts. They received a £4980 grant award through the Compton Fund for Arts, Culture and Heritage to provide a multisensory immersive theatre project for older people, including those with dementia, in Northampton to help support emotional and mental well-being including reducing stress, anxiety and depression whilst also tackling loneliness and isolation. The project supported 27 clients and 5 carers. Feedback from carers, participants and staff indicated high enjoyment levels and a strong engagement with the narrative and accompanying activities. Lasting effects after the experience were feeling calmer, a sense of belonging and new friendships within the groups.

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**

**UN SDG 4:  
Quality Education**  
**5748**  
beneficiaries

Number of new people participating in projects that promote creativity as part of the project:

**1100**

Number of new people taking part in arts activities for the first time as part of the project:

**1837**



Number of oral history recordings made:

**46**

Number of people who visited an arts, cultural or heritage facility for the first time:

**60**

Number of people participating in projects that promote creativity as part of the project:

**2401**

Number of people who attended arts and cultural events in the previous 12 months:

**350**

**Impact Case Study: Chiral Communities**

Chiral Communities is a group that creates community projects which promote equality and inclusion for people in Northamptonshire. The group delivered a Sensory Adventures project, across Corby and Kettering, creating live sensory sessions for families with a grant award of £3000 funded by the Margaret Giffen Community Fund. The project was available face-to-face and digitally explored monthly themes inspired by nature: creating a messy/ taste-safe activity and non-messy activity for each theme and was accompanied by original songs to create a more theatrical experience at home. The sessions can be enjoyed by anyone who experiences the world in sensory ways "sensory beings" including babies/early years, children with complex and/or additional needs. 113 beneficiaries took part in the activities.



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

**UN SDG 5:  
Gender Equality &  
UN SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**  
**5792**  
beneficiaries

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**



Number of new people accessing support services due to discrimination or unfair treatment:

**33**

Number of people reporting an increased awareness and understanding of other cultures:

**5759**



**Impact Case Study: RUSH 2The DEN Youth Club**

RUSH 2The DEN believes in 'Inspiring young people to achieve'. They exist to support young people's development, offering opportunities to gain, increase and develop skills, knowledge, self-awareness and confidence, and enabling them to make positive and healthy life choices through their wide range of programmes for children from birth to young adults of 17 years. The group were awarded a grant of £3000 through the Avon Fund for Women and Girls to provide well-being and cookery sessions including Pamper, Chill and Chat sessions for women, GirlZone providing craft, arts and friendship activities and cooking healthy low cost meals on a budget to support families on a low income. This project supports Mums, women and girls based in Rushden, East Northamptonshire. The group recently provided a digital support service for 186 women to help with well-being, family support and reducing social isolation.

**Impact Case Study: Deafconnect**



Deafconnect primarily supports deaf and hard of hearing people from birth until end of life with a range of support services. They are based in a community centre

which also provide a food share table and cafe run by volunteers with additional needs to help eliminate food poverty in Northamptonshire for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The group were awarded a grant of £14,714 from the Queen's Institute Fund Northampton to continue the well-being and support services for their 50+ British Sign language (BSL) group. The group brings people together and provides them with a range of opportunities to try new things, make friends and learn new skills in a safe, supported environment, which will improve their access to opportunities and quality of life including exercise activities, day trips, health workshops, information and one-to-one support. 30 beneficiaries regularly took part and 6 new clients started using the services.

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**UN SDG 8:  
Decent Work and Economic Growth**  
**4003**  
beneficiaries

Number of employment opportunities secured:  
**55**

Number of people reporting increased skills and knowledge:  
**1564**

Number of people who attended training as part of the project:  
**713**



Number of people who attended training for the first time as part of the project:  
**90**

Number of people who became self-employed as a result of the project:  
**2**

Number of people who gained accreditation as a result of the project:  
**146**

Number of people who gained accreditation for the first time as a result of the project:  
**100**

Number of people who gained sustainable employment as a result of the project:  
**58**

Number of people who gain new skills as part of the project:  
**70**

Number of people who gained new skills for the first time as part of the project:  
**32**

Number of people whose engagement in education/learning has improved:  
**850**

Number of people who started on the path to employability as a result of the project:  
**325**

Number of people who went into further education as a result of the project:  
**53**

