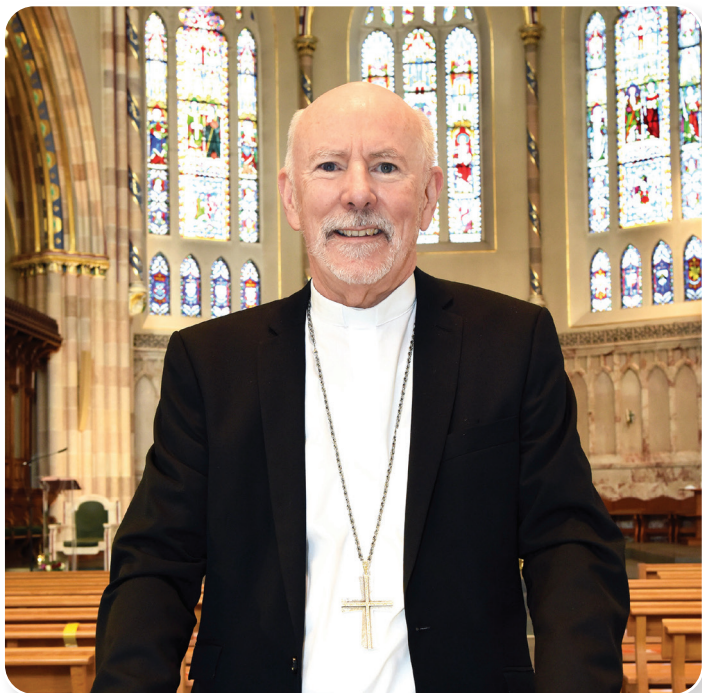


# St Nicholas Care Fund

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Newsletter – December 2022



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## ***My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,***

Thirty years ago this year, Cardinal Winning established a project, which we now know as the St Nicholas Care Fund, to help respond to the poverty and need he saw as he visited communities across the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

Today poverty continues to afflict the lives of so many people throughout the Archdiocese. Indeed, the need for help has never been greater.

The St Nicholas Care Fund provides assistance, in Christ's name, to people and communities facing hardship, putting into practice Jesus' words:

***“whatever you did to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me.”***

Help is provided regardless of race, politics, or religion. Typically, assistance is provided through small grants given to community groups, schools, churches, and charities offering support to those in greatest need.

Throughout the past year, the Care Fund has provided funds to support people without access to the basics – safety, warmth, food and clothing.

People affected by illness; drug and alcohol addiction; men, women and children fleeing war and persecution and looking for safety and a better life; the frail elderly or children isolated from their peers ... all have received support from our Fund in recent months.

Every penny you donate to the St Nicholas Care Fund goes to assist those in need. This Caring Sunday, I ask you to give what you can, so that we can continue to reach out and help those whose lives are blighted by poverty.

With my prayers and good wishes,

+ William Nolan  
Archbishop of Glasgow

**Parish  
Collections &  
Caring Sunday  
£38,193**

**Donations  
and  
Regular giving  
£10,978**

**Advent  
Boxes  
£1,490**

**Donations  
from  
Schools  
£1,046**



FRIENDS OF ROMANO LAV  
£3650

“The grant awarded to us by the St Nicholas Care Fund has been absolutely crucial to our ongoing activities. First and foremost, the grant allowed us to purchase two office desktop computers, which were essential to our work as we previously had none. The grant also allowed us to run our annual St Nicholas Day celebratory event – allowing us to purchase 200 gift packs for local Roma children from underprivileged backgrounds. We have started our ‘Roma Sisters Together’ programme, a weekly craft, wellbeing and skills development class for local Roma women, and the grant has allowed us to purchase enough soft-play equipment to make a fully accessible and wonderfully stimulating creche for children. The soft play area ensures that there are no barriers for women with small children to attend the class. The classes are well attended and the children in attendance love the play area. Our service users are so glad that there is a fun and creative space for their children, available at every session. The soft play equipment is also used for all our events, enabling us to create an accessible children’s space at each event, and will be in regular use in future projects. As well as this equipment, the grant allowed us to buy additional goods that supported our women’s group such as a sewing machine and cooking pans. Finally, a portable PA system was purchased to support our small outdoor events, such as Roma Genocide Memorial Day and the speeches made at International Roma Day.”

**Toni Bruce, Project Co-ordinator**

CROY COMMUNITY HUB  
£2000

“Having been awarded £2,000 from the St Nicholas Care Fund, meant we could replenish our community pantry shelves, and bolster our stock levels as we entered the winter period and the second year of running our much relied on project. Over the last 6 or so months, since having been awarded the grant, we have found a continued increase in the members utilising both our community pantry locations as it is supposed to be, helping them manage their finances and ensuring their budgets go that little further. We have also had an increase in demand of those within our community come to us, when times have been hard and by having access to these food supplies, we have been able to provide them with food packs, utility top ups and put them in touch with wider support through partnership organisations to ensure we could provide as wide a wraparound service as possible. Thank you for your generosity and award that was provided, we appreciate the help and support that it provided not only our charity, but our community.”

**Kristofer Loudon, Development and Facilities Manager**



ST VINCENT’S PRIMARY SCHOOL  
£1000

“The contribution the grant made to our P7’s residential trip to Glencoe was incredible. Our school is in an area of high deprivation and thanks to the award we were able to lower the cost of the trip to make sure it was affordable for families. As a result, we were able to ensure that poverty was not a barrier to this amazing opportunity. The children had a great time and developed new skills and took part in lots of outdoor experiences that they wouldn’t have had access to at home. The grant had such a positive impact on our P7s and allowed them to create memories that will last a lifetime.”

