

THE FAMILY FORGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1161900

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-05-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 4 Cobbs Brow Lane
Newburgh
Wigan
WN8 7ND

Phone 01257464940

Email info@familyforge.org

Website www.familyforge.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE FAMILY FORGE ARE:•TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE SPECIFIC AREA OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT BY PROVIDING EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, PROVIDING LIFE SKILLS TRAINING FOR FAMILIES, OUT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND LECTURES.•TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BY RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND PRACTICES.•TO ADVANCE THE RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED BY REASON OF YOUTH, AGE, ILL HEALTH, DISABILITY, FINANCE, AND OTHER DISADVANTAGE BY THE PROVISION OF SELF CATERING, FAMILY HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION AND SUCH FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL HELP AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT FROM TIME TO TIME.

Activities: FOSTERING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN PERSON THROUGH PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND CHRISTIAN INITIATIVES AND PUBLICATIONS.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£13,383	£22,437	-	-
2024-10-31	£20,315	£15,794	-	-
2023-10-31	£14,589	£15,559	-	-
2022-10-31	£29,895	£31,754	-	-
2021-10-31	£23,730	£36,094	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JOCELYN OWENS	Chair	2014-10-04
Enisa Huso		2023-09-07
Michael Turner		2018-01-03

THE FAMILY FORGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1161900

Accounts

The Family Forge

Reference and Administrative Details

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report and Annual Accounts for the period 1st Nov 2024-31st Oct 2025

Charity Registration 1161900

Registered Address	Life Skills Centre	Trustees
4 Cobbs Brow Lane	128 Sandy Lane	Jocelyn Owens
Newburgh	Skelmersdale	Enisa Huso
Lancashire	Lancashire	Michael Turner
WN87ND	WN88LH	
07947 853502		

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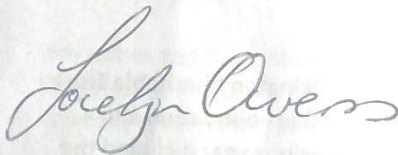
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Statements of Assets and Liabilities P8

The Trustees have referred to guidance from the Charities SORP FRSE (effective 1st Jan 2015) while the statement of accounts is cash based receipts and payments accounts not verified by an independent examiner this year as we fall below £25000 threshold.

Signed on behalf of all the Trustees

Date 8/3/26



Jocelyn Owens

The Family Forge



Enisa Huso

Michael Turner

Trustees Report

For the period 1st November 2024 – 31st October 2025

Charity Structure/ Governance and Management

The Family Forge became a registered charity in May 2015. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and continues to follow the directions of its constitution amended on 25th March 2015. During the period Nov 2024 to the end of Oct 2025, the charity was led by 3 trustees one of whom was also the Life Skills Centre manager- Jocelyn Owens. This manager worked on a full-time voluntary basis. She was supported again this year predominantly by 1 skilled paid tutor with 7 voluntary support workers. Two were drawn from our beneficiary group. Informal discussions with beneficiaries influenced decision making.

Michael Turner accepted another 3 year term as trustee. The trustees are appointed for three years or until retirement by a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees is three. Decisions are made by a 75% majority of the trustees. One of the trustees was a former beneficiary.

Training this year was provided for two volunteers by Mountain Training Organisation in Lowland Leadership. Also training to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was undertaken by two tutors and three volunteers as was required by The Duke of Edinburgh Organisation whom we were working with this year.

No exemptions from disclosure of trustee details apply and no trustee held title to any property belonging to the charity during the period as the charity currently holds no property.

The pay of the language tutors/activity leaders saw no change and was set as in the past with regard to the going rate for private hourly tutors as our activity leaders are self-employed and not employed by the charity.

Special thanks should be given to Judy, Melanie, Andy, Eileen and Mohsen, Mohamed, Abubaker and Ayaz, Adam, Toufiq and everyone who spared their time and effort to assist in the work this year on a voluntary basis along with special thanks to our donors who made the work possible.

This year the charity delivered the Duke of Edinburgh program for beneficiaries who were interested as well as continuing the usual activities. This encouraged a renewed emphasis in this group to attain new skills, voluntary work and sporting activity. We also undertook an overnight expedition with the group. We had to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's training program to qualify as supervisors and verifiers of this activity for safeguarding and quality control purposes. In addition, we increased substantially the insurance coverage for this activity.

No independent examiner was required for our accounts this year since the charity's income did not make the threshold.

Financial review

Funding this year was received from St James Church, Groundwork UK, Pilkington Charitable Trust , The Archer Trust, Douglas Valley Outreach Group and the Corsoraf Charitable Foundation and a number of private donors. Grants with funds still available from the previous year included the Duke of Edinburgh Fund and Burscough St Johns Church funds.

Private donations this year formed approximately 18.33% of The Family Forge income; for which, once again we are extremely grateful. Thank you to all our donors.

No reserves are kept at present.

Once again, the charity was extremely busy especially with the extra work involved in administering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Unfortunately, due to the constant level of activity and service delivery, a skeletal staff to supply the admin and fundraising requirements as well as the changed personal circumstances of the full-time volunteer centre manager Jocelyn Owens combined with the difficult funding climate, the funds available to the charity this year were simply not enough to continue beyond October 31st with the Life Skills Centre office suite. So, the decision was taken to close the office and take the next year as a year to take stock and plan the future whilst continuing with initiatives in line with our wider objectives not requiring the use of an office suite.

This led to an outpouring of gratitude for what we had been able to offer to date and messages that we would be missed. It obviously caused some disappointment in staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees this year again took into account that any purpose of the charity to be considered charitable must be beneficial with any consequent harms not outweigh the benefits and they further acknowledged that any benefits must be identifiable.

To that end:

For our hiking and expedition program our assistant and supervisor was placed on a Lowland Leader Training course. Also, the expedition supervisor and verifier undertook the Duke of Edinburgh's training course in order that safeguarding and the mitigation of risks were taken into account. The identifiable benefits of offering the program were the obtaining of a recognised national award for those with no other certificates or qualifications, integration, improving mental and physical fitness and reducing social isolation.

No trustee benefitted personally from the activities of the charity except through travel expenses as a result of voluntary working to the amount of £223.2. The expense rate paid is 0.45p/mile.

Objectives and Activities

The Family forge was formed to:

- advance education in the specific area of personal and family development,
- to advance the Christian faith by raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- and to advance the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, finance and other disadvantage

November and December 2024 as well as the usual activities including swimming saw completion of the set-up of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and the recruiting of the first participants on the scheme. A Christmas lunch finished the year.

January through to closure of the office on 31st Oct 2025 saw the continuation of our usual seven-point program aimed at the development, wellbeing and integration of our user group in addition to the offering of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Integration for members of differing cultures as well as meeting and gaining insights into Christianity continued to be seen as an essential element of the offering and by our loving Christian presence and care Christian love was experienced by all attenders throughout the year.

It was noticed again that the government's fast-track processing program was being effective and asylum claims were being processed faster than in previous years leading to many more people attending the office for administrative services for the follow-on tasks that are required to be done after a successful outcome had been reached in their cases. So much of the office staff and volunteer time in the afternoons was given over to assisting with universal credit claims, home finder applications, travel document applications, cv creating, bank account, job applications, equivalising certification and driving license applications. Seconded onto assisting with these tasks were a couple of the Duke of Edinburgh participants in order to fulfil their service section of the award which was especially helpful.

Dental care also played a more prominent role as several people had severe dental issues and at least one individual required special care and attention and help with appointments and travel- this meant travel back and forth to Preston or Chorley or occasionally Ormskirk over a sustained period of time. With so few dentists taking on patients, great use was made of the emergency dental services out of necessity. This usually occurred out of office hours.

Difficulties were experienced in March through April with the charity website and fundraising, as the web hosting company we had been using for years was bought and the re-registering process was long and protracted during which time the website was down. This required a lot of the centre manager's time. This was seen as contributing to an unsuccessful fundraising year. It wasted the manager's precious time and since funding bid writing was occurring at the same time there was no website to view.

Hiking, Expedition and Kayaking

Hiking featured heavily in the program this year with 11 hikes in total being undertaken to the following destinations:

Brant Tor- Cumbria, Whitewell in the Forest of Bowland, Ingleton in the Yorkshire Dales, Formby to Crosby coastal path in Sefton, Newburgh to Parbold Hill and Newburgh and across the Beacon in Lancashire, Rivington near Wigan, Brock Bottoms in the Forest of Bowland, Langdale pikes in Cumbria, Alderley Edge in Cheshire and Pendle Hill.

