



Our Year Your Impact



Foundation
Scotland



We helped bring some fantastic projects to life in Scotland over the past year, and we're thrilled to share a few of them with you here.

Our Year...



From encouraging children to read to helping stroke survivors return to exercise, these stories represent an incredible range of human experience and showcase many of the ways we can build a stronger, more resilient, thriving Scotland.

With projects in schools and prisons, cities and countryside, indoors and out, no part of Scotland was left untouched. We saw improved facilities and services, better access to education and employment, more independent and united communities, and everything in between.

Often, our funding served as a springboard for community projects, allowing them to secure further funds from other organisations. More than one recipient commented on how our belief in them gave them the confidence to trust in their ambitious – and worthwhile, we'd add – goals.

We welcomed many new funding clients and programmes, including people taking their first steps into philanthropy, energy companies such as EDF Renewables and their Dorenell Community Fund, and other companies such as the Financial Provident and their Social Impact Fund.

We offered individual philanthropists a matched-donation scheme as an incentive to start a long-term endowment fund with us, enabling us to turn £500,000 into £1,500,000 of new endowment funds for Scotland via ten new client funds.

These include the Fountainhall Trust, with a focus on education, arts and heritage; the Cervus Trust, with a focus on food poverty, mental health and family support; and the Beatrice Foundation, with a focus on youth development via outdoor activities.





Your Impact

We helped revitalise charitable trusts that had long grown dormant, such as Victoria League Scotland, which we helped to wind-up and bring its financial assets under our roof, modernising it in the process. It's now active and flourishing again, supporting international visitors and building positive relationships between cultural groups.

And, of course, we continued our work with existing partners, such as Baillie Gifford Investment Managers and their range of community funding programmes, and Nationwide, whose pilot fund that tackled housing issues and homelessness is now continuing long-term.

We also worked closely with the Women's Fund for Scotland as it strode towards becoming an independent charity. We've been the proud parent organisation of the Women's Fund since its inception in 2002, and have watched with awe as it notched up an impressive track record of funding that built skills, confidence, social networks that enable women to move on from violence, and so much more.

Overall, we distributed funds of £11 million, through nearly 3,000 funding awards, supporting many communities, charities and local grassroots projects along the way.

Our Communities Team alone worked in over 300 communities - a quarter of all community council areas in Scotland.

Our investment portfolio continued to grow, reaching £53 million - up from £33 million last year - and helping to build a long-term endowment for charitable support in Scotland.

Between the stories communities have shared with us, and the new and existing clients we're excited to continue working with, we're more motivated than ever to serve Scotland and its people.

Thank you to all involved, and in particular to the staff and trustees whom this wouldn't be possible without. May there be many more stories to come.



Tom Ward
Chair

Improving Life Skills, Education and Employability

Improving children's confidence at reading

Canine Concern Scotland, a charity focused on improving the care and role of dogs in Scotland, used a £2,000 award to bolster their Reading with Dogs programme. The programme was established in 2016 to help young children feel more confident reading.

Children are encouraged to read aloud to dogs – who are never judgemental or critical – so they feel less self-conscious and stressed as they practise. This comforting environment helps the children feel at ease, and perhaps even nurtures a love of reading, with many becoming more willing to read at home.

At Wallace Well Primary School, Robroyston, children read to Willow, an Old English Sheepdog and undeniably friendly audience. Since introducing Willow to their pupils, teachers have seen notable improvements in reading ability, as well as increased focus and confidence when reading aloud in class. Not surprisingly, Willow is a welcome visitor and the pupils look forward to reading with her. She's become very much a part of school life.

It's not just individual children who benefit from the programme, though. The rest of the school does, too, as everyone is overjoyed at the dogs' presence. Some parents even noted their children became more eager to go to school. 'It's the only day my daughter willingly wants to come to school,' said one parent. 'My son smiles and is happy – he is over the moon. After school he comes home and talks to me all about it, without me having to ask questions,' said another.



Gillian Doig, founder of the David Doig Foundation, which funded the project, said:

“ I was captivated when I first heard of the success rates that could be achieved and how it boosts children's confidence in reading. Having seen Willow in action, I was heartened to see how much the children were inspired by this type of learning.

FS Funder: David Doig Foundation

Training migrant women to run a catering business

Soul Food Sisters is a women-led social enterprise in Govanhill, an area of Glasgow with severe deprivation and a high population of immigrants. Their core business is catering, providing authentic ethnic dishes for events, cafés and pop-up restaurants.

