

St Nicholas Care Fund

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Newsletter – December 2025



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My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year we have welcomed a new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, who has taken forward the theme for this Jubilee Year called by Pope Francis. That theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

That call to be pilgrims of hope resonates deeply at a time when so much of our world is torn by conflict and unrest. Wars continue to rage, families are displaced, and many live in fear and uncertainty.

Closer to home, it may seem hard to be a 'pilgrim of hope' when all around us hardship weighs heavily on individuals and families in our communities.

More than 30 years ago, moved by compassion, the late Cardinal Winning founded what was to become the St Nicholas Care Fund as a practical response to

the suffering he witnessed in the Archdiocese. Today that mission is just as urgent.

Thanks to your generosity, the Fund continues to:

- Support families struggling with poverty and isolation.
- Assist refugees and those forced to flee violence.
- Offer dignity and hope to those facing addiction, homelessness, or loneliness.

These are not distant issues, but realities faced by people here among us. At a time when the world seems fractured and peace elusive, our small acts of charity become seeds of God's kingdom.

We are reminded of the words of St Paul: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). Each gift to the Care Fund is a living testimony to that truth, transforming despair into hope and exclusion into welcome.

I once again appeal for your kindness and support. Together, we can continue to strengthen the hands of those working in schools, parishes, and community groups across the Archdiocese, so that the vulnerable may know they are not forgotten.

By your generosity to the St Nicholas Care Fund you are being a pilgrim bringing that great gift of hope to those who desperately need it

With gratitude for your faith, hope, and generosity, and with every blessing,

Yours devotedly,

+ Most Reverend William Nolan
Archbishop of Glasgow

**Donations
and
Regular giving**
£7,434

**Donations
for
Schools**
£521

**Parish
Collections &
Caring Sunday**
£39,802

**Advent
Boxes**
£1,800

CROSS ETHNIC

£1590

“We are pleased to share the impact your grant has had on our sewing program for asylum seekers and refugees. With the funding provided, we were able to purchase additional sewing machines, which allowed us to expand the capacity of our sewing classes. This growth has made a significant difference in the lives of the participants, many of whom face social isolation and financial hardship.

The sewing classes have become much more than just a space to learn a skill—they have developed into a vital community hub. Participants regularly express how the classes have helped them build friendships, increase their confidence, and feel a stronger sense of belonging in their new environment. This has been particularly meaningful for individuals who often feel isolated due to language barriers, lack of family support, or limited opportunities for social interaction.

In addition to the sewing machines, we also used the funds to purchase a range of materials for the classes. Since many of the individuals we work with have little to no disposable income, being able to provide these materials free of charge has removed a major barrier to participation. This has empowered more people to take part, develop new skills, and create items for themselves and their families.

Thanks to your support, our project has not only delivered practical training but has also contributed to the emotional well-being and empowerment of many vulnerable people in our community. We are deeply grateful for your contribution and look forward to continuing this valuable work.”

David Nallaratnam, Director

FÈIS PHÀISLIG

£3528

“The grant from the St Nicholas Care Fund has made a significant and lasting impact on our work with young people in Renfrewshire. With the funding, we purchased three high-quality beginner accordions to support our Weekly Lessons programme, which provides traditional music tuition to over 100 young people each week during term time.

These new instruments have already been put to use by our learners, many of whom would not otherwise have access to their own instrument. The improved condition and playability of the new accordions have greatly enhanced pupils’ learning experiences and helped build their confidence, enthusiasm, and musical ability.

As learners progress and eventually acquire their own instruments, these accordions will continue to benefit new beginners, helping us maintain a sustainable and accessible model of delivery. The support from St Nicholas Care Fund has strengthened our ability to preserve Gaelic culture and traditional music while reaching children from across the local community, including those from areas of multiple deprivation.”

Grant McFarlane, Director

KEPPOCH NURSERY SCHOOL

£1468

“The grant enabled us to provide a festive afternoon tea which celebrated all families using the service. The afternoon tea was a great success with our family room packed with lots of parents and carers chatting and enjoying a special selection of party food.