July saw a separate hiking expedition as part of the Duke of Edinburgh program from Whitewell to Angram Green below Pendle Hill. This was the highlight of the year for all concerned and involved camping overnight.

September saw a kayak trip to Ullswater in Cumbria.

Duke of Edinburgh Program

In addition to the expedition itself, preparation camp set up training and map reading classes were organised. Voluntary work was undertaken by participants over and above that carried out by other members. Initially however we experienced an issue with finding placements in outside organisations due to organisations either not having insurance for volunteers, or the inability to gain DBS certificates which therefore precluded any working with children or vulnerable adults. So, we initiated in-house volunteering once again. These activities including assisting with the administration and services that the Family Forge offered, litter picking and upcycling with the intention to fundraise from the sale of the items. We produced key holders, coat hooks and party

bunting. A few chairs were upholstered, the office paintwork was touched up, kayaks were mended, a table sanded and restored, bikes were mended, and apple crumbles produced.

Two volunteers worked at the Birchwood community café and a third joined the grounds work team of Our Lady and All Saints Church in Parbold. Later a third participant joined the Café team.

One participant learnt to drive with our accompaniment and several learned to swim from scratch or to improve their strokes under our tutoring while others joined the football sessions coached by Ayaz.

The skills sections were largely fulfilled through tutoring in English and driving theory with one participant undertaking Cyber Security courses.

Special initiative – the Family Aid Kits and way for the future

September and October saw the work of the copy and design of the Family Aid Kits come to fruition and become printed. The Family Aid kits were produced as an aid for young Christian singles to understand the dating phase of life better and the issues affecting dating and relationships. It was envisaged that they may also be helpful for use by parents or chaplains to stimulate ideas to discuss with their teens or youth groups. Encouraging the setting up of personal boundaries in a world where anything goes and including explanations of the effects on the human brain of certain behaviours is hoped to encourage healthier lifestyles.

The Family Forge has periodically since it's foundation produced literature of a Christian formative style, it is envisaged that this will now take a larger role in the charity's activities in the future as it does not require renting an office space.

More on Performance and achievements

A total of 227 people were recorded as attending the centre this year over a period of 40 office weeks. However, despite having volunteers helping we did not capture all attendees. Of whom 18 were women. This is 8% greater than last year without taking into account the non-recorded attendees. We estimate that the total number of attendees would be as much as 20% higher. This makes at minimum of a 53% increase from numbers attending two years ago, as last year saw a great increase also.

We saw our first Chinese and Vietnamese nationals this year.

Thus, we can say that the accessibility of the activities and the services offered continued to improve and was needed and welcomed by this community. We can also say that we had an impact on the integration, physical and mental health and even the social mobility of the group. Many of the above attendees benefitted from support work and assistance with practical issues.

Specifically mental health improved with the acquisition of new skills – English, driving theory, map reading and expedition training, mentoring and having someone to help sort out problems. While physical health improved with the hiking - 34 participants plus two volunteer leaders, dental care and the often 3 mile walk each way that many beneficiaries undertake to attend activities at the office. About 13 people joined in the swimming program. 4 different beneficiaries took part in

the kayak trip with 2 leaders while 4 took part in gym training although many more were inspired to join the gym themselves for exercise. we were limited to D of E participants) and 4 people received bikes.

A greater level of integration was achieved through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program-15 participants began with scheme, 2 dropped out while most achieved some sectional certificates. About 5 are likely to be awarded the full Bronze Award. Integration was especially increased through the voluntary work- meeting English people at Our Lady and All Saints Church and at the Birchwood Centre and learning the ropes with grounds work and the community café. Two participants earned Food Safety Certificates (a further two not on the scheme also began these certificates in the year) and participant gained IBM Cyber Security certificates which assisted him to gain a place and start studying at Edge Hill university to study Cyber Security.

Many other beneficiaries transitioned into jobs this year; with one Iranian in particular progressing to a position whereby he could apply for jobs and obtained one in his electrical engineering field comparable to where he left off in Iran. A second person from Sudan gained their Academic White card for electrical services.

Highlights

- 1: A highlight of the year was to accompany Abubaker to the Council Chambers in Ormskirk where he was awarded by the mayor with a well-deserved certificate to recognise the level of his volunteering for the community. He did well over 100 hours of litter picking to say nothing of what he did in our centre. Two more of our volunteers from the local community were recognised also.
- 2: A second highlight was the tea party in the covered way outside the office where Ringtons' biscuits (kindly donated) and cucumber sandwiches and tea was served. Naturally, it was well attended and we had to have two sittings.

Inspired by Christian love for all people we at the Family Forge endeavoured to carry out all these activities with great respect for the human person and the desire to see all people grow and flourish. Although we intend to round of some of these programs going forward it is with some disappointment that this work will come to an end with the closure of the office. But we look forward to planning the future in the year ahead.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Family Forge

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/11/2024	To	31/10/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants		10,216	-	10,216	19,567
Donations	3,167	-	-	3,167	742
GAYL	-	-	-	-	16
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,167	10,216	-	13,383	20,315
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,167	10,216	-	13,383	20,315
A3 Payments					
Staff and Training	1,100	4,071	-	5,171	4,768
Lease Rates Insurance	1,649	2,842	-	4,491	4,382
Gas Electricity Water	1,002	605	-	1,607	1,415
Computer AVG Broadband	375	388	-	763	845
Office Repairs and Decorations	298	-	-	298	319
Educational Materials Tests	427	1,053	-	1,480	350
Educational trips	-	1,147	-	1,147	748
Personal need grant to individuals	-	111	-	111	852
Volunteer travel expenses	144	-	-	144	448
Outdoor classroom and lunches	39	5,752	-	5,791	192
Physical activity swimming & bikes	266	229	-	495	1,130
Consumables ink stationary	256	35	-	291	174
Marketing and other	494	23	-	517	171
Upcycling costs	57	75	-	132	-
Sub total	6,106	16,331	-	22,437	15,794
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,106	16,331	-	22,437	15,794
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,939	- 6,115	-	- 9,054	- 4,621
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,245	5,309	-	9,554	5,033
Cash funds this year end	1,306	806	-	500	9,554

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	500		

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Joseph Owens</i>	J. OWENS	8/3/26
<i>Enisa Huse</i>	Enisa Huse	8/3/26

THE FAMILY FORGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1161900

Accounts

The Family Forge

Reference and Administrative details

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report and Annual Accounts For the period 1st Nov.2023-Oct 31st 2024

Charity Registration 1161900

www.familyforge.org

Registered Address	Life Skills Centre	Trustees
4 Cobbs Brow Lane Newburgh Lancashire WN8 7ND 07947 853502	128 Sandy Lane Skelmersdale WN8 8LH	Jocelyn Owens Michael Turner Enisa Huso

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The trustees have referred to guidance from the Charities SORP FRSE (effective 1st Jan 2015) while the statement of the accounts is cash-based receipts and payments accounts verified by an Independent Examiner.

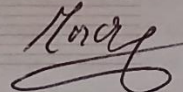
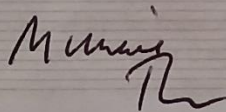
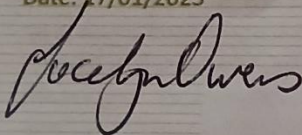
Signed on behalf of all the trustees,

Jocelyn Owens

Michael Turner

Enisa Huso

Date: 17/01/2025



25/1/2025

The Family Forge
Trustees Report
For the period 1st November 2023 – 31st October 2024

Charity Structure/ Governance and Management

The Family Forge became a registered charity in May 2015. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and continues to follow the directions of its constitution amended on 25th March 2015. During the period Nov 2023 to the end of Oct 2024, the charity was led by 3 trustees one of whom is also the Life Skills Centre manager- Jocelyn Owens. This manager works on a full-time voluntary basis. She was supported again this year predominantly by 1 skilled paid tutor with 7 voluntary support workers. Two supported physical activity and were drawn from our beneficiary group. Beneficiaries are engaged in informal discussions to influence decision making. There were no changes to the trustees in the past year. The trustees are appointed for three years or until retirement by a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees is three. Decisions are made by a 75% majority of the trustees. One of the trustees was a former beneficiary and appreciates the plight of migrants to the UK.

Training this year was provided in (Paediatric) First Aid to keep up with statutory requirements for one tutor/activity leader and one trustee and was also provided for the two physical activity leaders in First Aid for Sport.