They used a £30,000 award to fund their Go, Sister volunteer support programme, which trains unemployed and underemployed migrant women to work in catering and builds the confidence and skills necessary to do so.

A hands-on 'learning through doing' approach is taken, with volunteers training in food hygiene, health and safety, planning, budgeting, marketing, event organisation, and all other areas necessary to run a successful catering business.

As well as in-house training, volunteers are encouraged to undertake additional training through partnerships with other organisations, and events are held to recognise and celebrate volunteer involvement, which include certificates, photos – and fun!

The award also allowed Soul Food Sisters to train a volunteer coordinator, who now handles the management of the programme and ensures volunteers receive the guidance and support they need.

As the women develop their skills, confidence and networks, they break down barriers that lead to isolation and loneliness, and improve their chances of moving on to paid employment – and out of poverty.



Directors Racheal Smith and Djamila Siagh said:

“The grant has enabled us to support migrant women to learn, share their experiences, and gain new skills to build a better future in their new home, Scotland.

FS Funder: Women's Fund for Scotland



Offering better training for adults with learning disabilities

Fly Cup Catering, based in Inverurie, provides training and employment opportunities to adults with learning disabilities. They put a £5,000 award towards the delivery and formal SQA accreditation of the My Fly Cup Training Journey, in which trainees choose their own goals, outcomes and training options, and gain a formal qualification at the end.

Fly Cup, which is already an ASDAN-accredited training centre, used the funds to take their senior trainer to full-time, allowing them to begin the process of becoming an approved SQA centre too. The senior trainer develops, administers and delivers training in catering, hospitality, life skills and employability skills.

Depending on their goals, trainees may work in Fly Cup's kitchen, bakery, coffee shop, outside catering or meeting rooms, where

they learn how to cook, bake, serve customers and manage the meeting rooms. Trainees are able to learn in a stress-free, relaxed environment with staff who understand their individual abilities and can accommodate their needs. After completing their training, some trainees opt to enter mainstream employment, while others go on to work for Fly Cup on a long-term basis.

Fly Cup's five-year plan involves more on-site functions, where they will be able to employ their own trainees. The additional income generated would allow the senior trainer post to be sustained.

Jim Saunders, Operations Manager at Fly Cup Catering, said:

“ *The funds are allowing team development to drive forward our accredited learning and training package to a wider audience of trainees with learning disabilities, allowing them the achievement of greater independence, employability skills and enhanced quality of life.*

FS Funder: Mars



Training an archaeologist on a Scottish Island

Isle Martin Trust, which aims to develop and maintain the natural, cultural and human heritage of the eponymous island north of Ullapool, used a £1,500 award to train an apprentice archaeologist. The award was put towards the apprentice's wages, travel costs, specialist equipment and on-site training delivered by an experienced archaeologist.

Archaeologists are important for the island because the digs they conduct attract considerable interest from the professional community, volunteers and visitors. This in turn benefits the local economy and enables the trust to expand its activities, which include preserving the flora, fauna and wildlife of the island, and educating the public about the culture of the island's former inhabitants.

Until now, the trust has only been able to carry out one dig at a time, because it could only fund a single professional site supervisor. Having an additional archaeologist on hand means the trust will be able to investigate two dig sites simultaneously, effectively doubling its sustainability.

The fund doesn't just benefit the island and trust, though. The apprenticeship was awarded to a local woman who lives on a remote peninsula and wanted to return to work after raising her family, but was unable to access formal courses because of her location. Her training has allowed her to gain a recognised professional certification, which means she can officially begin her dream career as an archaeologist.

FS Funder: EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education and Training Fund

Making chocolate and improving women's lives

Positive Changes (Scotland) is a community interest company that supports women who have touched the Scottish criminal justice system and are now choosing to make positive changes to their lives.

They put awards totalling £25,500 towards hiring an Administrative Support Assistant, who among other things supports service users and oversees office admin, and towards Grace Chocolates, a new social enterprise centred around making and selling high-quality handmade chocolates.

Through Grace Chocolates, women who have been involved in the criminal justice system have the opportunity to gain skills and experience, as well as confidence, self-esteem and resilience. This all helps lower the barriers women face in finding meaningful work and breaking the cycle of reoffending.