The children helped to decorate each of the playrooms during December with each Christmas tree filled with Christmas baubles and lights. We purchased fairy lights and used these to create a special feeling of warmth and home to each of the playrooms. The fairy lights have remained in our play environments as the children made positive comments of how they make the room feel. The decorations have been stored securely, and some will be used during our graduation celebrations and future Christmas parties.

Each child received a gift from Santa at our Christmas party alongside a book and selection box. This was given to each child by Santa from his big red sack. The children were elated to receive their gifts, and many smiles were seen throughout the room.

We can only thank you again for the support we received enabling us to provide this lovely experience for Keppoch Nursery children and families.”

Abbey Tweedie, Team Leader

THE HOPE PROJECT

£2000

“The grant made it possible to teach a group of young people from our organisation basic cooking and baking skills. The classes helped to bring adults and young people together to learn new skills and it has been a lovely journey encouraging the development of new skills and to see young and old relax and have fun together.

Beside learning, the grant has helped to bring people together to share what we have cooked.

In conclusion the project was a huge success which we plan to continue thanks to the St Nicholas Care Fund.”

Christine Membi, Project Manager



TIME FOR TULLY**£1500**

“The grant allowed us to hire inflatable bouncy castles, slide and fun run (and the generator hire to power these) for children to enjoy free as part of our community fun day. This has allowed us to bring the community together, meet more families to benefit from our work, and provide the area with a free day in the school summer holidays. We are very grateful for the award, all the kids thoroughly enjoyed playing on the inflatable equipment on the day.”



Kimberly Murray, Treasurer

MASLOW'S COMMUNITY**£3032**

“The grant made a significant and practical contribution to our ongoing work at Maslow's Community. It has allowed us to invest in resources that directly support the development, wellbeing, and confidence of our service users.

We have purchased laptops, ESOL books, sewing machines and associated equipment. The laptops have already become a vital part of our digital support sessions, helping service users improve their English, apply for jobs, college, school, and navigate essential online services. They are particularly important for those who do not own devices and would otherwise be digitally excluded. The book sets have transformed our ESOL book group, allowing learners to follow the same text and build vocabulary and confidence through shared discussion. This group has grown steadily and now plays an important role in tackling language barriers and isolation.



The new sewing machines have expanded access to our sewing class, which now accommodates up to 15 women weekly. For many, this class is a rare opportunity for peer connection, creative expression, and skill-building. The addition of heavy-duty machines and a fit-to-form mannequin has allowed more advanced learning and was requested by those taking part in the classes. Some participants are now producing items of clothing, curtains and repairing items. We quickly realised we didn't have the space for one machine per person, up to 15 people per class, and those attending see the benefit of sharing and helping each other. The women are very grateful; not just for learning new skills, but for the joy it has brought them and the friendships they've made. Many didn't know anyone when they first came but have found real connection in the group. Even when they don't speak the same language, they help each other, showing how to thread a needle or fix a mistake, and they laugh and learn together. These friendships have grown naturally and often continue outside Maslow's. Some now meet up for coffee and introduce their families. What started as a sewing class has become a way for women to build friendships, feel part of something, and begin to put down roots in their new community.

In short, this funding has enabled us to respond directly to the needs voiced by our community, providing tools that support learning, creativity, and inclusion. We are deeply grateful for the support.”

Gail McGrane, Funding and Partnerships Manager

GLASGOW SLING LIBRARY**£1200**

“The funding has made a significant contribution to Glasgow Sling Library's mission to improve access to babywearing support and parenting resources across Glasgow. It enabled us to train two dedicated volunteers to become qualified babywearing consultants, expanding our capacity to offer services in the West End of the city—an area that previously had little to no access to this kind of support. Additionally, the grant allowed us to purchase essential equipment, including baby carriers and demonstration dolls, which are now actively used in sling meets, one-to-one consultations, and community outreach work.



The impact on our service users has been both practical and personal. Families have reported feeling more confident in using baby carriers safely and comfortably, and have expressed appreciation for the hands-on guidance and emotional support provided at our sessions. Parents of children with additional needs have benefited from tailored, specialist assistance. Families in financial hardship have received discounted or free carrier hire, removing the financial barriers to safe babywearing and strengthening bonds between caregivers and children.