The trustee/ manager's safeguarding knowledge was updated by the reviewing of the Charity safeguarding policy to take account of the new activities in conjunction with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. This included the drawing up of safeguarding leaflets for participants, volunteers and staff outlining behavioural expectations and responsibilities.

No exemptions from disclosure of trustee details apply and no trustee held title to any property belonging to the charity during the period as the charity currently holds no property.

The pay of the language tutors/activity leaders is set with regard to the going rate for private hourly tutors as our activity leaders are self-employed and not employed by the charity. As noted last year the government suitability test for self-employed status was carried out in 2021. There has been no change in pay this year.

Special thanks should be given to Prudence, Judy, Melanie, Andy, Eileen and Sahar and Ayaz and everyone who spared their time and effort to assist in the work this year on a voluntary basis along with special thanks to our donors who made the work possible.

This year the charity was approached by the Duke of Edinburgh regional officer and we were asked to consider becoming a licensed centre to offer D of E to our younger asylum seekers. Since this chimed well with our own objective of encouraging personal development and we already encouraged the acquisition of new skills, voluntary work and sport we concluded that this was a good match for the Family Forge to make as it would give participants a nationally recognised certificate for their efforts. The only addition to our existing activities therefore being an overnight expedition. The licensing and due diligence process was protracted and therefore was not quite complete by the end of our accounting year.

We wrapped up the distribution partnership with SELNET and participation in their digital inclusion program by December 2023 as their laptop quota had been met. Also we became members of the Brick Multi Bank in Wigan for the distribution of surplus goods.

Philip Atherton is the Independent Examiner of our accounts- no fees are incurred: Contact details: 22 Beacon House, 1 Willow Walk, **Skelmersdale**, Lancashire, WN8 6UR Telephone 01695227320

Financial review

Funding this year was received from St John's the Baptist PCC Burscough, the Foyle Foundation, Douglas Valley Outreach, WLBC Community Chest, Corsoraf Charitable Foundation and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Grants with funds still available from the previous year included the Yapp Charitable Trust and the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund (via the NHS).

Private donations this year formed approximately 3.6% of The Family Forge income; for which, once again we are extremely grateful. Thank you to all our donors.

No reserves are kept at present.

Although the financial situation was improved as compared to the previous year, we were unable to secure enough funds for much paid activity tutor costs so our use of paid tutors was kept at a bare minimum. Funds remain difficult to secure. Volunteer staff however remain highly motivated as it was a very busy year and staff can see the benefits that those attending the centre are receiving and the gratitude is profuse.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees took into account that any purpose to be considered charitable must be beneficial with any consequent harms not outweighing the benefits and they further acknowledge that these benefits must be identifiable.

To that end:

The swimming activity again was undertaken at a local pool during public swim times ensuring there was always a life guard present beside the charity instructor to reduce any possible harms thus allowing the considerable benefit of providing the opportunity of learning to swim to adult non swimmers.

Gym and football training sessions were also organised under the guidance of the council employed gym trainer and our own qualified gym trainer drawn from our beneficiaries and experienced volunteer football coach again drawn from our beneficiaries. In addition, we ensured they both held current First Aid certificates for Sport related activities. The benefit to our beneficiaries in general being increased physical fitness and improved mental health.

The due diligence process regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme also helped us focus on possible harms by ensuring we updated and prepared information leaflets regarding safeguarding, online abuse and radicalisation, photography, volunteer recruitment, standards of behaviour for participants and staff as-well as staff training requirements for the expedition section. The identifiable benefits of offering the program were also considered - the main additional benefits being the obtaining of a recognised national award for those with no other certificates or qualifications and the integration into mainstream UK youth culture. Other benefits include encouraging a habit of self-giving to the community in voluntary work, improving mental and physical fitness and reducing social isolation. In the following year we plan that the expedition leaders will receive a qualification in Lowland Leading.

Furthermore, no trustee benefitted personally from the activities of the charity except through travel expenses as a result of voluntary working to the amount of £657.47. The expense rate paid is 0.45p/mile. A further £72 was received by the husband of a trustee for Food Safety Tests.

Additionally, the charity assisted in the supply of socks, toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper, dish washing liquid and dishcloths and in some cases sheets to individuals received from the Brick-Multibank in accordance with trustee awareness that charitable activities must benefit the public in general or a sufficient portion of the public with the exception of personal poverty which applied in this case. The poverty of this group is backed up by the fact they only receive Section 95 support from the government.

But the Life Skills Centre itself was open to all although attenders are largely from the asylum and refugee community.

Objectives and Activities

The Family forge was formed to:

- advance education in the specific area of personal and family development,**
- to advance the Christian faith by raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices**
- and to advance the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, finance and other disadvantage**

November and December 2023 saw the last of the SELNET computer tablets distributed and the ending of the Life in the UK History series and basic digital training. This very popular project raised awareness of the Family Forge's presence within Skelmersdale and increased numbers attending the centre throughout 2024 and beyond. Over 80 tablets were distributed during the length of the whole project.

Christmas saw a full-scale Christmas dinner with turkey, crackers and Christmas pudding provided to all comers (more than 30 people) on the last day before the office closed.

January through July 2024 saw the continuation of our usual seven-point program for the development, wellbeing and integration of our user group.

The office opened on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-4pm for programmed sessions of **1: ESOL, 2: support work, 3: driving theory and 4: health issue assistance.**

Support work included the usual drop in and integration loan applications, West Lancs Home finder applications, emails to the local MP, bank account applications, driving license applications, travel document and universal credit applications, CV compilation, HC2 certificate updating, doctor and dentist registrations, appointments, car travel to appointments where required, ARC card issue resolving, applications for work permitted ARCs and numerous other small services, chats and advice were given including the accessing of services to translate three degree certificates and two ECCTIS applications to verify equivalency of skills for the UK job market with one application process and reference for a beneficiary who desired to attend Loughborough university followed by coaching in English.

5: Cultural Trips were organised to Castlerigg, Cedar Farm Mawdesley, Bolton Abbey, Malham Cove and kayaking at Lake Coniston.

6: Physical activity in the form of football, swimming and gym sessions were also organised – swimming taking place on Fridays predominantly for adult non swimmers.

7: Volunteering- Litter picking and volunteer garden maintenance was also undertaken beginning with clearing ‘our own backyards’ and local streets!! on Tuesday or Fridays in the summer term. The litter picking continued throughout the summer even when the office was closed as this initiative was then taken up and organised by groups of asylum seekers themselves.

Additionally, a bike repair workshop operated on a Wednesday afternoons by our volunteer Andy who was also involved in fund searching, application, purchase and distribution of 12 bicycles to needy recipients. 22 bikes in total were distributed in the year as a few were donated.

July through to our year end (barring the summer break) saw a predominance of assistance with E-visa applications to facilitate those with poor English to negotiate the governments’ new ID/immigration status confirmation system.

Notable events this year included

- a wedding of a past beneficiary and his graduation from a Russel group university which we helped facilitate.
- meeting the wife of a beneficiary and news of the subsequent birth of their first child after a long and protracted but successful family reunion application.
- attending the AGM of the local Parbold Outreach Group as we were asked to speak to introduce and showcase our work through our photo display A Slice of Working Life. Four from the family Forge attended in support and contributed to the event- (two trustees and two beneficiaries) two speaking, one playing the Jews harp and one with a winning poem and photo from a Liverpool photography competition she had entered.
- our own AGM which was attended by three beneficiaries among others who assisted proceedings by providing traditional Iranian food.

Additional work undertaken included voluntary driving accompaniment for 4 individuals and undertaking the long process of becoming a licensed organisation offering the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme.

Inspired by Christian love for all people we at the Family Forge endeavoured to carry out all these activities with great respect for the human person and the desire to see all people grow and flourish. Thus, we are seen as people who care. This is what marks our work out from other similar charities or the state.

Special initiative

Finally, a very special Christian Education Initiative was undertaken for the wider community:

A prayer card was designed, printed and disseminated to Year 9 pupils, via chaplaincies in the Liverpool Archdiocese and the top ten private catholic schools as-well as a handful of other schools promoting two saints known for their purity and or guarding the purity of others, to coincide with their confirmation year. Approximately 5600 prayer cards in total were distributed.

Performance and achievements

During the year the government began to process asylum seekers more quickly so there was a greater and faster turnover of beneficiaries.

Many refugees in the latter part of the year were having problems negotiating the new e-visa system and accessing accommodation and doing all the tasks in the transition period after receiving Leave to Remain. These factors produced a great demand for assistance which meant the office often stayed open until 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening. And a new problem emerged in that we saw for the first time, newly recognised refugees sleeping rough in the streets of Skelmersdale.