**Louise McCabe, Acting Depute Head Teacher**



ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL  
£3500

**Zofia, Primary 7 wrote to us on behalf of her school:**  
“I am writing to you on behalf of St Patrick’s Primary School to thank you for your generous donation and support. We have returned from our trip and have enjoyed it dearly, your donation has helped us manage to go on the trip and have some fun together before High School. Many pupils overcame their fear of heights, including me, as I have overcome my fear of drowning when in a boat. Archery was tons of fun and I hit the bull’s eye with my best friend which will be a fun memory for both of us. My class and I would love to thank you for your help and wish you the best.”



SEWING2GETHER, ALL NATIONS, MOSSVALE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
£5000

“The grant has been spent in full towards providing sewing and creative workshops for women within the refugee community, monies used specifically towards providing a hot lunch (soup, toastie or filled roll or baked potato) and drinks (hot chocolate is the most popular choice) and reimbursing their travel expenses. We received the grant just in time for our Christmas Craft Café which 54 adults and children attended, plus a special guest from the North Pole! In 2022 we have held creative workshops on a fortnightly basis, with an average attendance of 30 women at our sessions from the refugee, asylum seeker and trafficked community. We have made items from donated or upcycled

fabric including fleece sweatshirts and draught excluders. During school holidays, we post projects and “sew together” at home using online tutorials. In the summer we had a Fun Day, hiring a bouncy castle for the children, and we also hosted a picnic in the local park, the Fountain Gardens. The grant allowed us to buy ice-cream and pizzas as a special treat for all the families in attendance.”

**Corinne Watt, Project Co-Lead**

AMMA BIRTH COMPANIONS  
£5000

“The grant from St Nicholas Care Fund was used in two ways. £1,000 was allocated to the purchase of resources and equipment for our rights-focused and trauma-aware group antenatal classes, which have been running since November 2021. Co-facilitated by an experienced midwife and a doula/ hypnobirthing guide, the responsive and comprehensive workshops aim to build community and confidence, as well as helping participants prepare for birth and the early days of life with their new babies. The remainder of the grant has been allocated to the production and translation of our illustrated Amma parent handbook, which is now available in English, Arabic and Vietnamese - and soon Kurdish Sorani. It includes birth plan templates, birth and postnatal resources and detailed guides to such topics as induction of labour, birth positions and caesarean birth and is given to every Amma client.”

Some feedback from our antenatal classes:  
“The most important thing was to learn my rights and that I was able to say no to things, nothing is compulsory. This is very different to my country where you cannot say no to medical staff. You do not have a choice and I would not have known this without the classes.”

**Abigail Stein, Fundraising Manager**  
“I was so worried before I joined this class as I did not have any knowledge of the system. All the information helped me feel less worried; as soon as you have the information it feels better.”



STRATHCLYDE PARK ROWING CLUB, GLASGOW WATER SPORTS  
£2500

“This funding has enabled us to purchase a single person training boat equipped with stabilising floats which can be used by both new rowers and adapted to support rowing for the less physically able athletes. Feedback from our local young people, their teachers and parents has been incredibly positive, and we have plans to further develop our activities in the coming school year.”

**Iain Thayne, Funding and Outreach Co-ordinator**





## GRANTS AWARDED OCTOBER 2021 – September 2022

Ceann Creige Hurling Club .....	£2550
Croy Community Hub .....	£2000
Firecloud.....	£2300
Govanhill Community Pantry .....	£3500
Romano Lav.....	£3650
Sewing2gether.....	£5000
Faith in Community Scotland.....	£15 000
Hopscotch .....	£2000
St. Benedict's Primary School.....	£3000
St. Patrick's Primary School .....	£3500
St. Stephen and St. Kevin's Primary School .....	£3500
Urban Uprising.....	£1150
St. Mark's Parish Church .....	£1560
Glasgow Water Sports.....	£2500
Holyrood Secondary School.....	£2500
St. Vincent's Primary School.....	£1000
Parkview Primary School .....	£1000
United Yemini Community .....	£2500
Cancer Support Scotland .....	£3500
Friends of Newlands Park .....	£790
St. George's Primary School .....	£5000
The Well Centre.....	£440
Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland .....	£2400
Cardinal Newman High School .....	£4000
Young@Heart, over 55's .....	£750
Kassi Kunda .....	£2000
Cross Point .....	£380.31
Curiosity Collective .....	£1950
Refugee Survival Trust .....	£5000
Weekday Wow Factor .....	£2823.48
Sacred Heart Youth Group .....	£3444
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>£90 687.79</b>

## ST. LUCY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

£1500

"The grant allowed us to purchase a variety of different playground equipment and games to support play on the children's return to school following lockdown.

Much of the school's existing play resources had been broken or were missing due to "clear outs" during the upheaval of Covid19.

The task of deciding what to buy was given to the P7 children at the time who undertook it as an enterprise project. They spoke with all classes and staff to decide what was needed for each area of the playground. This was then costed and ordered, keeping to the budget of the grant. The P7s were then responsible for the distribution of the different toys and resources. When covid restrictions allowed, some of the older children supported the younger children to play with the different games that had been purchased.

This was a fabulous opportunity for the children to work collaboratively using their maths skills to improve playtimes for everyone. The toys and games brought were also instrumental in supporting many of the children to overcome their anxieties and to re-establish and build friendships on their return to school."

*Elaine Johnston, Head Teacher*



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

*You can also support us through Amazon Smile  
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC029832>*



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