The charity for Scots in London

ScotsCare Newsletter

Winter 2023/24

Registered Charity Number 207326
Registered in Scotland No. SC052739

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ScotsCare wins at the ACO Awards!

In September, ScotsCare was recognised at the Association of Charitable Organisations Annual Awards Ceremony. The charity was shortlisted for two awards - Impactful Grant of the Year and Commercial Collaboration of the Year, winning Impactful Grant of the Year, beating charities Hospitality Action and the Royal British Legion. Our CEO Shona Fleming was at the event to accept the award on the charity's behalf.

The client case study (please see below) considered for our nomination highlighted a client that received financial, practical, and emotional support over many years and through traumatic times. The single mother has been able to rebuild her family's life with a helping hand from ScotsCare.

CEO Shona Fleming was delighted to win, saying:
"It's fantastic recognition of the impact of ScotsCare's grants on the lives of our clients. In this case we were able to support a person to improve their life for the better in the long term and I'm glad we could be there for them over the years."

Susan's story

Susan first contacted ScotsCare in 2003, having just moved to London with her three young children, all under the age of five. She'd left Scotland looking for a fresh start for her family after her partner had been sent to prison.

ScotsCare initially supported Susan with **training grants** that enabled her to attend college and qualify as a **beauty therapist**. Later on, the whole family engaged fully with our **family social events**, which provided some much-needed fun for the whole family without any financial burden. During this time, Susan continued to keep in touch with her partner in prison, visiting when she could.

Over the next 13 years Susan worked part time as a beauty therapist to support her young family and continued to receive support from ScotsCare with **children's clothing grants, household grants and children's activities grants**.

In 2017, her partner was released from prison and the family were reunited here in London. Sadly, the reunion didn't last long, Susan's partner started to drink heavily and after a domestic abuse incident, her partner was returned to prison.

This was a difficult time for Susan, her hopes of a united family were over, and she was now expecting her fourth child. After the birth of her child, and during an assessment for a financial grant, Susan spoke about her mental health struggles. The client support worker quickly made a referral to our psychotherapy service and Susan went on to receive 12 months of intensive psychotherapy.

With the help of therapy, Susan was able to make some life changing decisions. She ended her relationship with her partner and set about securing a better future for her and her family. With funding from ScotsCare she enrolled on a Psychology Degree and worked part time in an educational setting. After three years of study whilst working and managing her young family of four, Susan graduated with a First-Class honours degree from the University of London. Her long-term goal is to become a teacher.

We will continue to support Susan until she is fully financially independent and are confident that this will happen sooner rather than later!

Join us for a Christmas Carol service at St Columba's Church of Scotland

17th December 2023

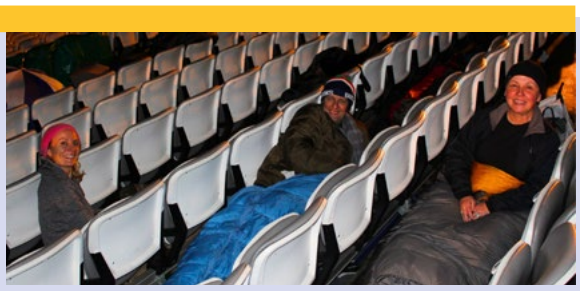
We warmly invite you to join us at this year's carol service at the **St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont St, London, SW1X 0BD on Sunday 17th December at 17.00**.

The Annual Congregational Service of Lessons and Carols, which is open to all, is followed by a reception with refreshments at the church, hosted by ScotsCare.

All donations made at this event will go towards helping Scots in London this Christmas.

For more information please contact our **Fundraising Officer** on **0207 240 3718** or **fundraising@scotscare.com**

Fundraising Update



Three runners took on the Royal Parks Half Marathon on Sunday 8th October raising £1282 in support of the charity. ScotsCare trustee Kevin Lynch, his wife Jenny and staff member Pete Bakewell all lined up with 16,000 other runners on an unseasonably hot day. Each runner finished and were pleased to have crossed the line for ScotsCare.

To raise money for our homelessness services, CEO Shona Fleming, alongside other supporters, took part in the **CEO Sleepout at Lord's Cricket Ground on Monday 20th November** for the **7th time!** This was ScotsCare's first time taking part, having previously being involved through our then sister charity Borderline, which we merged with in April. It's a fantastic event, with hundreds of business leaders raising funds for the homeless. **Donation pages are still open, so if you 'd like to donate visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/shona-fleming6**. We'll update you in the next newsletter with the total amount raised.

Would you like to take part in the **Royal Parks** or the **CEO Sleepout** next year, or another fundraising challenge? If so, please contact our **Fundraising Officer** at **fundraising@scotscare.com** to find out more.

ScotsCare Choir performs at first ever Scots in London Gala

The best of Scottish poetry, music, song, and dance featured prominently in a gala event that brought London's Scottish diaspora together on 11th October at St Columba's Church of Scotland, under the approving eye of Princess Anne, The Princess Royal.

The ScotsCare Choir performed 'The Wild Mountain Thyme' in front of 300 Scots. Other highlights were the Pipes and Drums of the London Scottish Regiment, recitation of Burns poetry by Alain English, the Tartan Thistle Dancers, performances by Elizabeth Thomson, Mary-Jannet Leith and folk duo Duncan Menzies and Will Chamberlain, and joint performances by Còsir Lunnainn (London Gaelic Choir) and Crown Court Choir.

ScotsCare is one of the partner organisations involved in Scots in London, which is the umbrella organisation made up of Scottish cultural societies, sports clubs, alumni groups, charities, churches, and the Scottish military to further Scottish culture and connections in the capital. **The next event in the Scots in London calendar is a Ceilidh on Saturday 9th March, more information to come at www.scotsinlondon.org.**

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS** and return to: ScotsCare, Ground Floor, 22 City Road, London EC1Y 2AJ

Title: First name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

ScotsCare takes data protection very seriously. We promise we will not pass your details on to any other organisations. By giving us your email and/or postal address, you agree that ScotsCare may use it to send you information about our work and other activities. To change your contact preferences, please email communications@scotscare.com. To view our full Privacy Policy, please visit https://scotscare.com/privacy-policy/

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

☐ I would like to sign up for a monthly donation by Standing Order Mandate

STANDING ORDER

For the sum of £ on the day of each month

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society:
Pay to: ScotsCare at: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Fleet Street Branch, 1 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1BD Account number: 10087272 Sort code: 160011

Your bank details Sort Code: Account Number:

Bank name: Bank address:

Bank Postcode:

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If you pay home Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.