

Start Up Stirling Newsletter

October 2019

Local Foodbank & Crisis Support



Start Up Stirling named as Provost's Charity of the Year!

We are absolutely delighted that Stirling Council Provost Christine Simpson has announced Start Up Stirling as her Charity of the Year as the organisation marked 25 years of helping people in times of hardship. Founded in 1994 by a group of local churches, Start Up Stirling's initial mission was to support homeless people being rehoused by providing them with basic supplies.

Speaking after hosting a civic reception to mark our milestone, the Provost said: "For 25 years, Start Up Stirling has been providing support to local people in times of need, helping relieve poverty and suffering, and assisting individuals to make positive change in their lives.

"I was honoured to host this special reception for their special anniversary and to announce them as my charity of the year, and I look forward to highlighting their important service to the people of Stirling in the forthcoming year."

Over 80 people attended the event in the Council Chambers on Aug 15th. These included the Provost, Stirling Council Leader, Scott Farmer; Start Up Stirling volunteers and supporters.

Festive Appeal

Working towards Christmas - October is upon us, which now means that we are making plans for Christmas here at Start Up! Could you, your workplace, friends or family help us during our busiest period by fundraising, donating food or holding a festive event? Maybe this is the year that instead of Secret Santa at work, you donate the funds instead? Watch out for our posts on social media and our website in the coming weeks to find out more.

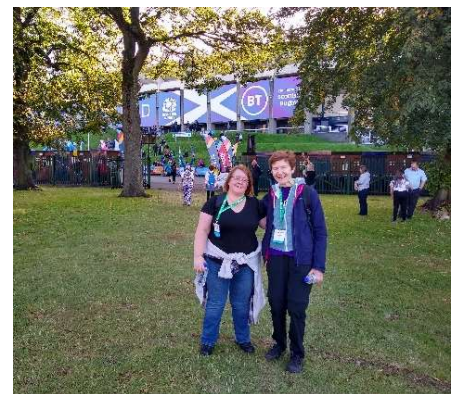
Hello from the Convenor!

Our service users are in need at all times of year, but this is the time when we are busiest. Donors are reminded by Harvest celebrations and then by Christmas that not everyone is doing well and that those who are well off ought to help those who are not.

Thank you to all who help during this busy time: fill the boxes, shake the cans, but most of all pass the word and make known the good work we do and the support we need.

25 years ago, Start Up Stirling began as an outreach from local churches. We now have both secular and church support, but the religious element will be marked at a service of thanksgiving on Sunday 17th November at 3 pm in St Mary's Episcopal Church, Dunblane. I hope I will see many of you there.

Anthony Birch, Convenor



Thank you to our Kiltwalkers!

Three of our intrepid volunteers walked in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk to raise vital funds for Start Up. They raised an amazing £935 which will be match funded by 40% for the Hunter Foundation, giving a total of £1309. Thanks to Nicola, Adarsh and Mairi for their support.

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Financial Update

We are now half-way through the Start Up 2019/20 financial year and the work undertaken to improve the charity's financial situation; by staff, volunteers and our many supporters in the wider community, is producing encouraging results. Whilst we have a small operating deficit of £9,300 at the end of September this is in fact a significant improvement on the equivalent position last year.

Our community donations and fundraising income has increased considerably during 2019 and we are continuing to expand the range of individuals, groups and businesses who provide financial contributions to the charity. Generous financial backing is received from a small number of grant-making bodies including Stirling Council Homelessness Partnership, Robertson Trust, Volunteer Action Fund and Faith in the Community (FISCAF).

The Scottish Government Fair Food Transformation Fund (FFTF) has also provided transitional financial contributions to the 'beyond the foodbank' support service whilst a new Investing in Communities Fund (ICF) is introduced across Scotland. We have applied to this new fund and remain hopeful of receiving funding, although news on an award has been delayed.

Sound budgetary control by key members of our staff team means that our costs are under control. In comparison to the same halfway point of last year our costs are some £50,000 lower.

We are immensely grateful to the donors and supporters who have contributed to helping us stabilise and latterly the improve the financial situation at Start Up. We are now in the process of gearing up for our key fundraising effort during the festive season, around which there is an encouraging sense of optimism about moving the charity onto a breakeven position by the end of the year.

Operations Update

The Board of Trustees of Start Up Stirling have been working to develop an operating and staffing model that can carry the charity forward, allowing us effectively to continue our support to people in hardship in the area. A key aspect of this will be to move to a 4-day working week.

Important in this model is the need to re-establish a coordination and management role and we can now confirm we are recruiting for a General Manager. The operating model changes will be phased in over the next three months in consultation with staff and volunteers. The aim being to move fully onto '4-day working' by mid January 2020.

We're Hiring! General Manager Position.

Start Up Stirling is looking to appoint an energetic and compassionate person to a newly established role of General Manager.

We are seeking a well-motivated, confident and enthusiastic individual with proven leadership qualities and a commitment to helping Start Up achieve its charitable objectives. The role will coordinate day to day operations in an efficient and effective manner, manage our small team of staff, whilst also contributing to the continued development and management of key partner/funder relationships. If you would like to apply or require further information please email mail@startupstirling.org.uk



Thank You!

Stirling Guildry - celebrated it's 900th anniversary this year. Julie gave a presentation about the services that Start Up provides at their Summer court, where they presented the charity with a £400 cheque.

Nationwide Building Society - birthday party - operating in Stirling for 40 years and Start Up volunteers were there to help them celebrate! The staff held a tea party and presented Start Up with a cheque for £500.

Ceilidh and Barclays - A great night was held at Dunblane Victoria Hall on 14th September. where we danced the night away to the Fraser McKinnon Ceilidh band. A big thank you to everyone that helped on the night, provided raffle tickets and especially to the staff at Barclays, £2100 was raised and with their matched funding we hope to double this to £4200.