



Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)

Trustees' Annual Report

1st Mar 2019 – 28th Feb 2020



Reference and Administration details

Charity contact information



Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)

Scottish Charity Number: SC046366

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Charity Trustees at date of approval of the Trustees Annual Report:-

1. Roman DePaulitte – Chair
2. Laura Moodie – Secretary
3. Lassaad Sbita – Treasurer
4. David Formstone
5. Hela Sbita
6. Jay Rubinstein
7. Moxie DePaulitte – shadow trustee

All other Charity Trustees during the financial year:-

Abdulrahamn Jubahji

Objectives and activities

The organisation's purposes are:

The prevention or relief of poverty,
The advancement of education,
The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation,
The promotion of religious or racial harmony,
The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

Charitable Objectives:

To relieve the needs of displaced persons, refugees or asylum seekers from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppressions, discrimination, natural disasters, economic adversity or other, like causes and to provide assistance to the families and dependents of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress and to provide and disseminate information to displaced persons in Dumfries & Galloway on the provision of education, employment, health, housing, social and other services of and to those persons and their families; and dependents.

To promote religious or racial harmony by encouraging integration and active cultural participation through involvement with MOOL.

For the benefit of the public, to advance education and to promote the relief of poverty, the advancement of human rights and the promotion of equality and diversity in Dumfries & Galloway.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

MOOL is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in the constitution.

The Charity Trustees are also the Members of the charity and are self-appointing Trustees.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed by the Board.

At the conclusion of each AGM, one third of charity trustees (to the nearest round number) shall retire from office. The charity trustees to retire under shall be those who choose to stand down, or be determined by some random method. A charity trustee who retires from office at the conclusion of an AGM shall be eligible for re-appointment by the Board.

Achievements and performance

Sorting, packing and sending clothes and other items to refugees overseas.

Over the course of the year we've continued our work to help people on the refugee road. Every Monday and Friday morning volunteers have been coming into the depot to go through donated clothes and other items which could be useful. The packing has become more streamlined as we've had better guidance from organisations which use the end result. We have been able to send to France and through SAFR and Re-Act a lot more has gone to camps in the Serbia, Greece, Lesvos and the Balkans.

“Coming to help on Monday morning has widened our horizons, in that we meet very different people who bring their own skills and who enhance our own relationship by their kindness and humour. We find that we have much to talk about on the way home, both of us take much more interest in current issues regarding refugees, immigration and political viewpoints. We are able to enter into discussions with much more insight and understanding. So the Personal Development could be combined with the Mental and Physical Wellbeing. “





Houses for Resettled Families

Over the year Dumfries and Galloway has welcomed 8 new families brought to the UK through the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). In each case MOOL volunteers have taken on the task of changing a bare bones house and making it into a home. In some cases we've had to paint rooms as well as ordering and installing furniture and white goods, cleaning and preparing the house. The care and consideration which our volunteers put into this - including decorating rooms for children and making sure that the houses are provided with blinds and curtains suitable for devout Muslim women (not all our families are Muslim but many are)- is phenomenal.

One of our families remarked that they had been told to expect to walk into a house with nothing ready to use and they were overwhelmed by the way they were provided with a warm welcoming and considered home.

Our volunteers, too, really enjoy the work **“I just love it, it makes my day”**.



Conversation practice

One of the projects which our volunteers have been conducting very successfully is the offer of private conversational practice in English for the families who've come here through the VPRS scheme. This is particularly important support for the women of the devout families who find it difficult to get out and interact with people. Not all of the VPRS families take this up but those that do find it really helpful and often it results in long-term friendships. The conversational volunteers meet occasionally to share ideas, issues and best practice.

Education and Outreach

With the help of a grant from Awards for All some of our people have taken on the task of producing educational materials for use in schools. The intention is to set up a programme which can be delivered by teachers or volunteers to help students (of all ages) recognise the importance of kindness and compassion towards others, and the amazing new things that people can bring to our community when they come in from other parts of the world.



Volunteers in Calais

With the help of Impact Funding, Mool was able to help five of our volunteers go to Calais to work directly with refugees as part of two fantastic organisations there – Care4Calais and Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK).

“Our visit to Care4Calais (C4C) in Calais in France has been one of the highlights of my life. An unforgettable experience, and made possible with the generous assistance of MOOL itself. This gave a disparate group of volunteers an opportunity to witness first hand, the situation that refugees from many countries find themselves in.”