During its first year, nine women completed the training course, named Making Positive Changes, which is delivered two days per week over six weeks. None of the women who took part have reoffended, and some have moved into employment or made other positive changes to their lives.

Several participants shared how the training has changed their lives for the better, with one saying, 'If somebody's letting me come and do the work, it means they're happy with what I'm doing and there's hope I can move on and do that somewhere else.' Another said, 'It's the actual accomplishment and the achievement. Just finishing it. Just the accomplishing.'



Joyce Murray, Founder and Director, said:

“ We are very grateful to Foundation Scotland for the funding we received as it has made such a difference to our organisation and the women who are choosing to make positive changes in their lives. We have been able to engage with more women and provide richer support for them as they journey towards fulfilling employment.

FS Funders: Mars and Volant

Improving Life Skills, Education and Employability

Your impact... in numbers

Number
of awards:

128

Amount
awarded:

£1.8M

Improving Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Helping older people socialise and enjoy the great outdoors

Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS) is a local community group based in Falkirk, which aims to help people over 65 with mobility issues spend time outdoors and reduce their social isolation. They do this by taking them on trips on 'trishaws', which are three-wheeled, pedal-driven vehicles that can seat passengers.

CWAS used a £5,000 award to expand the project into Wallace View, a care home in Cornton, Stirling, one of the most deprived areas in Scotland. The money was put towards the trishaw itself, which cost £8,000. CWAS also paid for the necessary insurance and helped the group get up and running, including training volunteers to 'pilot' the vehicles.

The scheme has taken off all over Scotland, with over 450 volunteers and 30 trishaws taking older people from care homes and sheltered housing, who are more likely to report loneliness, out on a weekly basis.

It benefits not just the recipients, but also the volunteers, who are often disadvantaged people or inactive adults referred to CWAS by their GPs. Not only do these volunteers get to socialise and improve their own activity levels, they also have the opportunity to gain qualifications, skills and references that can help them on their career paths.

The programme encourages meaningful social contact between generations, and everyone involved benefits from getting into the great outdoors and feeling the wind in their hair. One passenger said, 'I felt like a queen waving to everyone – very royal in my carriage,' while another said, 'It was lovely to feel the fresh air on my face.'



Christine Bell, Executive Officer of CWAS, said:



We have been overwhelmed by support for this project and wish to say a huge thanks to all donors and volunteers. It could not happen without you!

FS Funder: Mars

Dog-rehoming therapy for young people affected by substance abuse

Oban Addiction Support Information Service (OASIS) is a community-based rehabilitation project that provides free confidential, non-judgemental support to those affected by substance abuse, including specialised support for young people between 11 and 21.

They put a £10,000 award towards a therapeutic dog-rehoming project for young people affected by substance abuse. Working in partnership with Argyll Animal Aid, OASIS reached out to young people aged 11–19 with a history of alcohol misuse or a high risk of it and invited them to help train rescue dogs to be placed in new homes.

The participants attend Lochandbhu Kennels and, working with a youth worker and volunteers over several weeks, gain animal care and training skills. During this time, they engage in a structured, non-confrontational environment, building attachment and a sense of responsibility to the animals, some of which have issues around attachment, anxiety or anger management.

Many of the participants have been excluded from mainstream education, been in care, or spent time in prison or secure accommodation. The project was launched with the hope that their health and wellbeing, confidence, relationships, and school or employment attendance would improve. So far this has been seen to be the case.

Nichola MacGillivray, Project Manager, said:

“Among service users we have seen increased confidence and self-esteem, decreased anxiety, improved sleep patterns, reduced offending, increased training and employment rates, and improved relationships. Several people’s lives have been turned completely around by it.

FS Funder: Scottish Whisky Action Fund



Providing permanent homes to young people leaving care

Rock Trust, which works with 16–25 year olds who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, partnered with Almond Housing Association to launch their Housing First for Youth project, which offers immediate, permanent, unconditional accommodation to young people leaving care in Scotland. They used a £50,000 award to expand the project to ten additional people.

Government data shows that around 20% of care leavers become homeless within five years of leaving care, though practitioners suggest the rate is closer to 30–50%. Young people leaving care have often had many temporary homes and need to prove their ‘readiness’ before they can access a permanent home. This can be compounded by significant trauma, instability and a lack of security experienced throughout early life.

The project identified the young care leavers most vulnerable to homelessness and provided them with a permanent home. The tenants were provided with a furniture budget, too, allowing them to turn the house into a home.

