



# Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)

## Trustees' Annual Report

### From March 2020 to February 2021



## Charity contact information



Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)

Scottish Charity Number: SCo46366

Address: West Kirkcarswell House, Dundrennan, Nr Kirkcudbright

Postcode: DG6 4QW

Telephone number: 01557 500215

Email address: jrubinstein@mool.scot

Website: <https://www.mool.scot>

<https://www.facebook.com/DGRefugeeAction>

## Charity Trustees

David Formstone - Chair

Mel Carruthers - Secretary

Alison Donnelly – Treasurer – joined 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Julie Smith– joined 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

John Crosby– joined 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Nicholas Jennings – joined 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Marijke Van Drunen Littel– joined 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Mary Kate Brown – joined 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Jay Rubinstein

Laura Moodie – left 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Roman DePaulitte – left 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020



## Objectives and activities

### **The organisation's purposes are:**

Promoting and furthering the relief 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.

Assisting and co-ordinating the work of providing and disseminating 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.

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.

To provide assistance to families and dependents of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

To empower, engage, educate and develop the personal skills of members of the local community; and encourage integration and active cultural participation through their involvement with MOOL.

To build supportive and proactive relationships with other organisations and work in partnership to maximise the benefit of assistance

### **Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects**

Collection of clothes and other equipment to be sent to refugees in a variety of places.

Recruitment and training of befrienders for refugees. Providing a website for easy access to information regarding resources in the region.

Running education and publicity projects to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of equality and diversity and necessity to alleviate poverty.

The charity is developing relationships with other local charities to enable them to refer cases of hardship and need to us for assistance.

The charity takes part in a range of appropriate local activities and aims to empower and encourage all its members to expand their capabilities and activities.

The charity regularly joins with other local enterprises in cultural and social activities, forging links with a wide variety of local groups. The charity is closely involved with Dumfries and Galloway's resettlement board. We also have links with a wide variety of charitable and other bodies in the area and work with them.

## Structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL) is a single tier SCIO governed by a constitution which is available on our website and through OSCR

### Trustee recruitment and appointment

The board may at any time appoint any person to be a charity trustee - by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

At the conclusion of the first AGM, one third (to the nearest round number) of the charity trustees shall retire from office; the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

At the conclusion of each AGM (other than the first)

any charity trustees appointed during the period since the preceding AGM (but excluding those re-appointed under clause 0 during that period) shall retire from office;

out of the remaining charity trustees, one third (to the nearest round number) retire from office.

The charity trustees to retire under paragraph 20.2 shall be those who have been longest in office since they were last appointed or re-appointed; as between persons who were last appointed/re-appointed on the same date, the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

A charity trustee who retires from office under clause 0 or 0 at the conclusion of an AGM shall be eligible for re-appointment under clause 0 at the next board meeting.

A charity trustee vacating office at the conclusion of an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected at the board meeting which next follows unless:

he/she advises the board that he/she does not wish to be re-appointed;  
or

a resolution for the re-appointment of that charity trustee was put to the board meeting and was not carried.

## Achievements and performance

### March

#### Depot closed

In March we had to close the depot – no prizes for guessing why!



#### Sociable Distancing

This was a new Facebook group started by Moxie DePaulitte in response to the lockdown. [Sociable Distancing](#) - It has lots of links to ideas, activities, workshops, courses, exercises, group chats and teaching resources that can be done at home or online. The hope is that we can keep our spirits up and keep people feeling part of the community. The list of permanent resources is also being kept at <https://notalone.mool.scot>

#### Letters of Support to the Families



We asked people to write short letters of support and hope and love to the families who'd arrived here over the past 5 years. We had a



fantastic response and we know the letters were really appreciated by the families.

## April

### Donation to support refugees

This has been a difficult time for all of us here, but it's been an almost impossibly difficult for the people on the refugee road in France and elsewhere. In April we were told that there were only two organisations still working with the people there, Care4Calais and Association Salam. We were able to send them a small donation to help and to let them know that we are thinking of them. We can't thank them enough for keeping humanity alive.