Full reports on their time there and photographs can be found at <https://www.mool.scot/moolvolunteers-in-calais/>



Begin with a Grin and the Moving Stories Community Choir

As part of a project funded by the Sheila McKechnie and Esme Fairbairn Foundation’s GAS Funding, we have developed the “Begin with a Grin” project. The intention is to build general community cohesion and enable the families who’ve come here to integrate more easily. The first part of the project had a soft

launch at festival and outreach events, then a Campaign Song was commissioned. Building on the success of a singing project last year, we grew a Community Choir. We sang songs in English, Gaelic, Arabic and Swahili and we were delighted when some of the people from the families joined us. The choir is currently in abeyance due to the COVID 19 outbreak but we have posted resources online and intend to restart once it becomes possible to meet again.

Events

In addition to numerous gatherings of volunteers during the year we put on two festivals.

Eid Al Fitr (Wee Eid)

When Lassaad and Hela Sbita (two of our trustees) suggested that we had a festival to celebrate the end of Ramadan (Eid al Fitr) we had no idea how many people would come but decided to do it anyway. And we are so glad we did as it was an absolutely wonderful day!

Most of the families who have moved to the area came to join the fun and we had over 400 people from many backgrounds, faiths and communities.

Massive thanks to Hela for the food; to our wonderful volunteers, Jean, Jim, Fee, Ben, Jif, Fred for their brilliant work through the day; to D & G council, the YMCA, Southern Tractors, the Samaritans, Yoga from the heart, Let's Get Sporty, Science Fun, Nest-Nurturing-Futures, Smilie Days Laughter workshop, Dumfries and Galloway Arabic Association, Dumfries and Galloway Interfaith Group, The Green Handbook and Morrisons for their support.

We were planning our Eid 2020 event, with help from the resettled families, but it looks like that will be on hold now due to the current health crisis.

MOOL Spirit Awards – 3rd November 2019

We had a wonderful party to thank our volunteers for all the fantastic work they do. It also provided a chance for the volunteers, friends and families to catch up in a relaxed way rather than under the usual hectic conditions!



Partially funded by D&G Council and by Impact Funding Scotland we were able to host a party at the YMCA. Many of the families we have been able to welcome here came and they brought some wonderful food with them. We had music from Lee McQueen and some brave folk even danced!



Song, St Andrew, Syria and Saltires

We had a wonderful evening on the 30th November, full of songs, stories and great food that was brought 'pot luck' style by those who attended. Over 150 people came, a good mix of incomers and locals, all coming together to celebrate kindness and community. We're really grateful to BEMIS and the St Andrews Fair Saturday for enabling us to put the event on.

"It was a such a special evening. I think the images of all the Syrians singing along and young Sidra joining in will stay with me for many years to come. What a special community we have. I went to bed smiling and have thought of many beautiful moments of that night."





There was a real sense of people coming together to celebrate kindness and community. The sharing of food and the sense of us all enjoying the ways in which we can add to one another's culture was really lovely. Predictably the British people were bowled over by the Syrian food but the Syrians were in turn particularly impressed with the Cranachan which a British guest brought.

Volunteer Training

We've run several training sessions for our volunteers to help them with the various projects. In March we were able to run a session for the conversational volunteers on ESOL provision and methods with help from Jean Nelson. We also had two further meetings which gave our volunteers the chance to compare notes on difficulties and successes.

Several of our volunteers have wondered how to cope with casually hurtful comments and ignorant language without things becoming confrontational, We had two wonderful training session from Julie-Ann Lyons of LGBT Youth on the best way to deal with difficult views and statements, particularly from young people.



We hosted a session from Aneel Bhopal of the Scottish Refugee Council. He explained the Rights and Entitlements for Refugees and Asylum seekers and has since sent us the background sheets which are now available on our website.

Fundraising and Raising Awareness

We couldn't continue without the fundraising work by our volunteers who not only put on sales and pop-up shops but use these as opportunities to explain to people what MOOL is and what we do. Thanks to their effort we've been able to sell some of the clothes which were unsuitable for sending overseas at a number of local events and online.