Youth workers who provide support employ a ‘whatever it takes’ approach, meaning the young people get the help they need for as long as they need it, and the opportunity to build a safe, unguarded relationship. The support involves whatever areas the young person most wants to develop, and often includes managing a home, mental health, education, employment, and money management.

Alistair MacDermid, Operational Manager of Rock Trust, said:

“The permanency provides much needed stability for these individuals whose young lives have too often been characterised by chaos. The security of knowing you have a safe place to call your own and a helping hand whenever things don’t go to plan is invaluable.

FS Funder: Nationwide



Making prisoners' education more personal and effective

Somewhere is a not-for-profit arts organisation that creates and manages diverse arts projects. They put a £10,000 award towards a pilot educational project for Scottish prisoners, with a view to expanding throughout Scottish prisons if successful.

The project, Get Closer, used documentary film with the aim of helping prisoners develop their emotional literacy and communication skills, contributing to their rehabilitation and making them more prepared for release.

The documentary was shown to two groups of prisoners (one male, one female) at HMP Grampian, all within a year of their release date.



The film is a deeply personal drama focused on the impact of stroke on a family member, and explores themes such as coping with family trauma, building emotional resilience, navigating relationships under challenging circumstances, and the impact of past decisions and actions. It's hoped the participants will reflect on these issues and apply them to their own lives.

The film was edited into small extracts to be shown over two weeks in conjunction with a lesson plan, with guided group discussions taking place throughout. From this, Personal Education Plans were put together that identified areas where individual participants most needed support. The project will be monitored and evaluated by research staff from Robert Gordon University for 12–18 months after participants' release.

Jim King, Head of Learning and Skills at the Scottish Prison Service, understands that conventional education is something inmates often struggle with, many of whom may have hidden learning disabilities, and hopes this trial project will yield effective results and improved behaviour in participants after their release.

Karen Guthrie, filmmaker and co-director of Somewhere, said:

“Taking on a new way of working in a challenging context – the prison system – is something a tiny organisation like Somewhere would not be able to do without Foundation Scotland support.”

FS Funder: Gateway Fund



Improving Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Your impact... in numbers

Number
of awards:

272

Amount
awarded:

£2.9M

Reducing Isolation

Helping older people stay warm in winter

Winter Warmth for Older People is a partnership project organised by the Hub Dumfries and Galloway, a community action centre that provides development support for community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises. The project used a £19,000 award to ensure older people who live off the gas-grid still received the free deliveries of logs and kindling they needed to heat their homes throughout the colder months.

The service has been running since 2015, supplying elderly people in rural areas who rely on open fires. Wood is donated from a range of private and statutory landowners and agencies. It's then processed into logs and kindling and stored for delivery during autumn and winter.

The scheme was set up after evidence from the Scottish Housing Survey, Age Scotland and Home Energy Scotland showed a significant number of older households, particularly in rural Dumfries and Galloway, were living in fuel poverty and struggling to heat their homes.

These households often weren't on the radar of agencies that could assist with things like more efficient heating systems, insulation, smoke alarms and fire safety. Not only does the project make an immediate positive impact, it also helps to identify people who would benefit from interventions from partner agencies.

One of the recipients of the project, Betty from Port William, said, 'Without this project I would be unable to afford to light my fire. Thank you to everyone involved.'



Manager of the Hub, Karen Lewis, said:

“ Thanks to funding we have been able to provide a practical, low cost project that makes a huge impact on the lives of older vulnerable people in fuel poverty. The project is also an exemplar of partnership-working making the overall outcome more than the sum of its parts.

FS Funder: Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Reducing Isolation

Your impact... in numbers

Number
of awards:

109

Amount
awarded:

£1.2M

Connecting People with Arts and Culture

Turning ruined buildings into a drop-in centre

The Ridge, a charity based in Dunbar, aims to create jobs and training opportunities in the local area, as well as protect and develop local heritage so that future generations can care for and make use of it. In a project aimed to advance both of these aims, they put an £8,000 award towards developing ruined buildings into a centre for vulnerable people.

The Black Bull Close Project has seen derelict, overgrown buildings turned into a drop-in centre, training kitchen and temporary accommodation pods for those facing homelessness. The award contributed to staff costs for the Managing Director, legal advice, design and production of materials to engage with the community, and professional fees for a structural architect.