Within the charity our administrative systems for processing and recording everyone came under strain too especially when our admin volunteer had to leave due to ill health.

A total of 210 people were served this year through the centre largely through support work and assistance with practical issues. 32 women and 178 men. This was up from 148 during the same period last year- an increase of approx. 33%.

Although the data was incomplete 32 nationalities were recorded. The largest contingents being Iranian 29, Sudanese 25, Afghan 19, Ukrainian 15, Ethiopian and Syrian 12 and Eritrean 11. A further list of nationalities served follows: Vietnamese, Kuwaiti, Romanian, Saudi Arabian, Ecuadorian, Namibian, Burmese, Egyptian, Lebanese, Sierra Leonian, Senegalese, Latvian, Algerian, Iraqi, Gambian, Cameroonian, South Sudanese, Yemen, Mali, Kurds, Nigerian, Bangladeshi, Hungarian, Polish and Jordanian.

Although data was incomplete for 41 persons of the remaining persons 77 were single and 85 were married, other status 7.

The physical health of the group increased as sports participation was up this year largely due to the introduction of football training sessions during the summer term which saw 37 participants, the swimming which had 31 participants. (4 ladies 27 men) and the bike program which facilitated 24 people with greater local mobility.

In addition, some gym training sessions were organised.

The football was organised by a beneficiary – one of two people -who was referred by The Family Forge to Everton in the community where he played for the refugee team even travelling with them to play in London.

The social mobility and mental health of the group improved through the learning of new skills and achievement.

5 practical driving test passes were achieved after specific accompaniment with a Family Forge volunteer. Others were inspired to get driving lessons themselves and many others to undertake the theory driving tests either through direct learning in our classes or through their mobile phone apps. We can say that over the past few years The Family Forge has made driving a realisable aspiration of a great many asylum seekers/refugees in Skelmersdale. The Syrian women housewives even now realising it is a possibility for them too.

Three people had their degree certificates equivalised, two of whom went on to pass their HSE safety certificates and gain an academic white card for electrical engineering later in the autumn (next accounting year) while the other two realised the possibility of attending university for further studies and made progress in their applications.

The health issue support continued to be in great demand - another proof that The Family Forge is directly affecting the health and wellbeing of this group for both dental care and bodily health. The distribution of toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, socks, washing up liquid, cleaning cloths and single sheets to a good proportion of the membership also assisted in this regard.

There is more work to be done to encourage the take up of voluntary work to support the local community although as mentioned earlier a number of largely Iranian asylum seekers began getting out into the streets taking up the litter picking program of their own volition after the stabbings in Southport to demonstrate they cared and wanted to contribute to society whilst our office was closed.

New ways of volunteering need to be found as opportunities are limited due to a not being able to work with children/ disabled and the aged due to the inability to get DBS checks done, food in charity cafes due to the English level required for Food Safety Certificates (although we offer them for some) or much other charity work due to lack of English again. The gardening can only be undertaken when there is a volunteer supervisor with a car to transport the equipment.

Greater integration was achieved through the English classes, drop in, tablet scheme, CV creation and job applications alongside the history classes, class discussion and the cultural and social trips.

Plans for the future

In the coming year we intend to continue our Seven-point Program, complete the D of E training and registration procedure and embed the Duke of Edinburgh Award within our offering including the undertaking our first D of E Bronze Expedition. This will necessitate the improvement in the volunteering program.

As regards fundraising, we will undertake more research to find funders who will support our whole offering in addition to project funding inspired as The Family Forge is by Christianity. This is needed since at The Family Forge we see that part of the integration process, for members of differing cultures, is to gain an understanding of Christianity, as it is after all the historic culture of this nation and which continues to be the practising religion of many in the UK to its great benefit and to the benefit of individuals.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

On accounts for the year ended Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2024DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report
 As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement [~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~]

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 22 Beacon House, 1 Willow Walk, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

[Empty box for disclosure details]



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/11/2023

To

31/10/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	6,000	13,557	-	19,557	12,490
Donations	742	-	-	742	1,836
Amazon Smile	-	-	-	-	5
GAYL	16	-	-	16	19
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	135
Other	-	-	-	-	105
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,758	13,557	-	20,315	14,590
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,758	13,557	-	20,315	14,590
A3 Payments					
Staff and Training	1,484	3,284	-	4,768	3,220
Lease Rates Insurance	1,003	3,379	-	4,382	4,363
Gas Electricity Water	911	504	-	1,415	1,642
Computer AVG Broadband	720	125	-	845	701
Office repairs and decorations	319	-	-	319	580
Office equipment including computers	-	-	-	-	97
Educational materials tests	168	182	-	350	1,572
Educational trips	701	47	-	748	1,026
Personal need grants to individuals	62	790	-	852	194
Volunteer travel expenses	448	-	-	448	894
Outdoor classroom and lunches	192	-	-	192	193
Physical activity and swimming (&bikes)	630	500	-	1,130	142
Consumables ink and stationery etc	174	-	-	174	88
Marketing and other	163	8	-	171	848
Sub total	6,975	8,819	-	15,794	15,560
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,975	8,819	-	15,794	15,560
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 217	4,738	-	4,521	- 970
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,462	571	-	5,033	6,003
Cash funds this year end	4,245	5,309	-	9,554	5,033

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	The Family Forge	4,245	5,309	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,245	5,309	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

J. Owens
M. Turner

J. OWENS
M. TURNER

25/4/25
25/4/25

THE FAMILY FORGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1161900

Accounts

The Family Forge

Reference and Administrative details

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report and Annual Accounts For the period 1st Nov.2022-Oct 31st 2023

Charity Registration 1161900

www.familyforge.org

Registered Address	Life Skills Centre	Trustees
4 Cobbs Brow Lane Newburgh Lancashire WN8 7ND 07947 853502	128 Sandy Lane Skelmersdale WN8 8LH	Jocelyn Owens Michael Turner Enisa Huso

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Independent Examiners Report	P9-10
Receipts and Payments Accounts	P11
Statements of Assets and Liabilities	P12
Signatures on behalf of all the Trustees	P12

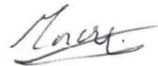
The trustees have referred to guidance from the Charities SORP FRSE (effective 1st Jan 2015) while the statement of the accounts is cash-based receipts and payments accounts verified by an Independent Examiner.

Signed on behalf of all the trustees,



Jocelyn Owens

Michael Turner



Enisa Huso

Date: 23/01/2024

The Family Forge
Trustees Report
For the period 1st November 2022 – 31st October 2023

Charity Structure/ Governance and Management

The Family Forge became a registered charity in May 2015. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and continues to follow the directions of its constitution amended on 25th March 2015. During the period Nov 2022 to the end of Oct 2023, the charity was led by 3 trustees one of whom is also the Life Skills Centre manager- Jocelyn Owens. This manager works on a full-time voluntary basis. She was supported this year by 1 skilled paid tutor, 5 voluntary support workers and one volunteer admin support worker drawn from our beneficiary group. Beneficiaries were able to inform the decision making through informal discussions in the past year.

During the year Enisa Huso was appointed the third trustee following the resignation of Ester Sanchez at the end of the previous year. The trustees are appointed for three years or until retirement by a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees is three. Decisions are made by a 75% majority of the trustees.

Knowledge of our trustee opening was advertised but finally we approached Enisa from our beneficiary group as someone who was interested, talented, provided a different perspective and had the time to commit to the responsibilities. Training was provided through the provision of the Trustee Duties Information Pack and an induction to admin oversight was undertaken through working together, one morning a week for several weeks, with the Centre Manager. Enisa's safeguarding training was undertaken through the updating of the charity's policy documents and the preparation of materials for use to train all the staff and volunteers.

No exemptions from disclosure apply and no trustee held title to a property belonging to the charity during the period as the charity currently holds no property.

The pay of the language tutors/activity leaders is set with regard to the going rate for private hourly tutors as our activity leaders are self-employed and not employed by the charity. The government suitability test for self-employed status was carried out in 2021.

Special thanks should be given to Prudence, Judy, Melanie, Andy, Eileen and Oitu and everyone who spared their time and effort to assist in the work this year on a voluntary basis along with special thanks to our donors who made the work possible.

This year the charity had the opportunity to become a distribution partner with SELNET- who were working to reduce digital exclusion. This chimed with our objective to advance the relief of those in need and suffering disadvantage so we took up the opportunity.

