



Living Hope Belfast

Project Proposal 2020 - NIC101113

Registered with the Northern Ireland Charity Commission

The **Living Hope Charity** was established in November 2001. It is based in the Lower Shankill area of Belfast, one of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland with one of the lowest educational achievements and the highest juvenile crime rates. Teenage pregnancies and youth suicide are amongst the highest in Europe. For the past 19 years the Living Hope has existed to provide help and hope to people of all ages in this community.



Living Hope Charity – Providing Help and Hope

Living Hope Projects To Empower – Promote – Provide

Our different projects work with over 300 people a week providing opportunities, empowering people and helping the disadvantaged. We have a purpose built premises that allows us to run many different projects for many ages. The Shankill Road was at the forefront of the troubles in Northern Ireland for 35 years, indeed the physical, mental and emotional scars can still be seen in the lives of many people. We work in a community full of hurting people who resort to alcohol or drugs for the answer.

In the midst of all this we at Living Hope have sought to bring a little hope and encouragement to people through our work. Our aims include:-

1. We want to empower people of all ages to make positive choices that will influence their lives for the better.
2. We want to promote a better quality of life for those we feel are disadvantaged through geographical location and poverty.
3. We want to provide opportunities for those we work with to release their potential and discover interests which will have a positive impact on their own lives and communities.

Storehouse

On September 1st 2013 we established the **Living Hope Storehouse** to provide furniture, electrical goods and emergency food parcels to families and individuals in our community in need free of charge. We fitted out a shipping container with shelving and received funding for another storage unit in 2017 and began to put together parcels that could be delivered by a team of volunteers. Up until the end of 2019 we had helped over 500 families with furniture and food parcels. Donations of food come from individuals, the local church and local businesses. We received funding in 2016 to purchase a ford transit van to enable us to do the work.



Young Families

We established a **Young Families Group** in April 2013 providing trips out, support and weekends away. Everybody needs somebody and people will always want to be involved where they feel they belong, and this group continues to grow as we look forward to another year. We have 25 families connected to the work, each supporting and encouraging each other.



Christmas Project

For the past 19 years we have run a **Christmas Project** providing presents, parties, hampers and dinners to local people. Every year we raise £3000 to provide presents for 150 children and special toy and baby hampers at Christmas time. We also delivered over 70 food hampers from our Storehouse.

Senior Citizens

Age is no barrier to anything at Living Hope as we try to provide relevant activities and programmes for people of all ages. Our **Oasis Lunch Club** is for those people aged over 60 who meet together for lunch and company. Over 60 attend and get the opportunity to go on outings and enjoy various activities throughout the year. We have also launched a **Visitation Programme** which visits many of the senior citizens involved with our project.





Children's and Youth Work

In November 2001 we received a gift in kind of equipment to start up a homework club for 8 children. 18 years later we are working with 200 children and young people a week through weekly activities such as a **Children's Club, Youth Clubs and a Mother and Toddler Group.**



We have organised and ran over 65 residential camps in the past 19 years to different centres in Northern Ireland and England, we believe this is an important part of our work as it allows us to take children away

from their usual environment and give them a weekend of fun and challenge.

Our **Mother and Toddler Group** runs on a Monday morning every week with between 30-40 parents and toddlers attending to interact with each other and use the wonderful new equipment that has been kindly donated by those who have invested in our work.



Our **Youth Project** works with over 50 teenagers on a weekly basis. There is an alarming rise of suicide amongst young people in this area and we feel compelled to meet this challenge by providing



a safe environment with a listening ear to those issues teenagers struggle with. Our youth project includes residential, volunteering opportunities and creative arts.

Our **Children's Club** runs for one hour on Thursday evenings for up to 100 children with messy games, singing, prizes and sweets.



Prizes and trips out are used as an incentive for the children to attend and display good behaviour. We believe that every child is special, valuable and has a place in this world and a purpose in their life.

We also run a weekly **EDGE Drop In Youth Club** for those aged 7-15 years old providing a safe environment and an alternative to hanging around on the streets.

Our **SEEK Group** is for those aged between 18-25 years old who have grown up in our work and we are now providing a special group for them that includes a meeting place in our premises. We currently have about 30 in this group.



Throughout the year we put on many special monthly events and also a summer project that includes a Summer Play Scheme, a Creative Arts Programme and the opportunity to serve in foreign country.

We have a team of over 40 volunteers working throughout the projects who are all vetted through Access NI and have received their child protection training through the Keeping Children Safe project through the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.



Annual Report

We want to thank all those trusts, companies, individuals and funding bodies who have kindly donated to our work in the past 19 years. We passed a special milestone in 2019 having raised **over half a million pounds** since we started which we have invested into helping many people of all ages.

The premises we use became debt free in January 2019 as donations came in of **£22,000** to clear the existing mortgage.

We received 24 responses from trusts and companies totalling **£45,879** which included grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Souter Trust and the Vandervell Foundation. Our own fundraising efforts increased by bag packing days at Marks & Spencer's and TESCO's in the run up to Christmas.

Our **Social Concern Project** continues to provide food parcels and furniture for families in need. Our hampers at Christmas saw donations of food come in from local companies such as TESCO and Lidl.



We organised and ran six residential camps in 2019 with funding coming in from many trusts and companies. As well as our weekly activities we organised and ran three weeks of Summer Play Schemes for over 100 children. In July 11 people from Living Hope travelled to the Helping Hands project in the Philippines to work for two weeks, raising their own funds to travel and to give to this most important work.



We are having a great impact in a community that requires assistance and help and we are making a difference where we can. We employ an independent accountant – Andrew Bassett of Tax Assist Accountants to prepare the end of year accounts for our Charity. We are committed to making a difference in this community and we are hoping 2020 will be as successful as 2019. Many thanks for your continued support.

MATTHEW DAVIS
Chairman of Living Hope



Living Hope Charity Accounts (01.01.19 - 31.12.19)

Bank Balance @ 01.01.2019 £278.18

Income

Grants from Trusts	£32300.00
Statutory Funding	£8529.70
Donations from Companies	£3700.00
Charges for Camps & Trips	£14416.01
Fundraising	£4131.57
<i>Sponsored Events</i>	£891.92
<i>Bag Packing</i>	£941.94
<i>Tuck Shop</i>	£1432.35
<i>Merchandise</i>	£400.21
<i>All Tex Clothing Recyclers</i>	£408.00
<i>easyfundraising.org</i>	£57.15
Individual Gifts & Donations	£4154.66
TOTAL INCOME	£67231.94

Expenditure

Residentials, Camps & Conferences	£14338.09
Trips	£8015.12
Food	£5750.85
Petrol	£5705.12
Coach & Bus Hire	£5463.00
Gifts, Presents & Prizes	£4696.83
Insurance	£3992.05
Travel Costs (Residentials & Conferences)	£3305.33
Vehicle Repairs, Upkeep & Maintenance	£3096.69
Equipment Hire	£2240.00
Sweets & Chocolate	£2029.31
Equipment	£1692.03
Stationery, Cleaning & Catering	£1139.30
Creative	£630.91
Accountant	£504.00
Resources & Training	£264.38
Bank Charges	£207.40
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£63070.41
Bank Balance @ 31.12.2019	£4439.71