**Impact Case Study:  
C2C Social Action**

C2C Social Action is an offender rehabilitation charity working to create a safer, stronger Northamptonshire. The main aim of the organisation is to offer help and support to individuals and families of individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system, or who are at risk of being involved. The organisation was awarded £10,000 by the SEGRO Centenary Fund to support women across Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire back into employment. This also included working with women who may have few qualifications or no employment record. The grant enabled the group to provide bespoke education, employment and training advice, workshops and courses including the 'Shine Woman' programme, helping improve self-esteem and address barriers to work

such as debt and housing, customer services and basic business experience in small scale projects including fruit and vegetable selling and crafting, developing and evidencing new skills in a portfolio and support to build CVs and job searches. 45 women started on the pathway to employability and 5 gained sustainable employment as a result of the project.



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



**UN SDG 11:  
Sustainable Cities and Communities**  
**50,838**  
beneficiaries

Number of buildings saved:  
**3**

Number of composting schemes established:  
**1**

Number of groups/projects campaigning on environmental issues:  
**1**

Number of memberships of local heritage organisations:  
**51**

Number of new community facilities created:  
**5**

Number of new members of the group/organisation:  
**525**

Number of new volunteers taking care of local public spaces as part of the project:  
**1281**

Number of new volunteers as a direct result of the grant:  
**3350**

Number of organisations working in collaboration:  
**100**



Number of people reporting a sense of pride in their local area:  
**60**

Number of people using local public spaces as a result of the project:  
**3713**

Number of people using local public spaces for the first time as a result of the project:  
**1170**

Number of people using public/community transport:  
**500**

Number of people visiting a local heritage site:  
**5411**

Number of people volunteering regularly:  
**5172**

Number of people volunteering to maintain a local heritage site:  
**47**

Number of people who have taken part in a community activity for the first time as part of the project:  
**6245**

Number of people who have used the new/improved community facilities:  
**3841**

Number of people who participated in community activities as a result of the project:  
**17622**



Number of people who reported that the community facilities were improved as a result of the project:  
**1716**

Number of tonnes of waste diverted from landfill:  
**40**

Number of volunteering opportunities available as part of the project:  
**166**

Number of volunteers taking care of local public spaces as part of the project:  
**134**

Number of work or volunteer placement/experience opportunities provided:  
**356**

**Impact Case Study:  
Crick Scarecrow Festival Committee**

The role of the Committee is to organise and manage the Crick Scarecrow and Music Festival on behalf of the community. The group have been awarded £2000 from the Yelvertoft Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. The festival is open to surrounding villages and takes place annually benefiting 2500 local residents



and visitors from across the county. It is a unique event that brings the whole community together and gives people a sense of civic pride and is supported year-on-year by approximately 100 volunteers from the local area. The group provide refreshments across the festival weekend and a number of village groups and organisations also benefit from local fundraising that takes place during the festival. All activities and entertainment provided are free ensuring families and residents on a low income can take part. Suitable facilities are also provided for vulnerable and older people.

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**UN SDG 16:**  
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions  
**18,903**  
beneficiaries



Number of ex-offenders taking part in a project/ programme designed to divert them away from criminal behaviour and anti-social behaviour:

**153**

Number of people reporting that they feel able to have a say in the decisions that affect them:

**5950**

Number of people reporting that they feel an increased sense of belonging in their community:

**11,409**

Number of people who took action in a campaign:

**500**

Number of people being supported as victims of anti-social behaviour or crime as a result of the project:

**7**

Number of young people who took part in a project/ programme and had not re-offended within a period of 3 months:

**21**

Number of people who reported feeling safer in their communities as a result of the project:

**761**

Number of people with lived experience involved in projects:

**102**

**Impact Case Study: Northampton Town of Sanctuary**

Northampton Town of Sanctuary is a local branch of the national umbrella charity, City of Sanctuary. Their overarching aim is create a culture of welcome for people who are seeking

sanctuary or asylum in the town from war or persecution. The group also has a weekly club for young people offering a space where young people can make friends, integrate, learn skills and practise conversational English. The organisation received a grant award of £3000 from the High Sheriff's Initiative Fund to provide a programme of activities and support for young people who live in in areas where young people are the most vulnerable to grooming by local gangs and gangs associated with county lines due to separation from families, trauma and associated mental health issues. The programme of summer and winter holiday activities included outdoor recreation and sports, empowerment workshops and leadership skills training. 30 young people regularly attended project activity and 10 young people were able to access additional support services.