Philip Atherton is the Independent Examiner of our accounts- no fees are incurred: Contact details: 22 Beacon House, 1 Willow Walk, **Skelmersdale**, Lancashire, WN8 6UR Telephone 01695227320

Financial review

Funding this year was received from Ormskirk Rotary Clock Tower fund (small grants scheme), the Yapp Charitable Trust and the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund (via the NHS). Other funds came from private donors with monies from St Johns C of E parish Council, Burscough being carried over from the previous year.

Private donations this year formed approximately 12% of The Family Forge income; for which, once again we are extremely grateful. Thank you to all our donors.

No reserves are kept at present.

Funds remained tight during the entire year and were exacerbated by the late payment of a grant due to registration difficulties on the relevant NHS system causing a trustee to assist with a temporary small loan to assist cash flow- no interest was charged and this was paid back as soon as the grant funding came in.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees took into account that any purpose to be considered charitable must be beneficial with any consequent harms not outweighing the benefits and further acknowledge that these benefits must be identifiable.

Once again to reduce any possible harm the swimming activity was undertaken at a local pool during public swim times ensuring there was always a life guard present beside the charity instructor and a second volunteer leader thus allowing the considerable benefit of providing the opportunity of learning to swim to adult non swimmers.

The trustees also recognised that to be charitable any personal benefit must be incidental. No trustee benefitted personally from the activities of the charity except through travel expenses as a result of voluntary working and a small number of online courses were purchased from North West management Solutions Ltd, the business of a spouse of a trustee to the amount of £72.

As mentioned, the Trustee /Manager had her travel expenses met by the charity to the amount of £1586.94 this year. The expense rate paid is 0.45p/mile

Enisa Huso was engaged as a photographer for the Refugee Week exhibition prior to becoming our new trustee.

The trustees were also aware that charitable activities must also benefit the public in general or a sufficient portion of the public with the exception of personal poverty. With this in mind the charity assisted in the supply of 84 tablets to its beneficiaries. But the Life Skills Centre was open to all although attenders are largely from the asylum and refugee community. The poverty of this group is backed up by the fact they only receive Section 95 support from the government.

Objectives and Activities

The Family forge was formed to:

- advance education in the specific area of personal and family development,
- to advance the Christian faith by raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- and to advance the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, finance and other disadvantage

September 2022 saw the Family Forge reopen its doors and continue its' **Richer Lives Project** in Skelmersdale with refugees, asylum seekers and local migrant women. Once again operating between the hours of 10am -4pm Monday to Friday with the funding provided by St Johns C of E parish in Burscough and then from March by the NHS healthy Neighbourhood Fund. We once again offered our seven-point program.

We provided (1)support work (i.e. we provided a place to go to and access to problem solvers/mentors), (2)language classes with the opportunity for certification aswell as other certification opportunities such as Food Hygiene courses(3) voluntary work opportunities(4) a cultural program, (5)physical activity via adult learn to swim classes and hikes,(6) driving theory and supervised driving opportunities and (7) a health improvement program through doctor and dentist registration and appointment support.

The run up to **Christmas 2022 and Spring 2023** saw some intensive work with a few beneficiaries as well as the usual drop in and integration loan applications, home finder applications, emails to the local MP, bank account applications, driving license, travel document and universal credit applications, CV compilation, foreign travel arrangements, HC2 certificate updating, optician, doctor and dentist registrations, appointments, reimbursements for travel to hospital appointments applications, the provision of actual travel to hospital appointments, even the sourcing of funds for the dentist for one person, ARC card issuing and applications for work permitted ARCs, counselling re accommodation issues and assisting with the finding of accommodation, 3 home visits with either asylum or refugee families, driving theory and ESOL classes. We even sorted out a bad debt situation where someone got themselves into difficulty with a mobile phone contract.

Intensive work included:

- weeks of driving accompaniment with five refugees (1): a Syrian refugee housewife with a large family and her (2) husband, (3) a Jordanian (4) a Sudanese and (5) and an Ethiopian refugee. All passed their tests.
- a few weeks (of one morning a week) devoted to explaining and coaching through a food safety Level three certificate with an Angolan asylum seeker with language difficulties and later in the year a Ukranian and Namibian lady on Level two Food Safety.
- continued support through the process of becoming a licensed hackney Carriage driver for one other refugee. He did secure a licence.
- the registering and coaching of an Ethiopian refugee to gain entry to the Open University on a BSc course in Computing and Electronics, along with the researching for scholarships and student loan appropriateness.

-two people were taught to read from scratch with another two having learnt the phonetic alphabet.

-time was also devoted to negotiating a family matter that had to go through the Family Court system and accompanying him to the relevant hearing.

-additionally, time was devoted to a family reunion process to bring the wife of an asylum seeker over from a war-torn country. This same person was helped into employment.

-time was devoted to the support of a fresh claim for a failed asylum seeker in order to keep a father united with his son. This was successful.

-several Life in the UK classes and even religious topics were discussed to interested individuals and topical issues such as homosexuality.

-as well as the usual activities a Christian leaflet was produced concerning the breakdown in human relations that occurred in the Genesis account of the creation.

Early notable events and activities

- two beneficiaries attended the trustee meeting in February.

-one beneficiary attended a family conference in June with a trustee.

- November 14th saw the Family Forge introduced to the local Sponsor Families for Ukrainians.

- and a volunteer tree planting opportunity in Dolphinholme was undertaken

- December saw an opportunity for litter picking at Knott End Beach.

- January saw an opportunity to reupholster chairs another beneficiary

- and an opportunity for an Iranian gentleman to make a presentation in English (not his first language) to present the work of the Family Forge to a funder.

Trips

11th to 15th March saw a residential trip to Chatton near Wooler in Northumberland. This was part funded by a volunteer who provided the accommodation, the Clock Tower Rotary Club, St John's C of E Parish and the Yapp Charitable Trust. The aim of this trip was both health ie physical & mental wellbeing as-well as educational and cultural. The beneficiaries hiked, relaxed, shared the cooking, learnt and visited places of significance in English history and UK life such as Hadrian's Wall, Edinburgh- the home of the Scottish Parliament and Iona- a stronghold of Anglo Saxon Christianity, Bamburgh castle and Berwick on Tweed -Lowry's holiday town and Castle Rigg in Cumbria.

-a trip to Chirk and Llangollen to visit a Norman castle and the Llangollen Aqueduct was undertaken in October

Volunteer opportunities for women included:

-Coniston Hall Manchester in March to assist in preparing the food in this hall of residents for students.

-Thornycroft Hall in Cheshire 25th April for a food preparation and cookery session.

Fundraising Concert

April provided a further voluntary opportunity for the chefs and volunteers amongst the beneficiaries to provide the meal for a fundraising concert at Westhead village hall organised by one of our English volunteers.

May and beyond

May saw us become a distribution partner of Selnet. At the same time Afghan and Ukranian refugees were beginning to settle in and around Skelmersdale. This was an opportunity to provide tablets to those in financial need or digitally excluded or suffering with their mental health.

Since we had often been asked for lap-tops we took this opportunity and assisted in the provision of over 80 tablets to our old and new beneficiaries. Individual applications had to be made. Basic training had to be given which we combined with obligatory completion of a repeated 4 session program about the first 1500 years of British history and early Britain- following the British Council Life in the UK for citizenship material and our own videos- ending with the Magna Carta – the beginnings of the legal system, parliament and the beginnings of the United Kingdom and the Christian heritage.

This activity was intensive and concentrated in May/June/ July /September and October and then beyond our financial year end.

Swimming sessions were offered for a period of about 10 weeks from May-July and a bike maintenance project run on a Wednesday afternoon by a volunteer. 5 bikes were sourced and provided with locks and puncture repair kits during this time.

June saw us participate in a **Refugee week** exhibition making use Enisa's photography skills before she became a trustee (migrant)- showcasing refugees working in the local community thus boosting their self-confidence and pride in making positive contributions to the UK. This was funded by the local County Council Refugee Week Fund.

An occasional food voucher or purchase to relieve a practical need was made.

After the summer break in September and October the office was only open three days a week due to the need to spend our scarce funds wisely and the terminal illness of the manager's mother and these family responsibilities impinging on the time available by the centre manager, nevertheless a busy timetable was operated.

Achievements and Performance

A total of 148 people were served this year through the centre -40 women and 108 men- 25 Sudanese, 19 Iranians, 17 Ukrainians, 11 Syrians, 11 Eritreans, 10 Afghans and 7 Ethiopians forming the largest groups by nationality while the number of nationalities served increased to 30 as the centre attracted local migrant women.