The Ridge works with some of the hardest to reach individuals, including ex-offenders and those affected by substance abuse and poor physical and mental health. They previously had a lot of clients who struggled with mental health issues and suicidal thoughts, but they weren't trained to offer counselling. They strived to help these people and directed them to emergency counselling, but this had a waiting time of 12 weeks. The new centre has allowed them to offer professional counselling themselves.



Kate Darrah, Managing Director of the project, said:

“ Having the funds to take on a team of highly competent in-house counsellors has had a dramatic impact on the lives of our most vulnerable clients. Their feedback is wonderful – talking about how it has changed their lives and given them tools to cope, even though it was only a short burst of sessions we were able to offer.

FS Funder: The Path Trust



Keeping local history alive with an archivist

The Gala Water History and Heritage Association, in the parish of Stow, is dedicated to collecting, displaying and archiving local historical materials for the education and enjoyment of residents and visitors of the parish. This is no small feat, so the association has been awarded £75,000 over several years, which it uses to fund a part-time community archivist.

Employing an archivist means the association has been able to increase its visibility, resulting in more visits (including school trips), the ability to make information accessible online – and a greater need for an archivist! The increased popularity means more historical materials are now being donated.

Thanks to the archivist, all items are now appropriately stored, properly organised and readily accessible, and the majority are also available online. It's not just about archiving things, though. The archivist also helps people do research for their own heritage-related projects, organises exhibitions, and does outreach and promotional work, all with a view to strengthening the community.

Some of the projects the archivist has helped the association with include: a booklet to commemorate the opening of the Borders railway; regular educational sessions for pupils, both in school and on-site; a popular monthly reminiscence group that provides good stories and social connection for locals; and twice-yearly displays that draw dozens of visitors.

The archive has proven popular with visitors:

“Well done on having so much info on the past. Thanks for all the help finding out about my grandmother's village.”

Another said:

“An amazing and very interesting archive for a small (though important) place.”

Funder: EDF Longpark Community Fund



A free family fun day for everyone to enjoy

Milton of Campsie Community Council, in East Dunbartonshire, used an award of £1,500 to put on a free family fun day in Beechtree Park in June 2018. The money was put towards not just the necessary licenses, amenities and insurance, but also all the festivities and food that made the day a true joy.

The star of the show was an outdoor 'Barefoot Ceilidh' accompanied by a local ceilidh band. A team of volunteers put months of preparation into the area, including setting up paths and entertainment areas, and were always on hand before and during the event to ensure the area stayed safe for barefoot merrymakers.

The fun day also featured bicycle rickshaws, face painting, sports activities, and a fairy storytelling performance nestled in a specially prepared woodland 'theatre'. Robert the Bruce and his Queen made an appearance, too, and several local clubs and societies set up stalls around the dance area.

The community council were keen to ensure the event was free so that everyone, even large families, could attend without worrying about the cost. No food or drink was on sale from private vendors. Instead, everything was provided for free, from tea and coffee to picnic foods to nibble on.



Keith Gilbert, treasurer of the community council, said:

“The event was a great success, with attendance estimated up to 1,000 over the afternoon. Comments after the event on social media were very encouraging, with appeals for us to run a similar event in 2019.

FS Funder: ScotRail Foundation

Art therapy for disadvantaged children and parents

Impact Arts is a Glasgow-based charity that helps vulnerable people and communities transform their lives through art and creativity. Over three-quarters of their work is with disadvantaged people and those in the top 15% most deprived communities in Scotland, who typically have little or no access to the arts.

They used a £20,000 award to fund free parent-child art therapy sessions for primary school-aged children who experience high levels of deprivation. The funding went towards hiring a full-time Art Therapist, as well as the associated admin and operational support needed to run the programme.

Art therapy sessions offer a safe, relaxed space for children to work through difficult emotions and express themselves using creativity and play, and of the 31 children supported through the programme, more than two-thirds displayed less aggression, stopped self-harming, and improved their relationships with their peers and family.

Imaginative play and creating art together helps families communicate better and strengthen bonds and attachment, and parents (and caregivers) gain a better understanding of how their children express themselves. Alison Peebles, the therapist, said, 'The children have become happier and more relaxed in sessions, and we hear how families are spending more time pursuing activities together during their home life.'



One of the parents who participated said:

“ My daughter and I were put in touch with Impact Arts after a couple of difficult years, as we didn't really enjoy spending time together. From the outset, Alison was approachable, understanding and non-judgemental. Gradually my daughter and I found it easier being together whether doing art projects (sometimes messy!) or more imaginative play. Our relationship is much better now and our time together is more relaxed and fun for both of us.

