



Registered No. 256025

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### Questionnaire

Please note if you would prefer to write a report on your project with photos that is also acceptable.

#### **Tell us about yourselves (Charity Name, Donation Amount and Date of Donation)**

Blackthorn Trust is a supportive therapeutic environment in which people can recover, grow & develop. We are a registered charity and have been running for over 35 years. We offer specialist therapies and rehabilitation at our unique facilities near Maidstone in Kent, which include a large biodynamic garden, a café and kitchen, craft studios, therapy rooms and a medical centre. Our work is based on the belief that more than medication is required to affect positive change in people. The Nineveh Charitable Trust kindly funded a day a week of our gardeners salary (£5000 in September 2022) to enable additional events to take place.

#### **Tell us about the Funds**

- Has the project we helped to fund been completed? If so, how is it maintained?

Yes the funding has allowed us to run events for the public, such as a talk and demonstration of seed germination and wreath making events. It has enabled the local community the opportunity to benefit from our garden and get involved and to learn new gardening skills. We offer a tranquil space that the community can access outside of the events, but the events help us to show the community how they can use our garden.

We have also run 3 alumni sessions, ensuring that our service users maintain their recovery, once they have completed their journey with us, but sometimes they need an additional helping hand. By attending Alumni sessions we hope to prevent symptoms reoccurring and if they do, we can help them to maintain their independence without returning to Blackthorn for a full programme again. Additionally, we have connected with Kent Wildlife Trust following an event at Blackthorn Trust and now are able to refer service users to each other for additional nature-based activities. This connection has inspired our gardener to bring more focus to the ecology of our garden and is incorporating this into her teaching sessions.

- If not completed yet, why not? Are plans in place to finalise the project? N/A
- Did the funds provided by us prove adequate, or was there an over- or under-spend?

The funding allowed our gardener the additional time to plan and organise the additional activities, the funding equaled 7 hours of salary a week.

- How were any surplus funds used, or was further funding made available? As above

## Tell us about the project

- Has the project been successful and well received by the beneficiaries?

Our garden workshop is well suited to our service users who suffer from severe mental health conditions; this is because they can work in isolation, away from the public and start to build the confidence they need to work in our busier areas of our site such as the cafe. Each week at least 25 Co-Workers benefit from the garden workshop, gaining confidence and learning skills for work. The partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust inspired additional activities that had not been factored in and have enhanced the garden events. Additionally, through the extra activities we have generated an increased footfall into our café which has doubled our café income.

Are you satisfied with the outcome, or, with hindsight, would some modifications have been appropriate?

We are happy that this project allowed us to connect with our community post covid who have now become regular customers or have used our wellbeing services.

- Was funding for this project made available from any other sources? No

## Feedback about us

- How did you find our own process of selection and payment? The Ninevah charitable Trust is a straight forward application process and communication and payment was easy.
- Have you considered providing us with an update on the activities for which our Trust provided the funding? The funding has just finished
- Would you welcome a visit by our Trustees? Yes we love to show people around and would be delighted if a Ninevah Trustee would like to come.
- Have you any other comments? Please see below a section of photographs of garden activities



This questionnaire is part of our due diligence, obtaining feedback to help us, and we are grateful for your input – please return the questionnaire as soon as possible. Please email all questionnaires and/or reports to [sally@ninevahtrust.org.uk](mailto:sally@ninevahtrust.org.uk)