Nationalities beyond those mentioned included Portuguese, Romanian, Ghanaian, Kuwaiti, Albanian, Moldovan, Namibian, Polish, Equadorian, Sri Lankan, Latvian, Cuban, Saudi, Somali, Sierra Leone, Iraqi, Cameroonian, Mali, Jordanian, Nigerian and Palestinian. We did not record the nationalities of 15 people. 14 friends of beneficiaries, also attended the centre this year.

Of the 148, 84 were seeking asylum, 48 were refugees and 16 were migrants. Of the asylum seekers often their status changes as we serve them to become refugees. Our status recording occurs when we register the individual.

The age profile was baby-69 of which the main groups was aged between 20 and 30 and 30 and 40 but there was also a sizable group aged over 40. The married form the largest cohort although often the men 's wives are still in the country of origin.

Beneficiaries by age:		Marital Status	
minors	3	Single	51
20s	50	Married	67
30s	45	Other status	10
40s	25	Don't Know	19
50s	8		
60s	5		
don't know	12		

Achievements Continued

In addition to the individual successes mentioned before, 84 individuals received tablets and Life in the UK training. This combatted social isolation and mental wellbeing issues, improved digital inclusion and promoted personal development. Integration was also improved due to the compulsory class attendance and the knowledge gained.

Our support work was ongoing with individuals throughout the year and continues to be the backbone of our work.

- 5 driving theory test passes were achieved (known about) and also 5 practical driving test passes after accompaniment with a volunteer
- two others ie a Ukrainian lady and a Moldovan man were assisted to gain confidence driving in the UK. And one Albanian lady was given the confidence to begin learning.
- many others began driving theory instruction or were inspired to self-learn via apps on their phones. This often happens and we don't hear of the successes in these cases.

This year saw an increase in Ukrainians attend the centre and the continued increase in the local migrant women who are still seeking language classes and social and cultural interaction.

The swimming program saw 6 ladies attend. There were approximately 25 participants on the swim program between the men and the women's classes; about 7 men learnt to swim from

scratch or gained the instruction they needed to progress- not all attended every session but as they wished.

The efficiency of the health program continues to improve, administered by Melanie whose sole job is to ensure our beneficiaries are registered with a doctor and where needed a dentist and advice is given as to the best way to make appointments indeed doing it for them often. Her record of action taken in this regard demonstrates that our beneficiaries' health needs are dealt with in a timely manner and difficulties with funding are overcome. All our beneficiaries know that we are there for them, this fact ensures a more positive state of mental health in the group.

In all many people were assisted with their individual problems and many small successes were achieved.

Of note

The office was however broken into this year through the skylight in the ladies' bathroom which left roof and electrical damage. Nothing was stolen which points to the break-in being perpetrated by youths.

Plans for the future

In the coming year we intend to continue our new Richer Lives Seven-point Project. As regards the ESOL provision we will seek innovate ways to maintain the interest of students as not all flourish with academic style class-based learning and we will seek to engage our beneficiaries in brainstorming issues.

We will continue our search to find a solution to the homeless problem for refugees also of those desiring to remain in Skelmersdale.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Charity Name The Family Forge

On accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023 Charity no (if any) 1161900

Set out on pages 1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2023DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Philip Andrew Atherton Date: 8/4/2024

Name: Philip Andrew Atherton

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

Chartered Accountant ICAEW

(if any):

Address: 22 Beacon House, 1 Willow Walk, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The FamilyForge

No (if any)

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/11/2022 To 31/10/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	12,490	-	12,490	24,230
Donations	1,836	-	-	1,836	4,996
Amazon Smile	5	-	-	5	10
GAYL	19	-	-	19	24
Gift Aid	135	-	-	135	-
Other	-	105	-	105	35
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,994	12,595	-	14,589	29,295
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	600
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	600
Total receipts	1,994	12,595	-	14,589	29,895
A3 Payments					
Staff and Training	-	3,220	-	3,220	20,218
Lease Rates Insurance	-	4,363	-	4,363	4,344
Gas Electricity Water	-	1,642	-	1,642	1,385
Computer AVG Broadband	-	701	-	701	939
Office Repairs and Decorations	-	580	-	580	238
Office equipment including computers	-	97	-	97	35
Educational materials Tests	-	1,572	-	1,572	1,064
Educational Trips	-	1,026	-	1,026	1,160
Personal Need grants to individuals	-	194	-	194	541
Volunteer travel and pick up service	-	894	-	894	331
Outdoor classroom including lunches	-	193	-	193	353
Swimming and physical activities	-	142	-	142	330
Consumables ink stationary etc	79	9	-	88	196
Marketing and other	615	232	-	848	106
Supervised driving	-	-	-	-	514
Sub total	695	14,865	-	15,569	31,754
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	695	14,865	-	15,569	31,754
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,300	- 2,270	-	- 970	- 1,859
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,162	2,841	-	6,003	7,862
Cash funds this year end	4,462	571	-	5,033	6,003

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,462	571	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Jocelyn Owens</i>	JOCELYN OWENS	11/4/24
<i>Michael Turner</i>	MICHAEL TURNER	13/4/24

THE FAMILY FORGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1161900

Accounts

The Family Forge

Reference and Administrative details

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report and Annual Accounts For the period 1st Nov.2021-Oct 31st 2022

Charity Registration 1161900

www.familyforge.org

Registered Address	Life Skills Centre	Trustees
4 Cobbs Brow Lane Newburgh Lancashire WN8 7ND 07947 853502	128 Sandy Lane Skelmersdale WN8 8LH	Jocelyn Owens Michael Turner Ester Arrieta (lately resigned Sept 2022)

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Receipts and Payments Accounts	P13
Statements of Assets and Liabilities	P14
Signatures on behalf of all the Trustees	P14

The trustees Report and statement of Accounts have been prepared using guidance from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Charities SORP.

Signed on behalf of all the trustees,

Jocelyn Owens

Michael Turner

Date: 22/03/2023

The Family Forge
Trustees Report
For the period 1st November 2021 – 31st October 2022

Charity Structure/ Governance and Management

The Family Forge became a registered charity in May 2015. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation following the directions of its constitution amended on 25th March 2015. During the period the charity was led by 3 trustees supported by advisors (accountant, charity and management mentor) plus 2 skilled paid tutors and one voluntary work activity leader (two of whom were drawn from our beneficiary group, 2 admin volunteers (from the local community) and other volunteers. Beneficiaries were able to inform the decision making processes through our feedback systems.

In the spring of 2021, Ester Sanchez replaced Uche Ameh as a trustee but unfortunately as of September 2022 resigned due to unforeseen family commitments abroad leaving an opening for a new trustee. The trustees are appointed for three years or until retirement by a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees is three. Decisions are made by a 75% majority of the trustees. We will be selecting an individual to replace Ester who has the necessary skill to provide the effective oversight needed for the better administration of the CIO. Training is provided through the Trustee duties information pack and signposting to CVS training opportunities. No exemptions from disclosure apply and no trustee held title to a property belonging to the charity during the period as the charity currently holds no property.

In 2022 the Family Forge was staffed by one trustee working voluntarily on a full time basis together with two sessional paid staff, joined by a third sessional staff member overseeing the voluntary work initiative. (They included a professionally qualified teacher and both a female and male member drawn from the refugee community). Volunteers provided extra tutoring and administrative support.

Special thanks should be given to Prudence, Judy, Melanie, Jane and Lucy and everyone who spared their time and effort to assist in the work this year along with special thanks to our donors who made the work possible.

Objectives and Activities

The Family forge was formed to :

- advance education in the specific area of personal and family development,
- to advance the Christian faith by raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- and to advance the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, finance and other disadvantage

This year the Family Forge embarked on our Richer Lives Post Covid19 Project operating between the hours of 10am -4pm Monday to Friday. This Combined the Community Champions aim- to assist health and wellbeing in the community and reduce the social isolation of individuals post Covid19, with our aim of personal development. So we embarked on a seven point program.

We provided (1) support work largely working among the asylum and refugee communities but also among local migrant families (i.e. we provided a place to go and access to problem solvers), (2) language classes with the opportunity for certification as well as other certification opportunities

such as Food Hygiene courses and maths ,(3) voluntary work opportunities(grounds-work in the main),(4) a cultural program, (5)physical activity via adult learn to swim classes and hikes,(6) driving theory and supervised driving opportunities and (7) a health improvement program through doctor and dentist registration and appointment support.

The run up to Christmas 2021 saw the general support work and Esol continue as usual with swimming classes on Fridays and the supervised driving sessions developed, led by a volunteer. A trip to Leeds and a home visit to a past pupil in Stockport was made and a mixed religious group attended two events at the local Baptist church and Christmas mass.