# Long Term Grants

**Impact of Long Term Grants**

Northamptonshire Community Foundation has carried out a series of focus groups with longstanding grantees to find out what would really help to improve our grant making services and the impact of those grants in local communities. The feedback highlighted the need for considering multi-year grants to help achieve longer term and meaningful change at the local level to address a particular area of need.

Through our Genesis Housing Fund we have been able to pilot for the first time a three year grant to a local charity, Growing Together Northampton, to help tackle child poverty.

**About Growing Together Northampton**

Growing Together Northampton is a community-based organisation working in Northampton East. They want their estates to be great places in which to live and grow up, where residents care for each other, the community and their environment. They believe that communities work best when residents are empowered and work together.

**What was funded**

The grant provided over three years enabled Growing Together Northampton to directly tackle child poverty and improve life chances, provide activities for children and young people

and provide an in-centre targeted service aimed at children and young people. This also included funds towards core costs and direct services helping to build financial sustainability.

**Impact**

This has enabled 149 families to be supported including nursery parents and 180 beneficiaries attending regular family and young people activities on an annual basis. This has included playschemes, nursery, one-to-one family support, FISH (Food In School Holidays) events, gardening as well as allotment projects and community group outings.

During the pandemic every effort was made to keep the Nursery open to the general public - with weekly stalls outside including food donations and access to staff for one-to-one conversations and support. In summer 2021, the charity ran a weekly FISH (Food In School Holidays) picnic with Emmanuel church alongside weekly fun activities such as a bouncy castle. The continued link with the community is helping as they carry on rebuilding the community work.

This grant has given stability to the organisation and allowed alternative funding to be raised by the organisation – including funding to extend Blackthorn Community Centre, providing a space for children and young people. The new facility has started to generate income for the organisation which will support core costs in the longer term.





# Family Food Aid Fund

We launched a Family Food Aid Appeal for local families and residents facing financial hardship during 2021 and 2022. Thanks to the generosity of donors we continue to fund

a number of groups and charities providing a safety net of food aid. Here are some testimonies of how the support has made a life-changing difference to local people:

## United African Association

'HG is from a war-torn country in Africa. She lives in Wellingborough in a shared house with her husband and four month old baby. She was referred to us by social services for befriending purposes as she feels isolated having only arrived in the UK four months ago. She lived in France for a few months before coming to UK and settling in Wellingborough and doesn't speak much English. Her husband works long hours in a low paid job and she is at home alone with

the baby so often feels isolated. We have provided ongoing food aid support and put her in contact with one of our volunteers who lives in Wellingborough who also happens to be an immigration lawyer. Annia has been helping her with her immigration case on a pro bono basis.'



## SOFEA

'Mary (not her real name) is a 23 year old single mother with a four year old daughter. During the first lockdown Mary lost her job and had food parcels from the community larder in Roade. In the subsequent lockdown Mary got a part-time job in a care home and was able to get her daughter into nursery while she worked. Mary admits that she is not a creative cook but seeing her daughter start to lose weight she decided to come down to the larder to see if she could learn some tips on how to produce meals. At first she was cautious but having seen the benefit

of embracing fresh food with her daughter, she is now cooking fresh food every day and getting her daughter involved too. She has some neighbours in her street in a similar situation and they often cook things to share with each other and also help to care for each other's children. Mary is now more confident that her daughter is healthier and ready to begin her new chapter when she starts Reception in September.'



## McCarthy-Dixon Foundation

'The feedback from schools is very positive regarding the breakfast boxes as there are numerous children who go to school regularly without having anything to eat for breakfast. If they didn't have these snacks, the children wouldn't have any time to eat until lunchtime. Skipping breakfast in the morning effects the children's general health and well-being, concentration and their ability to learn. We have learnt from some of the schools that we support, that children who regularly attended school without having anything for breakfast at

home and struggled with the morning routine in school now enjoy a small 'breakfast club' before their first lesson and the time they need to settle in to class in the morning has significantly decreased.'



# Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Over the last year Northamptonshire Community Foundation has continued its work around Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) by aiming to connect and listen to the many different communities making up Northamptonshire through implementing and promoting greater diversity, equity and inclusion in our philanthropy and grant-giving role.