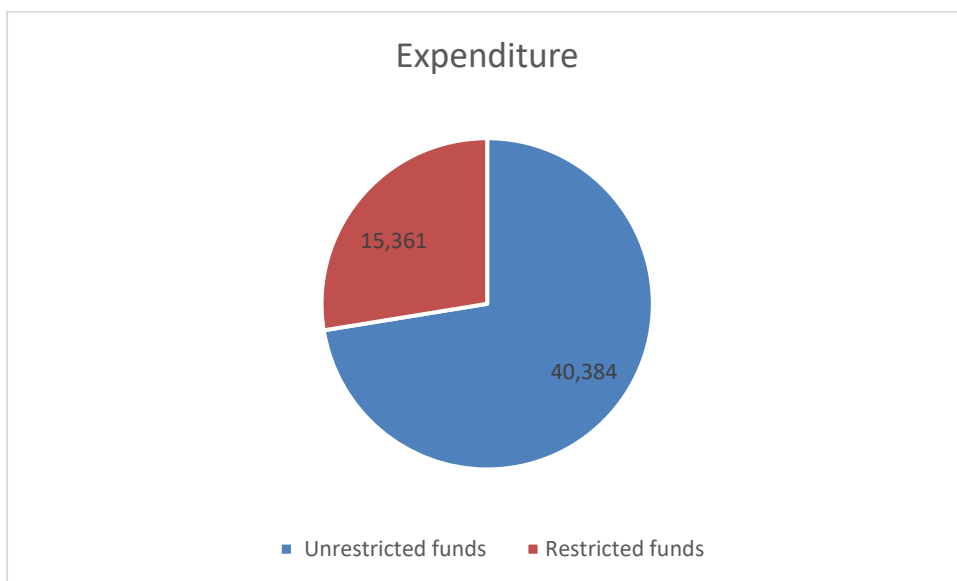
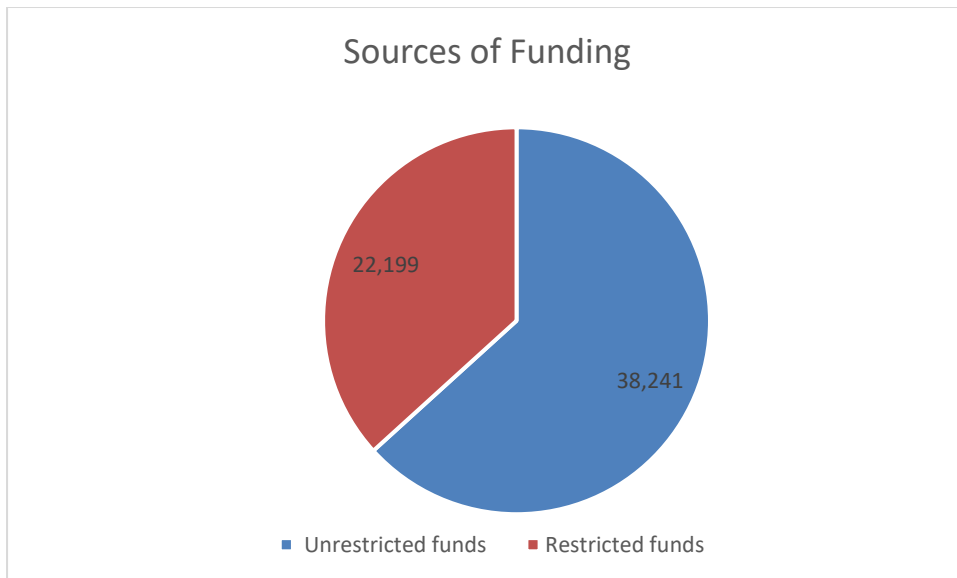
Pride in the Park – September 2019



Eden Festival Outreach – June 2019

Financial review

Our income and expenditure have expanded over this period.



We received five grants in this period. The largest from Impact Funding covers some of our work with our volunteers. Our grant from Awards for All to cover work on an education project has been largely unspent due to the Covid lockdown. However we have plans to revise the project to take account of the new conditions in the near future. Finally, we had a grant from the Sheila McKechnie Foundation which has funded work on our ongoing “Begin with a Grin” project.

Our unrestricted funds have been used to cover wages and depot expenses, rent on our offices at the YMCA, and a small salary for our Creative Projects Director. We’ve been able to part-fund the sending of our donations overseas and provide direct help to some of the families who have been brought here as part of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

MOOL's activities are largely volunteer driven and as such require little expenditure on behalf of the charity. However, there are three part-time freelance contractors and the charity would want to be confident that it can supply their wages for a further period if necessary.

MOOL pays rent for offices at the YMCA. There are no other service costs to consider apart from the provision of internet access at the depot and maintenance of a website.

MOOL will maintain reserves in unrestricted funds sufficient to meet the cost of three months' wages and other costs.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name

Designation

Date