The new year to July 13th (when the centre closed to open again on 5th Sept), saw the addition of 4 cookery sessions and several cultural trips – to local Croston, Southport and Formby as well as to the World of glass in St Helens, the World museum in Liverpool, Castle Rigg stone circle near Keswick, Whatmore plastics factory in Burnley and several trips to the Village Market in Liverpool to obtain world foods familiar to those from the countries of our beneficiaries.

A further 6 home visits were made; one to Sale and others locally in Skelmersdale and Kirby.

March saw the health program become more efficient with the introduction of a volunteer specially assigned to this work and the keeping of accurate records. Several individuals were in need of special or emergency attention and funds were found for their needs.

The groundwork program became underway in March and ran until end June.

May 24th saw our first Ukranian refugee registration and June saw the centre manager/trustee seconded to Jury service.

The period ended with the memorable Platinum Jubilee trip to the home of Queen Elizabeth II- Windsor Castle and an inside tour of the Houses of Parliament. This trip included visiting Runnymede and a talk on the Magna Carta and taking in the view of London at Greenwich Village where the origin of Greenwich mean time was explained to the group.

The autumn saw a hike up the Dungeon Ghyll and an amble around Ambleside.

23 individuals participated in the adult swimming classes over the period and 13 people were assisted with supervised driving.

The charity was closed mid- July through August as a window was needed to secure further core funding following a failed fundraising attempt. During this period we lost two of our sessional workers to other employment opportunities. However, funding was finally secured through St Johns Cof E parish in Burscough and although further funding is needed the charity was operational in September and October but utilising more volunteers with a slightly reduced program.

The Family Forge liaised this year with the CVS and Community Champions, the Parbold Outreach Group, the Ecumenical Centre and local hosts of Ukranian refugees.

Specific work undertaken by The Family Forge under the 7 point program

(1) Support work

Home visits-reducing social isolation were made
Liaised with and Emailed solicitors
Listening ear and advice where needed
Communicated with some past pupils
Applications for ARC cards were made
Liaised with local school on behalf of a minor asylum seeker
Brakes on bike mended and bike toolkit and pump kept available for use
Shortage occupation card advice
UCAS application and university selection advice and liaison
Advised on pathways for accountancy courses
Applied for travel documents
Bike supplied
Job application and CV development undertaken
Bank account applications made
Transport provided for new mum –various journeys
Provided second hand sofa
Booked speed awareness virtual course for refugee
Second hand and surplus items distributed- eg bedding and baby clothes and pram
Car seat sourced
Reference letter for bank produced when needed
References for university applications provided
Provisional licence applications made
Online banking set up assistance provided
Universal credit claims set up
Assistance provided with courier and customs declaration for parcels sent abroad
Money belt provided for one individual
Post- natal visits for new mum
Car insurance obtaining assistance provided
Taxi driving test coaching and taxi license application
Budgeting class
Shengen visa application
Sourced funding for an appeal to be lodged in an asylum case
Assistance to self- employment for one individual assembling furniture
Employment reference provided
Read and assisted understanding of employment contracts with agencies
Assisted beneficiaries to send emails to MP regarding lengthy asylum processes and problems
Applied for shortage occupation work permits
Assisted with taxi driving test learning material

(2) Types of Language classes and other opportunities and certificates

IELTS preparation given
Organised, funded and transported individual for IELTS exam at Liverpool exam centre
Duolingo test preparation given
Organised and funded Duolingo online tests
Opportunities provided to Read English story books

Adult phonetics and learning to read classes given
English conversation class provided
Online Elementary English course offered and tutor supported
Maths classes given
GCSE Maths exam at private centre booked and funded and transport provided
Food safety Level 2 and 3 undertaken
Fire Safety Certificate undertaken
Manufacturing food safety Certificate undertaken
Organised in-house ESOL tests
Ladies transport to class service operated for part of the year

(3)Types of Voluntary work opportunities

Mowing /digging/brushcutting/rubble clearing /shed organisation and tidying/ chopping wood at St John's Burscough once a week from 22/03/2022 to July 2022 -15 persons took part in the gardening project.

Arranged for Everton in the community experience for one footballer
-football trials emails sent

(4) Cultural program offered

- Cultural Trips-9
- including Platinum Jubilee trip to Windsor and Houses of Parliament
- with additional trips to Village Market Liverpool for African and Arabic foodstuffs
- Spanish Omlette cookery session
- Chick pea potato and tuna salad cookery session
- Cooking Coltsunasi
- cooking paella
- pub treat

-Religious events included

- Carols at Aughton Baptist church and coffee event
- Volunteer distribution of gifts to asylum seekers at Christmas,
- Christian denominations discussions
- Ash Wednesday and Shrove Tuesday talks
- Christian understanding of God talk
- Discussion on the Trinity and other aspects of Christianity

(5)Types of physical activity provided

- Adult swim classes for men and separately women
- hike up Dungeon Ghyll

(6) Driving theory and supervised driving opportunities provided

- Online driving theory program access via the computer suite at the centre and /or driving app advice for self- teaching
- classroom driving theory lessons given
- Supervised Driving and pre- test preparation around the test centre in Southport and locally via a volunteer-13 people assisted with this specifically
- assisted online applications for driving licences

(7) Health improvement program provided

- Doctors and dentist search and registration service given

- appointment assistance given
- HC2 application service offered
- transport to hospital and emergency dental appointments given
- Liaison with doctors given
- Arranged and sourced funding for private dental care where urgently needed
- covid testing arrangements for individuals

Training of staff included data Protection training session, administration of health program training, safeguarding training session and fire procedure training.

Driving Instructor theory test part 1 undertaken and passed by supervised driving volunteer/Centre Manager.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees are aware that any purpose to be considered charitable must be beneficial with any consequent harms not outweighing the benefits and that these benefits must be identifiable. As a consequence the Charity relaxed its Covid19 precautions as the government lifted mandatory requirements, distancing and mask wearing in March 2022- the benefits of operating deemed to have outweighed the risks of opening with such precautions as the year progressed.

To reduce any possible harm the swimming activity was undertaken at a local pool during public swim times ensuring there was always a life guard present beside the charity instructor thus allowing the considerable benefit of providing the opportunity of learning to swim to adult non swimmers.

The trustees also recognised that to be charitable any personal benefit must be incidental. No trustee benefitted personally from the activities of the charity except through travel expenses as a result of voluntary working; although a small number of online courses were purchased from the company of the spouse of a trustee amounting to £384 in total. These were offered at a discount to the charity making them cheaper than purchasing elsewhere. Also to assist the charity over a financially tight period over the summer, the second-hand charity car was purchased by a trustee for the £50 less than it originally cost.

The trustees were also aware that charitable activities must also benefit the public in general or a sufficient portion of the public with the exception of personal poverty. With this in mind the charity supported the private dental treatment for a couple of individuals whose situation was considered urgent and who didn't have the means to support themselves.

The supervised driving was undertaken to upskill local refugees quickly in order to gain greater employment opportunities taking into account the fact revealed by the University of Oxford Centre on Migration Policy and Society study, Refugees and the UK labour market ,detailing that the employment rate among asylum migrants is 51%, compared with 73% for the UK-born.(2009-2017)

The study also stated that the gap in employment rates is smaller for asylum migrants who have been longer in the UK, but that it takes time for the gap to narrow and remains present – albeit smaller – even after more than 25 years of residence in the country.

It also indicates that Asylum migrants who are employees earn less than the UK born nationals and other migrants and the analysis suggests that adjusting for socio-demographic characteristics that asylum migrants earn, on average, 55% less per week than the UK-born and 38% less per hour.

The fact of asylum seekers living on £5 a day prior to gaining leave to remain makes upskilling an important task so the driving supervision offered was considered justified.

Achievements and Performance

A total of 98 people were served this year through the centre -30 women and 68 men Iranian Syrian and Ukrainians forming the largest groups by nationality while the number of nationalities served increased slightly to 23 as the centre attracted local migrant women.

The age profile was 16-69 of which the main group was aged between 20 and 30 but with a similar number in the 30s age group and even the 50s age group :

18 or under 2

30 or under 25

40 or under 22

50 or under 21

60 or under 2

70 or under 2

We didn't have complete data on 24 individuals

Of these the majority were married:

Single 27

Married 50

Other 7

Unknown 14

Achievements

Our support work was ongoing with individuals throughout the year and continues to be the backbone of our work.

This year saw an uptick in local migrant women coming to the centre for language classes – largely housewives whose social and cultural isolation made language learning difficult. Besides this we welcomed our first Ukrainian family to the centre and began to expand this work.