Overall, the grant has had a transformative effect on both our organisation and the families we support. It has enabled us to grow our team, improve the quality and reach of our services, and ensure that every family—regardless of background, income, or location—has access to safe, supportive, and empowering babywearing support.”

Hannah, Managing Director

ST BRENDAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**£1900**

“The grant allowed us to put on a Christmas Pantomime in December 2024. Due to financial cut backs and the rise in cost of living we were no longer able to afford this through school funds. This is an event our children looked forward to every year and we found it very difficult to accept that this may not be possible.

We had a Christmas pantomime which all pupils in the school, staff and members of our Parish attended together. The additional money allowed for us to purchase a small treat for everyone to eat during the show.

Christmas is a beautiful but very difficult time for families and hosting the pantomime in school meant that lots of families who would not have been able to access or afford this treat were able to attend and lightened the mental load for families. Many of our parishioners had not been to a pantomime in several years and commented on what a joy it was to spend this time with the children.

We are extremely grateful for the funding and the joy it spread to everyone during Christmas.

Laura Greenan, Principle Teacher

GRANTS AWARDED

OCTOBER 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2025

NET Ministries Scotland	£5000
St Brendan's Primary School	£1800
St Ninian's Primary School	£700
Capoeira Scotland	£807
Cross Ethnic	£1590
Romano Lav	£2076.55
Feis Phaislig	£3528
Govan Comm Project	£1660
SiMY Community Development	£3000
Maslow's Community	£3032
Keppoch Nursery School	£1468
St Aloysius High School	£2822
St Aiden's High School	£3000
Sighthill Youth	£2000
Hope Project	£2000
Halliday Foundation	£3000
Sunny Cycles	£1599
Royston Youth Action	£2200
Bridge Court Social Club	£1500
SAM's Glasgow	£3920
Total	£51,165

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

£1598

This grant allowed us to take 30 P7 children in the 2024/25 session to a 2-night residential experience.

During the stay the children got to experience activities including orienteering, canoeing and gorge walking, many of which were new experiences for them. The tasks are designed to encourage team working, problem solving and resilience, with the children being supported throughout to push past their limits and achieve success. There is also a focus on developing the children's independence with tasks like table setting & clearing and room checks. This experience is a key part of the preparation for the transition to high school and focuses on personal and social development through outdoor learning. It is amazing to see how much the children grow in confidence and independence during the trip.



M. Shield, Parent Council Chair

For more information about any of the projects supported by the St Nicholas Care Fund or if you would like to know more about how we can support a small, local charity in your community contact the Pastoral Care Trust Co-ordinator, Sheena Kenny.

You can now make an instant donation to the St Nicolas Care Fund by using your mobile phone camera to scan the QR code.

To Donate Please Scan here ➔



Scottish Registered Charity:
The Pastoral Care Trust-The St Nicholas Care Fund (SC 029832)

SiMY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

£3000

"The grant paid for 4 community open days Community Open Days at Lister Street Bowling Green. These sessions have had a significant and positive impact both on SiMY as an organisation and on the young people and families we support. They have enabled meaningful relationship building with and between parents, helping us strengthen our support for young people by fostering trust and familiarity, often being on first-name terms with families. One tangible outcome has been the development of a mothers' group, which provides valuable peer support for parents and contributes to more stable, supportive home environments for young people. The open days have also helped establish our space as a welcoming hub for the wider community, reinforcing its role as a shared community facility. They have strengthened our relationships with other local organisations who attend or collaborate with us, helping build a stronger network of support in the area. Additionally, these events have offered a platform to raise donations, directly contributing to our £25,000 target for SiMY's 25th year. Most importantly, the open days have brought people together through fun, inclusive events that help foster community spirit and make people feel more positive and connected to their local area. We would like to say a huge thanks to the St Nicholas Care fund for allowing us to trial these Open Days during 2025. They have been hugely popular and successful and are something we plan to continue as part of our calendar of events. £3000 rarely achieves this much, so thank you!"

Molly Buckingham, Manager



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