FS Funder: Scotch Whisky Action Fund

Connecting People with Arts and Culture

Your impact... in numbers

Number
of awards:

96

Amount
awarded:

£2.9M

Engaging with the Environment

Training new beekeepers in South Scotland

The South of Scotland Beekeeping Association (SSBKA), based in Dumfries, promotes beekeeping and provides beekeeping training, mentoring and support to hive owners throughout the region. They used a £20,000 award to help convert a stone building into a base – BeeSpace – from which all SSBKA activities could be run, from meetings to workshops.

The dedicated base houses a new apiary, which includes a screened veranda that allows safe demonstration of hive management. At the end of the apiary is an area dedicated to queen-rearing and nucleus colony production. The association runs training courses throughout the summer months, which give very hands-on experience, and in the winter they put on talks and presentations.

Having all their hives at a single venue has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of SSBKA's operations. The new venue is in a more convenient location, and the reduced travel times mean it's easier for members to attend regularly. This helps to maintain newer members' commitment to beekeeping.

The new location is also home to trial beds and bee-friendly planting, which demonstrate the difference new policies around pollinator-friendly crops and verges will make. The association has seen increased interest in beekeeping over the past few years, as the general public becomes more aware of the role honeybees play as pollinators and the threats they're facing as a species.



Angela Roberts, chair of the association, said:

“The funding received for the BeeSpace project has enabled us to realise our long-term vision, in which the decline in honeybee colonies can be arrested and hopefully reversed. By continuing to train and support new beekeepers, breed and sell healthy local bees for them, the impact of the grant will be felt for years to come.

FS Funder: Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Getting people running in Glasgow

Ruchill parkrun is a timed 5k run put on for free in Glasgow every Saturday morning. It's staffed by volunteers and open to anyone and everyone in the local community. The organisers used a £500 award to improve the event and help spread the word about it.

The money went towards a child pack for the group's defibrillator, signs and leaflets to promote the gathering locally, and tea, coffee and biscuits for people to enjoy after the run, which were previously bought out of pocket by the group's organiser.

Participants are welcome to run, jog or walk the 5 kilometre distance – with their children, dogs and prams if they wish! The event aims to be as inclusive as possible, and to promote physical activity in the community. The tea and biscuits, offered at a nearby golf course, are an opportunity to socialise and build relationships with others in the community.

Around 40 people take part each week, with another ten stepping in as volunteers. Volunteers learn new skills, including timekeeping and marshalling, and first aid and defibrillation training.

The group also has links with local schools, and gives their time and equipment to put on a smaller run for children in the local park during health promotion weeks.

FS Funder: 'Fourteen' – a legacy fund from the Commonwealth Games



Engaging with the Environment

Your impact... in numbers

Number
of awards:

71

Amount
awarded:

£0.5M

Building and Strengthening Communities

Saving a much-needed post office and village store

Furnace, a village on the north shore of Loch Fyne, was at risk of losing its general store and post office, as the previous owners had decided to retire. Once closed, the Post Office would have cancelled its contract, making any chance of reviving the shop unlikely. But with the help of a £10,000 award, the village was able to save them and continue serving the 200 local people who regularly depend on them.

Without the store and post office, residents' quality of life would have dropped considerably, hitting vulnerable people who rely on the store for amenities, banking and social interaction particularly hard. The next nearest post office is eight miles away and requires a long journey via bus for those without their own transport.

Furnace Community SCIO (FCS) – a charitable organisation set up to serve the interests of the local people through ownership, provision and management of facilities – took on this huge endeavor. They bought the premises, which included an attached bungalow, and found a tenant to move in and run the business.

The £10,000 award was only a fraction of what was needed to buy the property, but it was enough to see the project through to completion. The majority of the funding came from the Scottish Land Fund, but without the Foundation Scotland award, FCS wouldn't have met the financial requirements to apply for it.



Andrea Henderson, coordinator of the project, said:

“ The grant not only contributed significantly to the amount we needed to buy the shop and bungalow, but also gave us the confidence to manage the project. This was a major influencing factor in the success of our application to the Scottish Land Fund.”

FS Funder: An Suidhe Community Benefit Fund



A hydro scheme that benefits more than the local community

If Scotland has an abundance of one thing, it's water. And the people of Dalavich, a village in Argyll of around 70 people, wanted to use that to their advantage by setting up their own hydro scheme on the River Avich. This would allow the community to become more independent, sustainable and prosperous.