### Art Competition launched



Recognising that the lockdown had been a rollercoaster of emotions and has presented many challenges, we also felt that it threw up some unique opportunities to reflect, challenge, pivot and change. With this in mind, we invited people to take part in our art competition, and shared participants' responses to the prompt 'Hopes for a Post-COVID World'.

## May

Ismail making PPE equipment for NHS in Cumbria



Ismail Dyab came over to this country just under four years ago. He had just begun his business as a tailor in Top Stitches Longtown when COVID struck. He began making PPE equipment for the NHS in Cumbria. It was lovely to see his work recognised on Border TV, our regional ITV channel.

Eid Al Fitr



We had hoped to repeat the wonderful experience of celebrating Eid al Fitr with our friends which we able to put on in 2019. Sadly, it was not to be.

## June

A lovely video from Kashin



"My name is Kashin, and I am a Kurd from Syria. I am 29. I was studying philosophy at the University of Damascus, but I could not complete my studies because of the war. I have hobbies such as playing musical instrument and sometimes I take pictures and I came to Scotland a year and a month ago."

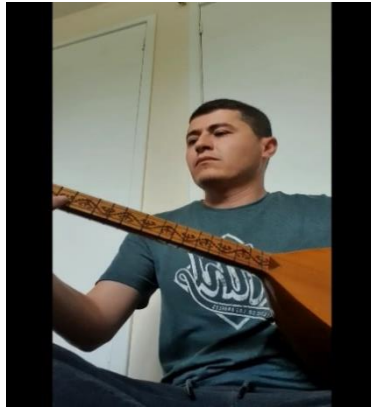
<https://www.mool.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Kashin-photos.mp4>

Art Competition



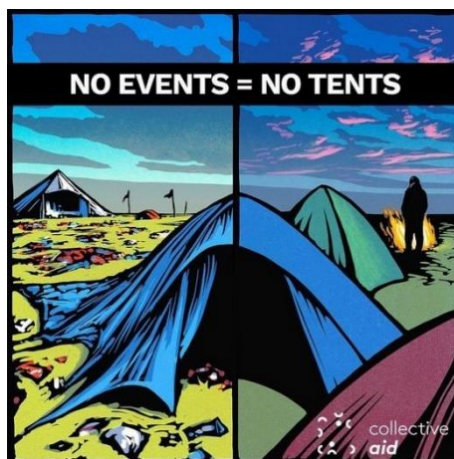
We were really delighted with the entries to our Art Competition and we hope to be able to produce a physical exhibition soon. In the meantime, here's a video of the entries. <https://www.mool.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Art-Competition.mp4>

Kashin playing Saz



Partly in response to his video we had Susan Neal come back to us with a Saz! Any musicians among you will recognise what an important thing this could be. You can see the full video at <https://www.mool.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/kashin-saz.mp4>

No Events = No Tents



The Glastonbury Festival weekend would have been on the 27th and 28th June 2020. Instead of dancing in the fields, we worked with Choose Love to collect as many unwanted tents and sleeping bags as possible. Because of the urgent need for toiletries in Greece, Choose Love had to change their plans and the tents and sleeping bags etc finally went out in December.

## July

Volunteer Consultation



Throughout July we had a number of really useful chances to talk to our volunteers about the directions and decisions which MOOL needs to consider. It has helped us shape our decisions and made a real difference to our work over the next few years, and we are grateful to everyone who took part.

## Research Project

Dumfries & Galloway Council commissioned us to conduct some research on the way in which we could improve the opportunities for our families to build links with the local community. We were lucky to find two fantastic people to conduct the research and we're really looking forward to their report which will come out in summer 2021.



## August

### Re-opening the depot

We were delighted to re-open our depot in late August 2020. It was fantastic to see our friends again. Massive, massive thanks to Jean and

Jim Pedley, Joyce Macleod, John Crosby, Abdulmajid and Sarab Meslmani and Abdul Muneam Alstip who were first through the door, and of course Keith Buckley Shaw and Sean McGarva, our depot managers at the time! It was truly lovely to get things going again.

Despite the fact that we had to limit numbers to keep safe we were delighted to see so many more volunteers come in to help. In a pretty dark year it raised our spirits to see people giving up their time to help!



