

## **Dear Friend of the Hogarth**

2023 has been a successful year for the Charity, juggling a variety of funding sources to address the challenges of elevated cost inflation and our annual funding deficit, raising the number and diversity of licensed activities at the Community Centre and, most importantly, increasing the scope and reach of our Youth Programme.

Denny and Naomi expanded their outreach efforts and deepened their working partnerships with Cavendish Primary School, Chiswick School and Dukes Meadows Trust. Our June fund raiser enabled us to add three extra days of summer holiday service and to increase the number of young people on our 3-day residential from 18 to a record 27. We made five successful grant applications. We also expanded our Friends of the Hogarth network and welcomed many key stakeholders to the Centre. Various members of the team also attended and spoke at public events including Trainee Youth Worker Billy Beatty who represented the Charity at the recent Chiswick Area Forum on Youth Employability. Most importantly we made tangible progress with the council to secure our new long-term lease.

We very much look forward to the Christmas break to return recharged and determined to achieve even more in 2024 – the best is yet to come!

### **PROJECT 2023 (Youth Programme 2023)**

Denny, Naomi and a team of 15 trainee youth workers completed Project 2023 on 21<sup>st</sup> December. They look back on 194 days of uninterrupted service including three Half Term and two long Holiday Programmes. During the year more than 350 young people participated in our programme over 3,400 times. Our free meals commitment ensured that hundreds of young people were well-nourished throughout all five of our holiday programmes which ran for 37 days.

2023 is our fifth year of resourcing and delivering the youth programme independently, evolving each year to remain relevant and appealing to young people. Earlier this year, Denny made a strategic pivot to supplement our universal open access model (we welcome all young people at the Centre during youth club hours) with more outreach to more schools and targeted project intervention work. This shift is delivering very encouraging results. Our *Get off the Fence Project* with Chiswick School is building good momentum as is our strong partnership with Cavendish Primary School. The *Get off the Fence* project includes guest speakers which so far have included our local MP Ruth Cadbury

and Superintendent Anil Puri and colleagues from Hounslow's *Safer Neighbourhood Team*. If you can think of inspirational speakers who will engage with young people as part of this project then please contact Denny.

We are determined to help families during the school holiday periods and, to this end, we will run our first New Year Holiday Programme from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024. As with all our holiday programmes, we guarantee every young person a nourishing meal, fun excursions and multiple onsite activities.

## **FINANCE AND FUNDING**

### ***Centre Revenue & Costs***

Dani Karas, our most excellent Centre Manager and champion fund raiser, set a record for license fees of £160,000. This more than covered the Centre's operating costs and enabled us to transfer £65,000 to our restricted bank account to part-fund next year's youth programme (PROJECT 2024). As a reminder, the annual surplus generated from license fees is the primary source of funding for our youth work.

We continue to enrich our Centre activities with more community purposed activities. To this end, we have recently added a new licensee, *Home Instead*, which gives personal defence classes for care workers.

Our budget for 2024 anticipates lower gas and electricity costs to be partly offset by general cost inflation. We have a Centre operating budget of £96,000 and PROJECT 2024 budget of £146,000, total Charity running costs of £242,000, a welcome year-on-year decrease of 3%.

### ***Grants & Sponsorships***

During the final quarter of 2023, we secured two £1,000 grants from the Munro Charitable Trust and Tesco Stronger Starts – Groundwork UK. We thank St Michael and All Angels Church for connecting us with James Munro and we thank James for supporting our Charity. We also thank every local shopper who nominated our Charity at a local Tesco branch. Every year we rely on a summer fund raising event, donations, grants and sponsorships to close our funding deficit. This year we received total grants and sponsorships of £29,300 and donations of £35,600. If you can think of a corporate who would consider a multi-year sponsorship agreement for our youth work then please let us know.

## **CHARITY MATTERS**

We are committed to pay all members of our team, some 22 people, a fair wage, most especially our lowest paid workers. From the beginning of 2024 we will peg our lowest hourly rate to the London Living Wage, recently raised to £13.15.

Our discussions with the council for a new lease are progressing well following a constructive meeting in mid-December. We hope to reach final agreement early next year.

We thank every individual, sponsor and grant provider for their financial support during the year – you have really made a positive difference to the lives of many young people and their families. I send my deep personal thanks and tributes to every member of staff and my fellow trustees for delivering another year of safe operations which has helped so many young people.

**We send you our  
VERY BEST WISHES  
for a  
HAPPY & HEALTHY 2024  
The Youth Team, Centre Staff, Trustees,  
and our many hundreds of young participants**

We would very much like to retain your contact details so that we can update you on our progress and events. If you do not wish to be updated, please respond to this e-mail with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from our records, in line with data protection (GDPR) requirements.