An ambitious plan was developed by Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG) in 2013, with the end goal being a hydro scheme that would overcome a severely constrained grid connection through innovative methods, and ultimately generate profits that could be put back into local projects.

The design was as ambitious as the community's vision, and involved constructing a new intake channel beside the existing one and building a new turbine house alongside the ruins of its predecessor.

The projected costs came in at over £1.3m. Funding was sought (and gained) from several places, including the An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Development Fund. When DIG requested a grant from the fund, they were instead presented with a £200,000 community share offer. This offer meant the fund would receive a small percentage of the scheme's profits, which it would then use for yet more charitable projects. The plans

came to fruition in early 2018, and the village of Dalavich now has its very own hydro scheme, which is expected to turn a profit within the next few years.

Peter Thomas, DIG board member and overseer of the project, said:

“ *This was an exciting, inspiring, and sometimes challenging project. It was really gratifying to receive share investment from An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund as it reinforced our belief in the hydro scheme. The scheme is now generating power and we are excited by the potential it offers local communities.*

FS Funder: An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Development Fund

Building and Strengthening Communities

Your impact... in numbers

Number
of awards:

209

Amount
awarded:

£2.0M

Resilient Scotland

Resilient Scotland provides investment and support to social enterprises across Scotland's central belt. The investment, usually a blend of a loan plus grant finance, empowers businesses to make an impact on their communities.

**Since 2012,
over £8 million
has been invested into
85 organisations,
with some outstanding
results, shown in the
following three investee
stories.**

The Resilient approach is based on building a close relationship, from the belief that social enterprises know best what their users, customers and communities need. Being friendly and approachable means lasting relationships are built, and the team knows that often money just isn't enough. Resilient provides the role of a critical friend, who listens, guides and inspires. Mentoring and business support are provided alongside finance, with one key aim – to help social enterprises succeed!



Resilient
Scotland Limited

JESSICA
SCOTLAND
TRUST

Physiotherapy and rehabilitation for stroke survivors

Health by Science (HbS), a personal training and physiotherapy social enterprise in Edinburgh, used a £20,000 award, plus a £40,000 loan, to improve its facilities and grow its Exercise After Stroke programme, which offers free physiotherapy and rehabilitation for stroke survivors.

The funding was used to open their own premises for the business, which was originally run out of a public gym, and to kit it out with the necessary equipment. The new space offers more privacy for clients, enabling stroke survivors to work in a stress-free, exclusive environment. The new equipment is more appropriate, too, and is based mainly around mats and weights rather than large cardio machines.

The Exercise After Stroke programme picks up where the NHS stroke care pathway ends after twelve weeks, and is open to stroke survivors who can walk 10 minutes with or without a walking aid, as these people are the most likely to benefit from it. Patients set their own goals based on their ability and aspirations (such as walking unaided, running, or re-joining the workforce) and progress is measured against these aims.

The programme begins with a one-to-one assessment, followed by free rehabilitation classes for six weeks. After this period, patients can pay £5 per session to continue attending.



Stuart Maytham, physiotherapist and co-founder of HbS, said:

“Everyone knows how hard it is to start a company from scratch, especially when you’re a social enterprise. Having a commercial and social arm to the company can feel like you’re spinning two plates at once. Now we have a sustainable and scalable business which is having a positive impact on more and more stroke survivors each year.

Funder: Resilient Scotland

Accessible cinema for all in Glasgow

Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT), an independent cinema and registered charity, has always sought to challenge the way people see the world through film and be a national centre for film culture, inclusive of everyone. They used an award of £130,000, plus a loan of the same amount, to transform their premises into a fully accessible centre for all.

Upgrades to the theatre include adding an additional screen (going from two to three), new bars and social spaces, a dedicated learning/meeting room, new offices, accessible toilets near the main foyer, and an accessible lift.

These changes allow them to offer an even more diverse array of accessible programming, which in turn has enabled them to advance their more ambitious social engagement projects, such as engaging with people with dementia and people of lower socio-economic status, including refugees. That's on top of the great work they already do for autistic children, visually impaired and deaf people, and those with learning difficulties.

GFT operates not just as a strong advocate of independent films made accessible for all, but also as an important player in communities in and around Glasgow, doing outreach work with schools and local groups, contributing to the vitality of the district, and instilling a sense of civic pride.