## September

Rosie Horsley

We advertised for a new Apprentice Volunteer Co-ordinator, and we were so lucky to that Rosie Horsley opted to join us. She's already making a real difference to the work we're doing!



## Greek Toiletries Appeal

Working again with Choose Love we began to collect and pack nappies, and toiletries for the Greek camp in Moria.



## October

Farewell to Moxie



Our founder, Moxie DePaulitte left MOOL over the summer. This is a small tribute to fantastic work she did to bring MOOL into existence and the values and qualities she's built into our work.

<https://www.mool.scot/moxie/>

THANK YOU, MOXIE!

#### New Trustees at our AGM

Despite the problems of doing everything online we had a very well attended AGM.

Laura Moodie had been our secretary, rock and a tower of strength from the very start of MOOL. She had intended to leave considerably earlier in the year but very generously stayed with us until we could finally hold our AGM. Thanks are not enough.

Roman DePaulitte also left the board. David Formstone is our new Chair and Alison Donnelly is the new Vice Chair. Mel Carruthers is our new Secretary.

We were also delighted to welcome several other new Trustees:

Julie Smith, John Crosby, Marijke Van Drunnen Little, Mary-Kate Brown, and Nick Jennings all joined the board.



## Choose Love Nappies and Toiletries Donations



We had some fantastic donations for the Choose Love Nappies and Toiletries nationwide appeal. We had a big load from Calderbank Nursery (special thanks to Lucy Farper-Parper) and a truly magnificent haul (not all shown in the picture) from the wonderful students and staff at Dumfries Academy. Special thanks to Cae'la Thomson and Nina Hollywood. We had over 40 very full banana boxes to take down to Carlisle.

## Working with Attika Human Support

We had a lot of wonderful donations which had been sorted and packed but which were unsuitable for France (where essentially only small and medium men's clothing is wanted). Thanks to John Crosby we were able to connect with Attika Human Support who work in Dundee and who were preparing a container to go out to the camps in Greece which house families with all their different needs.

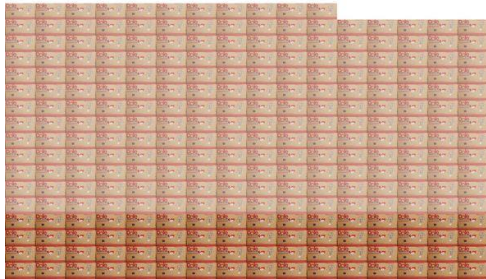
We thought we had 270 boxes to go out – in fact, it turned out we had 400! We put out an appeal for people to help us pay for the shipping costs and we were bowled over by the response. We overshot our target within three days. Our supporters really are such a very generous lot!



I can't tell you what a privilege it is to work with such wonderful people. We've only had our appeal up for three days and already you've overshot our target!

We'll use any excess money to help send toiletries or other donations over to Greece

Thank You!!



There has been so much love packing these boxes, our hope is that people receiving the donations will feel that also!



### Notes of love?

We always used to put messages of love and support to send in our donation boxes. In all the masses of confusion we lost some of this and so we started asking people to send messages in to us.

We need notes of Love and Support



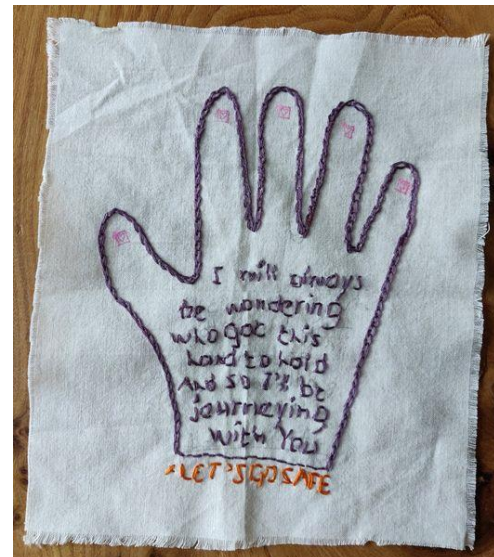
## November

The Greek Toiletries are shipped!

This is our toiletry donations on their way! Big thanks to James Cartwright and Adrienne Gill and all the Carlisle team for taking our stuff for onward transport.