Here is some of the work that we have carried out in the last year relating to EDI:

- Updating our Impact framework to improve our data collection and analysis of supporting diverse communities, and carry out regular Funder for Racial Equality Alliance Diversity audits
- Partnering with Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council to deliver webinars for VCSE organisations on creating Equality Policies and achieving better outcomes as well as reporting Hate Crime incidents
- Staff and Trustees receiving EDI training from Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council

- Attending community forums and events to bring awareness of the funding available through the Foundation and connect with organisations
- Becoming a strategic partner with and delivering workshops for Northamptonshire Black Communities Together, a local infrastructure organisation focusing on supporting the growth of sustainable and resilient Black communities across Northamptonshire
- Becoming a member of UKCF's EDI Steering Group, which aims to increase the understanding and promotion of best practice with regards to EDI across the Community Foundation Network
- Commitment to the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals, including UN SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

We will be continuing our commitment to EDI by making accessibility improvements to our website, provide accessible tools online to support grant applicants work to engage more diverse donors and supporters.

# Covid-19 Recovery Plan

Northamptonshire Community Foundation turned 20 years old in 2021, perhaps not the best year to celebrate this milestone. As a nation we find ourselves reeling, having lived through what is undeniably one of this country's major life events since the Second World War. As we come out of the pandemic we will be reflecting and asking how can we help to re-build our communities? What will be the priorities to support those around us who have lost so much during this gruelling and heart-breaking time? Our recovery plan is built around the recovery and revival of our communities, supporting them at this extraordinarily difficult time, recognising the huge scale of the challenge and the economic and social impact that will be felt for many years to come. As a local Community Foundation and place-based giver, we cannot solve all the problems, but we can work with our

brilliant local charities, community organisations and our donors and supporters who are the social glue that hold us all together.

Since the pandemic we have seen a huge divide, those most effected by the virus were undeniably from our Black and Asian communities, those with disabilities, those suffering from mental illness and people living in poverty. This critical divide across our communities has helped shaped our COVID-19 recovery plan. As we come out of the pandemic and step into a new normal, we anticipate an increased need to support those who will have lost close family, friends and their livelihoods. Philanthropy must play its part to help build back those communities who have had it so much worse than many.

# Voices from the Frontline

## Voice from the Frontline

We are committed to carrying out an annual community needs survey in order to receive feedback and local intelligence on community need in real time. This feedback helps inform our current grant making and conversations with donors and partners as well as enabling us in our community leadership role to provide a voice for community groups and charities at the frontline of delivering essential services and support.

## Financial Sustainability at Risk

We found groups having to close or in danger of closing due to loss of finances and funding:

*'Our organisation is still struggling to survive. In the last two weeks two members of staff had to leave and the other staff have faced a 70%+ cut in hours. This is a significant risk to the organisation and there are significant risks that relate to staff retention in this environment. The organisation has invested a lot in staff training over the past year and this investment will be lost in the event of staff seeking more secure employment.'*

## Groups struggling to access larger funds for capital or core costs

*'We are struggling to secure grants for capital and core costs. We seem to be in a transition period where grants for Covid response have reduced but grants for capital and core costs are still effected by Covid*

*- a major grant for our roof repair was turned down today because the funder is prioritising emergency situations to help charities survive the pandemic. To us, the roof repair is essential and urgent.'*

## Groups are working in an increasingly competitive funding landscape

*'Funding was uniquely easy to access throughout the pandemic, which helped us greatly as our own income generation was significantly down on the previous year due to services having to stop during lockdowns and no community fundraising took place. Our concern is that now we are starting to see some normality, funding is much harder to access and the application processes have long lead times to find out if we are successful or not. Our own income generation will take several years to return to pre-pandemic levels.'*

## Shortage of Volunteers and Trustees

*'A shortage of volunteers feeling unable to return due to concerns or vulnerabilities post-pandemic and some are unable to volunteer as economic circumstances changed. There is a need to recruit more volunteers, and trustees with particular skill sets; young and more diverse trustees have also been identified as being needed.'*

## Staff and volunteer fatigue

There is concern around low staff and volunteer morale including anxieties over

restarting fundraising activities and the challenges around establishing a 'new normal.'

