



Funding Update to The Nineveh Trust

The Nineveh Trust kindly donated £3,421 in September 2022 towards WERS Community Garden project. The grant was gratefully received as feedback confirms this is one of our more popular projects. 83 people seeking sanctuary and 49 community members volunteered in the garden over the past year and were provided with the opportunities to develop:

Social opportunities – the garden is a pleasant environment which encourages people to chat whilst gardening alongside each other. It is also a safe place as experienced WERS staff ensure it is non combative and are able to deal with any contentious issues which may arise.



'I have made a new friend here and like to talk to new people, it is very useful'

'It is so good to meet other people and get out of my hostel'.

Integration with local communities – regular volunteering alongside members of the local community helps build an understanding of each others' lives, issues and cultures. This reduces friction and enables a better fit of living together harmoniously.

'We (mum and son) did not know some things about the local people, but have met and talked now, so we learn – its better'

'I have made a friend in the garden who has given me much information about the city, and we hope to go on a visit together soon'





WEST END REFUGEE SERVICE



West End Refugee Service (WERS)
St Philip's Close
Arthur's Hill
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5JE
Charity Number: 1077601

Skills – Some volunteers are very keen to learn horticultural skills and gain an education in gardening such as basic maintenance, managing weed control, leaf raking, grass cutting – moving on to planting, growing – to use in future employment or as transferrable skills in other careers e.g. ground maintenance. Others are well skilled in horticulture but appreciate the opportunity to develop social skills of communicating and interacting, especially with local people.



'I have learned how to use tools I've never used before'

"I used to farm at home, so it is really good to do some manual work again'

Wellbeing – it is widely acknowledged that gardening has wellbeing benefits and our feedback confirmed that clients felt a reduction in stress, increased self-confidence but overall a sense of improved emotional wellbeing and mental health.

'I love this place, I feel free, I feel happy'

'It is a great place and green grass – it is lovely to come here from my dark hotel room'

'I feel useful. I am doing something that is helpful – this makes me feel so much better.'





Overall

WERS considers all feedback to ensure we are meeting an identified need within the community we serve. Over the past year, numbers of beneficiaries and feedback confirm this as a vital project which is now integral to our ongoing core services.

The establishment of a partnership with The Scotswood Garden in 2021 has improved the success of WERS garden project because the Scotswood project worker links with our garden volunteers to educate and develop skills and enable community integration.

Financial Report

<i>Items</i>	<i>Cost £</i>	<i>Actual Spend £</i>	<i>The Nineveh Trust Grant £3421</i>
<i>Compost, Seeds, Bulbs</i>	<i>580.00</i>	<i>613.95</i>	<i>613.95</i>
<i>2 Benches @ £223 each</i>	<i>446.00</i>	<i>384.00</i>	<i>384.00</i>
<i>4 Hanging Baskets & fittings @ £12.30 each</i>	<i>49.20</i>	<i>54.65</i>	<i>54.65</i>
<i>Activities</i>	<i>1000.00</i>	<i>1211.00</i>	<i>1211.00</i>
<i>Support Worker</i>	<i>4852.00</i>	<i>3950.00</i>	<i>524.57</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>420.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>91.00</i>
<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>450.00</i>	<i>450.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Vol & Staff expenses</i>	<i>800.00</i>	<i>541.83</i>	<i>541.83</i>
Total	8597.20	7205.43	3421.00

'Please continue the gardening programme, it is very good. A project where a lot of people come together a group helps definitely.'

Beneficiary Nov 2022