



Report to the Nineveh Trust – Vauxhall City Farm

28th November 2022

Ms S Hutchinson
Nineveh Charitable Trust
8 Mill Lane
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 2AS

Dear Ms Hutchinson

I am delighted to present our report on our programme of work undertaken in the past year with the support of the Nineveh Charitable Trust and your grant award of £8,000. The grant was aimed at supporting the delivery of a number of educational and environmental activities as we began to rebuild our offer following the restrictions that were in place during the pandemic.

Our targets and outcomes were that:

- **500 pupils increase their understanding of nature**

Coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic we managed to continue to deliver our Education Programme and get back to more in person delivery. We exceeded our target with **3368 young people being welcomed to the Farm to take part in workshops and educational school visits**, increasing their understanding of the natural world through outdoor education. Our activities included resuming our existing workshops: 'Milk Magic' and 'Land to Lunchbox' as well as new workshops centred on 'sustainability' which has been a huge success.

We have delivered this workshop to over 400 participants in the past 12 months and enhanced this offer to children in Wandsworth with part funding from the SWSJ Charity to run a new sustainability workshop entitled 'How to Save the Planet'.



The workshops explored the environmental impact of keeping animals and discussed why humans have domesticated some animals. We focussed on how we can give back to the environment, through regenerative farming as well as improving the biodiversity of our areas, and how controlling our food supply chain can benefit our own health and wellbeing and that of the planet. 249 children participated in this workshop during February and April 2022.

In addition, we adapted our wider offerings to increase our accessibility for SEND schools and groups, including developing a Vauxhall City Farm visit storyboard, as well as introducing a sensory garden activity as part of our 'Land to Lunchbox' offering.

From September 2021 to July 2022 we have facilitated 224 accessible Young Farmer sessions, offering places for children to learn all about caring for animals and plants as they spend more time outdoors, making new friends and growing in confidence.

- **165 pupils at-risk of exclusion and /or educational underachievement report improved wellbeing**



We continued to support our neighbouring secondary school, supporting two cohorts of at-risk pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health support needs each week on the Farm.

We successfully developed an additional programme offering a further 100 places for at risk pupils to learn new skills, gain confidence and spend time outdoors improving their wellbeing and confidence. Working again with City Academy in Hackney and Lilian Baylis Technology College, we delivered **56 sessions** in total and supported the improved mental health and wellbeing of **318 children and young people**. Unfortunately, due to the local school's reduced wellbeing provision, our original programme was put on hold late last year.

However, we redeveloped our Vauxhall City Farm + The Prince's Trust 'Get Started In Animal Care', with a focus on increasing wellbeing and self-esteem. We welcomed 36 at risk and vulnerable young people aged 16-15 years onto the Farm to the programme over 3 weeks and supported them to complete the intensive one-week course. This has been hugely successful with one participant reflecting:

"This has been a dream come true. Thank you so much for believing in me and helping me with my confidence."

In response to the unemployment crisis, we helped 10 young people at risk of long-term unemployment to develop skills in animal husbandry through our Traineeships. Several of our Trainees stayed on to increase their skills and knowledge through volunteering experience, and some have gone on to secure roles in animal care.

- **30 pupils attending our After School Programme (bespoke tutoring and wellbeing support) improve their academic attainment in Maths and English by 150% (or 1.5 grade per academic year)**

We were fortunate to have received match funding to deliver our unique afterschool provision across all three terms of the academic year with pupils coming from the inner-London Borough of Lambeth and the provision being designed to support pupils from low-income households/eligible for Free School Meals. We continued our partnership with TeamUp, who provided specialist tutoring in English and Maths that complimented our therapeutic and educational farm activities which integrated with the curriculum of the homework and tutoring sessions.

We were just short of our target with 28 pupils regularly attending from Year 3 – Year 7 and all (100%) were receiving Pupil Premium support.

With the ongoing impact of Covid-19 the afterschool provision was essential to supporting the educational 'catch-up' for children who were already experiencing lower than average educational attainment levels. 1/3rd of the weekly sessions were dedicated to stress busting and wellbeing activities to help relieve the tension and improve the emotional wellbeing amongst participants. This included discussion around, and meeting the larger animals, animal art; up close 'meet the animal' sessions with smaller animals and learning about their lives on the Farm. Gardening sessions included activities such as 'scent quest' - getting to know different herbs and engaging in planting activities.

"I want to thank you and your team so much for the fun and educational experience that you gave to my class last week. They enjoyed this experience so much and have requested that we go again. They were so engaged in meeting the animals and exploring your farm. Thanks again for being so inclusive, understanding and supportive toward our children." - Primary School Teacher Feedback



Overall, the cohort of pupils achieved an effort rating of 4.8 (out of 5). The academic attainment results were:

- Year 3 Maths pupils made just under expected progress, whilst Year 3 English made more than double expected progress.
 - Due to low attendance on the baseline session we do not have comparative progress data for Year 4 pupils, however data from their topic tests revealed they were ahead of their age-related target grades.
 - Year 5 maths pupils made triple expected progress; Year 5 English pupils made the expected progress.
 - Year 6 maths pupils made over double expected progress and age-related progress in English
 - Year 7 maths pupils made over triple expected progress.
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- **500 residents improve their understanding of community growing, biodiversity in urban areas and nature-based solutions through volunteering and participation in community gardens programmes**

We continued developing our community engagement through our new garden, including plant identification and seasonal planting workshops. We facilitated free planting sessions for visitors and young families, encouraging hundreds of residents to improve their understanding of community growing and biodiversity.

Over the spring and Summer of 2022, the community garden has undergone a massive transformation, with a new, large greenhouse to accommodate at least 20 people in indoor horticultural activities; a new outdoor educational hub, a new composting area, wildlife pond and new raised beds, wildflower, vegetable and fruit planting areas. The upgrade meant that our community garden had to be closed intermittently to the public

for safety reasons; this meant we did not fully realise our target of 500 residents, but we are delighted to have reached a more diverse audience including the local Portuguese community in a 6 week programme, regular older artists, weavers, African Caribbean elders looking to support others in growing Caribbean foodstuff, in addition to our sustainability and wellbeing activities and holiday school programmes with children and young people. We also initiated discussions with the local LGBTQ+ community on potential programmes of work.



We would welcome your continued support as we continue develop our sustainability programmes in our transformed community and eco-garden, particularly to support our community that is already struggling with inequalities and poverty that are exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

Monica Tyler

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