## Longer term concerns

The VCSE sector have highlighted deep concerns about the growth of poverty, societal fragmentation and growing housing crisis especially in light of a cost-of-living crisis and accessing the funds to respond to increasing demand.

## Key issues emerging now for beneficiaries

*'We're trying to move our food bank from giving hand outs to giving a hand up, by providing help out of poverty, with a Money Support Service (debt advice) and a new jobs club, while also addressing increased social isolation and poor mental health.'*

## Mental health and well-being

Concerns have also focused on mental health and well-being for beneficiaries as we emerge from the pandemic and the impact of loneliness and isolation alongside poverty and financial pressures. This also includes longer waiting times to access health professionals.

## Poverty

Charities have reported the inequality gap widening for already financially disadvantaged groups. This also includes concerns around digital exclusion and poverty. Reduced services and increased demand are increasing waiting times for support.

## Longer term concerns for beneficiaries

*'We are seeing more people being tipped over into food/ financial insecurity as costs continue to rise but income or benefits do not keep in line with this. This not only affects their ability to provide for themselves and family, but as a consequence increases mental and sometimes physical ill health. As businesses have closed or downsized, we anticipate an increased need for upskilling or reskilling.'*

With an increased demand on services and referrals and reduced access to funding this will have a knock-on effect in terms of economic and food poverty, relationship difficulties including domestic abuse, child poverty, impact on education, poor mental health and increased social isolation.

## How can we respond effectively as grant makers

*'Support with longer term funding would be helpful also addressing the unmet needs of residents of Northamptonshire.'*

Feedback includes ensuring funding project support for people with no recourse to public funds, larger grant awards and longer term funding, encouraging partnership working and collaboration so funded charities and community groups work together, continuing with our programme of targeted, quick turnaround grants, signposting to available funds and providing ongoing application support.

# Calls to Action

## Help us tackle Poverty



a safety net for those of us experiencing especially difficult times and who are at risk of homelessness, food, fuel and digital poverty, child poverty, unemployment and debt.

If you want to help us get more funds into our communities to address poverty, please get in touch.

Following on from the pandemic we are now confronted with a cost-of-living crisis increasing the risk of poverty through debt, rising fuel bills, growing cost of food, stagnant wages and lack of access to services due to greater demand on local charities and community groups. This will also impact on the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable residents as they deal with increasing financial stress.

We are currently working closely with private, public and charitable partners to help ensure we can increase the amount of funding available to tackle poverty and provide

## Help us build Environmental Philanthropy in Northamptonshire



At Northamptonshire Community Foundation we have recently adopted United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action. As the climate emergency continues, we commit to working with donors, partners and local

charities to explore how we can harness resources into local green action. This includes funding and supporting projects that improve green spaces, supporting gardening and allotments, recycling and litter picking, reducing food waste and improving energy efficiency, planting trees, walking and cycling initiatives, promoting wildlife conservation and natural history and providing education on environmental issues, to name just a few.

In order to fully achieve this goal, we will also commit to 'greening' our own services by carrying out a green audit then helping local charities to 'green' their own organisations and services. We will look to carry out a series of community conversations on tackling this goal to understand the local solutions that are needed and could be funded.

If you want to help us get more funds into our communities to address climate action, please get in touch.

# Current Appeals

## Appeals to address urgent need within our communities

Our annual appeals reflect ongoing and urgent needs within our communities to help us respond as they happen and give a range of donors the opportunity to give a one-off donation to help make a difference. No donation is too small. We believe that our appeals provide a place to harness the generosity of local residents to give to a cause they deeply care about.

### Winter Well-being Appeal

Our annual Winter Well-being Appeal helps our most vulnerable and older residents during the winter months to protect them from fuel poverty and having to make stark choices between heating and eating.

Winter can be a lonely and worrying time with many older and vulnerable residents experiencing financial hardship and having to choose what they can afford to do. One in ten households in our county live in fuel poverty, spending more than 10% of their income on fuel.

With many older and vulnerable people living alone, and due to the ongoing public health crisis, many are still cautious about leaving their homes. The uncertainty of the coming winter months will lead to increased social isolation again this year.

### Welcome Fund Appeal

Northamptonshire Community Foundation established the Welcome Fund in 2021 to support the resettlement of Afghan families and other refugees arriving in Northamptonshire.

