

# Start Up Stirling Newsletter

June 2019

## Local Foodbank & Crisis Support



### Fundraising fun in the community for Start Up Stirling

Over the past few months, Start Up Stirling has been involved in a variety of different events and we would like to thank everyone that has been involved either in setting up a fundraising event, or volunteering to support SUS.

From support from Morrison's in Stirling for our can collection, to bag packing in Marks and Spencer's in Dunblane, to an evening of rock and punk held in Meditteranea provided by Holy Piranha and After Youth, we have been amazed by the kind support that we have received. We are delighted to have been a chosen charity for the Stirling and District Classic Car Club (pictured) and we had a great day admiring all of the beautiful cars and telling people from around the area about the crisis support that SUS provides.

We also played rounders with the staff at Stirling University at their charity event, which was match funded by Santander and admired the art work when we were invited to come along to the GOSSIP Collective exhibition and workshops in the Stirling Arcade as part of Forth Valley Art Beat 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Stirling and Bridge of Allan Round Table held a variety of fundraising events and remembered us when it came to the community groups that they supported.

Could your next fundraising event be to help us raise the vital funds that we need to support our services? Would you like to volunteer and help us to fundraise? Could you match fund an event, or take part in a sponsored activity, like a marathon? If so, please contact Julie or Tricia on 01786 561027 for more details.

### Key Stats 2019 So Far.....

Over 400 New referrals

Over 1900 Food packs prepared for those in need

Over 23 tonnes of food donated

Hello from the Convenor!

There is, as always, a lot going on in Start Up Stirling and we are continuing our vital support of local people in hardship. We wish Ian Morris well in his new role in Barnado's and thank him for his years of work with us as Support worker and as operational manager. There are large shoes to fill as we work to restructure our staff roles and to recruit, and also to find additional Charity Trustees.

This is our Twenty-Fifth year of work in this community. The founders of Start Up Stirling might be surprised how things have changed in those years, but they would be with us in the work we do. There will be announcements coming out over the summer as to how we will mark the anniversary.

Thank you for all that you all do for us and with us.

**Anthony Birch, Convenor**



### Thanks Lush!

A big thanks to Lush Stirling who fundraised for us with charity pots and bath bombs!

### Get your kilts ready! Celebrating 25yrs of Start Up Stirling with a Ceilidh!

It is our Silver Jubilee of the Charity and we're holding a ceilidh at the Victoria Hall in Dunblane on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to celebrate! If you wish to purchase tickets please email [mail@startupstirling.org.uk](mailto:mail@startupstirling.org.uk)

### Looking to volunteer?

We're always looking for new volunteers to help! If you would like to help us with fundraising, admin, marketing or design please get in touch! Email:

[volunteer@startupstirling.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@startupstirling.org.uk)

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### Financial Update

The 2018/19 financial year brought with it a number of challenges for Start Up, as for many other charities. A lot of our historic income was concentrated in a small number of statutory or grant-providing organisations and included significant elements of non-recurrent funding that has decreased more sharply than was previously anticipated. Our overall income was £195,500 which is a reduction of 30% (some £84,400) when compared to the previous year. Consequently, in consultation with staff we took a decision in the autumn of 2018 to remove unfilled roles from the structure and reduced the hours that some staff work. These measures helped us to keep total costs broadly stable compared to last year at £261,000. Despite these challenges we have endeavoured to maintain overall activity levels in support of the disadvantaged. We did see in January 2019 the closure of our Hillpark foodbank and clients from this locality receiving help via our remaining two foodbanks in Stirling.

Improving our financial situation requires a strong focus on maintaining and growing the level of community fundraising support we receive. We also need to engage with grant making and statutory bodies to ensure the sustainability of our operations which remain vitally important to local people suffering deprivation. So far in 2019/20 our financial situation has remained stable and at the end of May 2019 (2 months of the year gone) we are sitting with a modest operating deficit of £5,000. Proceeds from community fundraising have improved markedly in recent months, in part due to the energetic involvement of many of our volunteers. We are also actively seeking new sources of funding to allow us to continue to meet people's needs.

### Get to know us!

Name: Anthony Birch

Role at Start Up Stirling: Convenor, Board Member and Warehouse Volunteer

How long have you been with SUS? 4yrs - 3 months as Convenor and 6 months on the Board

What do you enjoy most about working with Start Up? People, and contributing to the charity's very necessary work.

What's your favourite film? *Doctor Zhivago* - really showing my age!

Where's your favourite place in the world? Perthshire, and then the North side of Tenerife

What's the last book you read? *Leadership* by Doris Goodwin - a study of four American Presidents

What's your philosophy in life? We're only here once, so do something worthwhile and enjoy it

### 25 years of Start Up Stirling!

A Civic Reception will be held for our wonderful volunteers at the Council Chambers on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August by the Provost to help us celebrate!



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[www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk)

### Join us on a Kiltwalk!

Support Start Up Stirling on the Edinburgh Kiltwalk on Sunday 15 September 2019.

Challenge yourself to walk 24 miles, 15.5 miles or 5 miles in the Capital and join us at a challenging but fun event to help raise funds for Start Up Stirling.

All fundraising is boosted by 40% thanks to the Hunter Foundation. Please contact us if you are interested in taking part or supporting teams. Further information at [www.thekiltwalk.co.uk](http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk) or hit Kiltwalk on Facebook.

### How can you help?

Run a marathon, donate for your birthday or dress down day in work? Every small donation really does make a difference to those in crisis. If you are able to donate one off, or regularly it would be very much appreciated!

To donate go to <https://startupstirling.org.uk/donate> or visit us at our unit at 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling.

Contact us on 01786 561027 or email [mail@startupstirling.org.uk](mailto:mail@startupstirling.org.uk)