The Notes of Love come in.



## December

### Duncow School Donations

Such an inspiring visit by Sue Downie and David Formstone to Duncow Primary School to receive notes of encouragement for refugees written by pupils to go into MOOL boxes. A number of items had also been gifted by parents and staff for a raffle with part of the proceeds going to MOOL. Our relationship with the school goes back a couple of years when volunteers Fee Biddlecomb-Hall, Liz McColm

and Avril Ferguson visited to give a talk - and were made so welcome they apparently stayed until lunchtime! Many, many thanks to all at Duncow school for your continued friendship and support.



### A lovely performance piece

Carolyn Yates sent us this wonderful and moving item by a Performance Collective Stranraer member about her refugee sister-in-law and niece. It's about 14 minutes long but worth it! <https://fb.watch/2g3jBgLBQN/>

### Thornhill [Collection](#)

160 bags of warm clothes, blankets and sleeping bags were donated to MOOL! Thanks to the generous folk of Thornhill and the surrounding area - also to Sue Downie, Mel Carruthers, Linda McDonald, David Kerr and David Formstone for helping with the collection and transport.



## A major shipment of aid to France

Remember the tents appeal earlier in the year? We were finally able to get the six pallets of tents sleeping bags and clothing away!

Massive thanks to everyone who's worked so hard to get our donations packed and palletised as well as THSR and Hull Help for Refugees who trusted us with their donations. Particular thanks to John Crosby for all his tireless work and to Philip Dawson who pitched up so early this morning to drive the forklift!

## January/February

### Concert

In January we launched a request to our volunteers to put lend us their music, poetry and stories to help us put together a concert to raise our spirits.

## Calling MOOL Musicians, Poets, Performance Artists!

Could you record a short performance  
for us to put into an online concert?

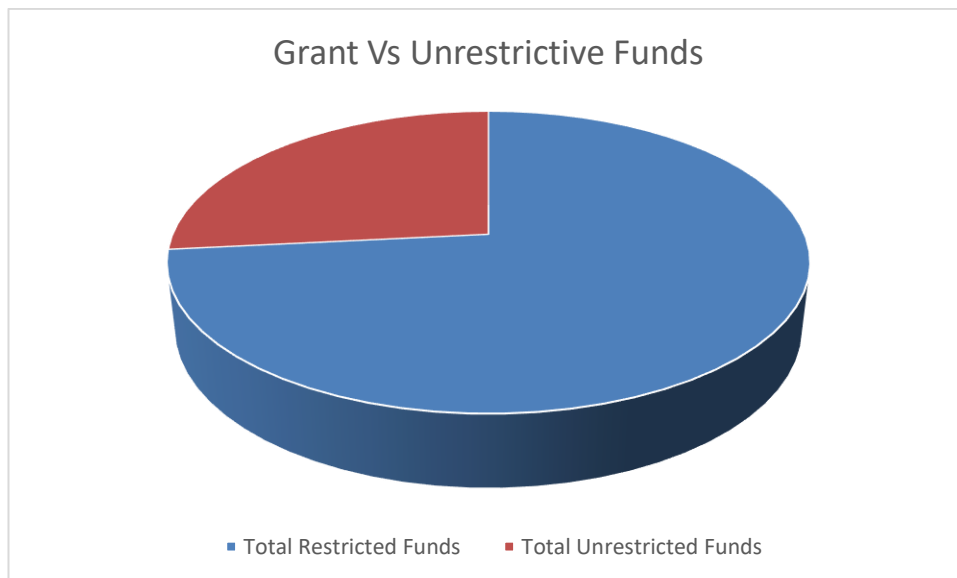
Please comment below or email  
[jrubinstein@mool.scot](mailto:jrubinstein@mool.scot)