CEO Jaki McDougall said:

“The investment from Resilient Scotland was not just about the financial award. Equally important was their input to our thinking around accessibility for local audiences and how to push our organisation even further in achieving genuine ‘cinema for all’. Three years on from completion of the project, we are still reaping the benefits of both the improved accessibility of the building and renewed relations with our local community.

Funder: Resilient Scotland

Baking up a solution to reduce re-offending

Freedom Bakery is more than an artisan bakery. It's a social enterprise that provides work experience, training and employment to people with convictions, with the aim of helping them develop baking skills and prepare for life outside of prison walls.

The bakery put a £60,000 award to good use, initially by providing in-prison training, and later by opening a new, purpose-built bakery in Glasgow and welcoming recently released former-prisoners and prisoners on day-release into its kitchen.

Founder Matt Fountain's vision is to break the cycle of reoffending, which is an all-too-common problem in Scotland, with 42% of prisoners going on to commit another crime within two years of release. It's often difficult for prisoners to find work upon release, but if they do, they're 50% less likely to reoffend – and that's where Matt's vision comes in.

Of the award, Matt said, 'So many SMEs fail in the early days as they try to adapt their business model. The investment has given me a grace period to make the necessary changes to our model and adapt to the environment in which we operate.'

As well as training and employing people with convictions, Freedom Bakery also provides other help where it can, such as paying for therapy, support workers and even deposits on rental homes, without which many former prisoners may end up homeless.

Throughout its first three years, Freedom Bakery worked with 33 people with convictions, ten of whom went on to further employment, with just two reoffending. Some stay for as little as four months, while others are still there after almost two years. One apprentice said, 'I've got a real passion for baking now. I know if my mum and dad were still alive they would be very proud of me.'

Funder: Resilient Scotland



The Power of Community Endowment

We've provided an invested-trust service for philanthropists for well over fifteen years now. The annual returns these long-term funds reap are redistributed to the charitable causes chosen by the founding philanthropist. Managed well, these funds grow well above inflation over the years, allowing us to continue supporting the charitable funds.

We have begun supporting ten communities with a similar service, and plan to grow this area so that we can enable the communities to initiate their own community endowment. The goal is to create long-term investment trusts, which will provide future funding that the communities can use to support new local ventures, or to underpin the costs of their community anchor organisation, or both.

Into the Future

Growing Invested Funds with Matched-donations

The first year of our new matched-donation programme, which saw ten new philanthropists establish long-term invested funds with us, was a roaring success, turning £500,000 into £1,500,000 of new long-term funds for Scotland. We plan to build on this success with yet more philanthropists – both individuals and families – and with communities ready to establish an endowment fund.





Loan Finance

We know the value of using financial capital wisely, and our growing expertise of managing endowment funds is making us wiser still. Through well-targeted loans, we'll enable social and community enterprises to have a positive impact on local people, and finance to be 'recycled' by other enterprises. This has already been successfully demonstrated by our sister organisation, Resilient Scotland.

Throughout the year, we'll explore how to progress loan finance to ensure future offers add value to the social and community enterprise sector – and are of interest to philanthropists, our clients, and our supporters, of course.

Smart Fund Distribution for Greater Impact

We'll continue to provide a broad range of funding awards, often through the well-established grantmaking practices we've made good use of through the years. On top of that, we've begun to widen our approach to funding distribution, and will continue to grow our expertise in this area. This will give us more inclusive ways to involve communities in funding decisions, including commissioning of projects, targeted grant funding, and participatory budgeting.



Giles Ruck
Chief Executive

Financial Summary

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2016-17 £000's	2017-18 £000's	2018-19 £000's
Income	11,546	13,771	33,680
Gains and Losses on Investments	4,729	2,774	826
Grantmaking	7,352	9,580	11,220
Other Expenditure	2,029	1,660	1,828
	6,904	5,305	21,458

BALANCE SHEET

Unrestricted Funds	2,815	4,498	5,461
Restricted Funds	6,993	6,954	8,091
FS Capital Funds (endowment)	29,684	33,345	52,703
Total	39,492	44,797	66,255

GRANTMAKING

Value of Grantmaking	£7,352,000	£9,580,000	£11,220,000
Number of Awards	3,500	3,854	3,959



This is an extract of our accounts. To see our full published accounts visit <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/about-us/publications/>





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