This appeal provides a single point for collection of donations from individuals, families, businesses, charitable trusts and other organisations wishing to support refugees and asylum seekers. The Fund will assist the coordination of efforts in support of people in need.

As Northamptonshire prepares to welcome refugees escaping the war in Ukraine, we at Northamptonshire Community Foundation have re-launched our Welcome Fund Appeal in 2022 as a direct response to help support the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees into Northamptonshire and we are encouraging donations.

Funds will be distributed to local groups and organisations providing a broad range of assistance and support, from the provision of essential items to family support and community integration.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation has been working with community foundation colleagues across Europe including the Ukraine. The Foundation has seen the response on the ground by community foundations in the Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania and how they have mobilised volunteers and collected funds to provide immediate relief and to aid refugees.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation welcomes the care, concern and generosity of local people and donors at this time. These funds are so urgently and desperately needed to support the resettlement response on the ground and enable charities to provide a safety net in resettlement.

## Family Food Aid Appeal

Help Northamptonshire Community Foundation tackle food poverty on our local doorstep by donating to our Family Food Aid Fund. The pandemic may be receding but the urgent need to tackle food poverty goes on.

That's why we have established the Family Food Aid Fund, to support community groups and charities that are helping families experiencing financial hardship. The funding will enable them to gain easy access to nutritious food and balanced meals as well as supporting the well-being of children and young people struggling with food insecurity.

As part of our global goals work, we are part of the local response to ensure we have zero hunger on our doorsteps by 2030. Everyone should have access to good food and no one should go to bed hungry.

Food poverty currently affects 8.4 million people in the UK who struggle to get enough to eat. This includes many households with people in work, families with children, as well as older and disabled people.

It can affect children who lack free school meals during the holidays; parents on low incomes going without food so that their children can eat; working people whose low wages leave them struggling to buy healthy food; or older people unable to prepare meals without support.

With your support, we can make a huge difference for those living in food poverty.

# Ways to Give

**All of this is possible thanks to the incredible support of our Friends, Fundholders and Fundraisers and there are so many ways you can make a difference too.**

Join our Friends of the Foundation Giving circle and be a part of something bigger. Anyone who sets up a standing order has the option of becoming a Friend of the Foundation. We pool all of our Friends' donations together to create a large funding pot with the Friends themselves deciding which groups and projects they wish to support. You can have as much (or as little) involvement as you would like!

Always wanted to set up your own charitable fund? A Named Fund with the foundation could be your perfect solution. By setting up a fund with us in your family or company name, you can choose to give across a broad range of causes or you can direct your giving to a specific cause, issue or geographical area that you wish to support.

Or give a gift that keeps on giving. Leaving a gift in your Will to Northamptonshire Community

Foundation can make a life changing difference to someone in your community. It's simple, it's easy and the legacy can be felt for years to come.

Just 1% of your estate could help to provide food hampers for low income families and those experiencing holiday hunger. You could help provide mental health support for vulnerable adults, workshops and training to upskill young people or offer temporary accommodation with clean bedding for rough sleepers.

We'll be with you every step of the way to support your philanthropic objectives as we are, and always will be, stronger together.

To make a one off donation today, please scan the QR code below.



# Thank You

## Thank you from our Chair

I would like to thank all our donors, friends and partners for their generosity and philanthropic giving especially during these challenging times for so many within our communities. Your passion, care and commitment to Northamptonshire really makes a meaningful impact and changes lives, supports local charities and builds better communities and places. We believe that philanthropy plays a key role in supporting local charities and community groups to be properly resourced to improve the well-being and lives of people in Northamptonshire. We believe in helping our donors be connected with the causes that are closest to their hearts.

I would like to give thanks and praise to the network of unsung community heroes and charities across Northamptonshire who are working

hard to provide a range of services to local residents, keeping them safe and well and providing support services, recreational activities and community events to name but a few initiatives. We will continue to do our utmost to ensure grant awards and funds are best placed to support and tackle a number of needs including poverty, rural isolation, loneliness, improving life chances, building safer communities and supporting education and skills.

There is still much to be done but alongside our family of donors and funded charities and community groups, we can continue to make a lasting impact tackling these needs together and build a better future for all.

Thank you for making a difference.

*Rachel Mallows MBE DL*





**Northamptonshire  
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Giving back to our county

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