### History Project

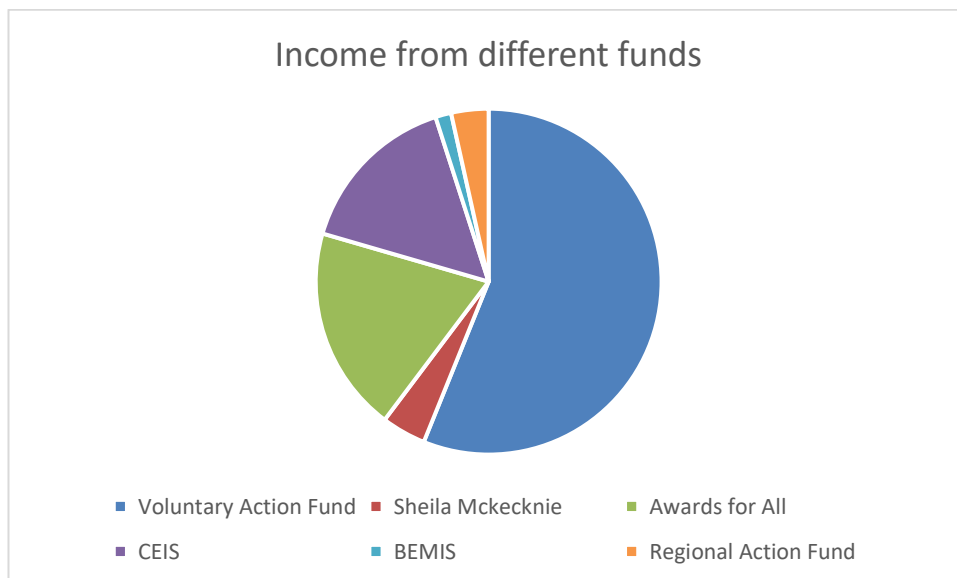
We also started a project aimed at recording the contributions of refugees to the history and development of life in Scotland. This is a long-term project, but we believe it could be a really useful archive for a wide variety of purposes.

## Financial review

The bulk of our money has come in through grants to cover specific projects, however, despite the difficulties of this year, we've had significant donations and been able to send large quantities of aid to places where they were desperately needed. The bulk of the donations (approx. £6k) have come in as a result of our appeal to cover the costs of sending our donations to Greece.



Apart from the VAF money these grants have been for specific projects.



**VAF/Impact Funding** – this grant was given over three years to develop and improve our volunteer interactions. It covered the cost of a volunteer co-ordinator



and helped us to introduce a number of training programmes and exercises as well as pay volunteer expenses.

**Awards for All** – this grant was to cover an intended programme of school visits and events. With the advent of lockdown we have been allowed to divert the funding to develop a thorough set of online courses mapped to the Scottish “Curriculum for excellence”.

**CEIS** – This was a grant to help community resilience during Covid and was used to fund online support for people through Facebook and our website as well as our Art Competition

**BEMIS** – This was to help with our St Andrew’s celebration in 2019, the final bills took a while to come through.

**Sheila McKecknie** – this was used to set up and run our community choir

**Regional Action Fund** – this was intended to enable us to run an event to celebrate Eid Al Fitr – sadly, lockdown made this impossible and the money has been repaid.

## **Statement of the charity’s policy on reserves**

Our policy on reserves states that we should keep in unreserved funds sufficient to cover at least three months wages and rent.

## **Details of any deficit**

There have not been any deficits.

## **Donated facilities and services**

We continue to use the Marchmount depot by permission from Dumfries and Galloway Council.

## Future plans

We have re-opened the depot and hope to make regular shipments of aid as an organisation (Distribute Aid) gets into gear. However, we need to find new premises because the council require the use of the depot which they've generously allowed us to use for the past 5 years. The exact date of our departure is uncertain but we expect it to be in August 2021

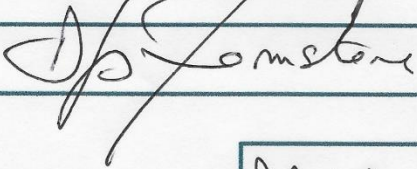
We are also hoping to welcome new families into the area.

We are continuing the online education project and will need to develop a secondary school curriculum and begin to reach out to the schools to publicise the offering. We will also continue to work on the history project.

We will continue to look for opportunities to build an awareness in our society of the immense value that welcoming people into the area can bring.

**Declaration**

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

DAVID FORMSTONE

Designation

CHAIR

Date

25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021