The swimming program saw 6 Syrian ladies attempt to learn to swim which was a big step forward as they were refugees from the government's resettlement program who had been living in Skelmersdale for 4-5 years already but had only just began to integrate to the extent of feeling comfortable going to a pool. They wore full body costumes and were proud that their husbands had allowed them to try this activity. In addition to the Syrians some of the migrant women began learning to swim for the first time or to improve. There were 23 participants in total on the swim program between the men and the women's classes; 14 of whom could not swim at first; 8 of whom learnt to swim or made great progress- while all enjoyed the socialising and exercise.

Once again the voluntary grounds-work program kept a local cemetery trim through the growing season and a number of beneficiary backyards were brush-cut. At least 16 people took part in this program with 4 volunteer/ staff.

The efficiency of the health program was improved this year, administered by Melanie whose sole job it was to ensure our beneficiaries were registered with a doctor and where needed a dentist. This thus improved the mental and physical health of our beneficiaries by ensuring all

knew they had help and would be supported. In fact we supported individuals through their various treatment programs where needed including resorting to private treatment on occasion due to the shortage of NHS dentists.

13 individual refugees were assisted through the supervised driving program. 5 of whom passed their tests and all but one are ready to take their tests.

Of note

- one individual gained a grade 7 in GCSE maths and grade 4 GCSE equivalent in English.
- another achieved his Grade 4 equivalent English certificate and Level two, three and manufacturing level in Food Safety.
- one staff member spring-boarded from her first job in the UK working for us to her dream job inspired and mentored by the Family Forge
- another former beneficiary was supported through setting up in self employment

In all many people were assisted with their individual problems and many small successes were achieved.

Financial review

The funds during 2021/22 originated in the form of grants. The largest this year being from the West Lancashire Community Champions Fund distributed by the WLCVS. Other grants came from other distributing charities namely Pilkington Charity, Yapp and a small amount from Corsoraf Charity. Individual private donors contributed as did the St Johns C of E parish Council, Burscough. One payment from the Business support discretionary Omicron Grant was also received.

The grant funds carried over from the last financial year included monies from the Business Restart funding, the Foyle Foundation for educational work and Eleanor Rathbone monies for work with women.

Private donations this year formed 17% of The Family Forge income; for which, once again we are extremely grateful. Thank you to all our donors.

A small amount of income was raised through the sale of the second-hand car. This was needed to realise some cash during the summer when funding was tight due to an unsuccessful funding bid leaving the charity short of funds.

No reserves are kept at present.

Plans for the future

In the coming year we will develop our new Richer Lives Project which is a seven point program consisting of:

Support

ESOL and literacy

Cultural Program

Physical activity

Voluntary work experience

Driving Theory and supervised driving

Doctor and dentist and HC2 registration program

We will also continue our search for funding to acquire a property to rent for refugees desiring

to remain in Skelmersdale. Refugees often find private property rentals difficult as they need to provide guarantors who are home owners as a condition of tenancy. If the Family Forge becomes a home owner we could provide such guarantees among other benefits.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Family Forge

1161900

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/11/2021	To	31/10/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	24,230	-	24,230	17,763
Donations	4,996	-	-	4,996	5,170
Amazon Smile	10	-	-	10	8
GAYL	24	-	-	24	-
Other	35	-	-	35	789
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,065	24,230	-	29,295	23,730
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale of Seat Ibiza	600	-	-	600	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	600	-	-	600	-
Total receipts	5,665	24,230	-	29,895	23,730
A3 Payments					
Staff and Training	1,900	18,318	-	20,218	13,346
Lease Rates Insurance	2,285	2,059	-	4,344	4,308
Gas Electricity Water	1,171	214	-	1,385	1,249
Computer AVG and Broadband	710	229	-	939	1,222
Office repairs and redecorations	238	-	-	238	3,439
Office equipment including computers	35	-	-	35	5,278
Production Education materials	-	-	-	-	166
Educational materials tests	301	763	-	1,064	288
Educational Trips	57	1,103	-	1,160	291
Personal Need grants to individuals	145	396	-	541	977
Volunteer travel and pickup service	201	130	-	331	649
Outdoor classroom including lunches	119	234	-	353	1,698
Swimming and physical activities	10	320	-	330	246
Covid lunches	-	-	-	-	243
Consumables ink stationery etc	139	57	-	196	87
Marketing and other	106	-	-	106	299
Supervised driving	-	514	-	514	2,308
Sub total	7,417	24,337	-	31,754	36,094
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,417	24,337	-	31,754	36,094
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,752	- 107	-	- 1,859	- 12,364
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,914	2,948	-	7,862	20,226
Cash funds this year end	3,162	2,841	-	6,003	7,862

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	The Family Forge	3,162	2,841	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,162	2,841	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Jocelyn Owens</i>	JOCELYN OWENS	22/3/23
<i>Michael Turner</i>	MICHAEL TURNER	23/3/23



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees The Family Forge

On accounts for the year ended 31 October 2022 Charity no (if any) 1161900

Set out on pages 1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Philip Andrew Atherton

Date: 16/03/2023

Name: Philip Andrew Atherton

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Chartered Accountant ICAEW

Address: 22 Beacon House, 1 Willow Walk, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

[Empty box for disclosure details]

THE FAMILY FORGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1161900

Accounts

The Family Forge

Reference and Administrative details

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report and Annual Accounts For the period 1st Nov.2020-Oct 31st 2021

Charity Registration 1161900

www.familyforge.org

Registered Address

4 Cobbs Brow Lane
Newburgh
Lancashire
WN8 7ND
07947 853502


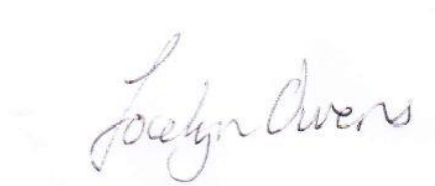
Trustees

Jocelyn Owens
Michael Turner
Ester Sanchez

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Statements of Assets and Liabilities	P9

The trustees Report and statement of Accounts have been prepared using guidance from the charities SORP {FRSSE}

Signed on behalf of all the trustees,



Jocelyn Owens

Michael Turner

Ester Sanchez

Date:29/01/2022

The Family Forge

Trustees Report

For the period 1st November 2020 – 31st October 2021

Charity Structure/ Governance and Management

The Family Forge became a registered charity in May 2015. It is a charitable incorporated Organisation following the directions of its constitution amended on 25th March 2015.

The charity is led by trustees supported by a variety of advisors (accountant, charity mentor, and management mentor) plus a small number of skilled tutors / admin staff (two of whom were drawn from our beneficiary group) and also volunteers (from our user groups specifically members of the refugee and asylum seeking communities). In addition to this our beneficiaries can inform the decision making processes through our feedback systems.

In the spring of 2021, Ester Sanchez replaced Uche Ameh as a trustee. The trustees are appointed for a three year term or until retirement by a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees at any one time is three. Decisions are made by a 75% majority of the trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees the charity trustees have regard for the skill, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. No exemptions from disclosure apply and no trustee held title to a property belonging to the charity as the charity currently holds no property.

In 2021 the Family Forge was staffed by one trustee working voluntarily on a full time basis together with two sessional staff (including a professionally qualified teacher and a female member of the refugee community) with volunteers and another administrative support worker (again drawn from the refugee community).

Special thanks should be given to Judy and everyone who spared their time and effort to assist in the Covid lockdown communications , litter picking, the continuing refurbishment especially the new flooring preparations or who helped in any other way and special thanks to our donors.

Objectives and Activities

The Family forge was formed to :

- advance education in the specific area of personal and family development,
- to advance the Christian faith by raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- and to advance the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, finance and other disadvantage

To that end...the Family Forge continued its' from fear to confidence program of providing individuals and married men and women with friendship, support, mentoring and development work- largely drawn from the asylum and refugee community.

The Covid19 lockdown of late 2020, including November and December and lasting to the beginning of January, was a period when the classroom based activities at the Family Forge ceased. During this period only the completion of the office refurbishment was happening- in particular the flooring preparation, the laying of the new linoleum, the scrapping of the old computers and the installing of the new or refurbished computer suite. When this work was completed the office reopened for face

to face support work and other activity. The middle of January saw the launch of our Life in the UK MP4s to our newly created Youtube channel and loaded on to our website.

A full program was hampered by Covid19 considerations so the emphasis was placed on support work this year or small group classes. Vulnerable or ill staff forced work from home and a brief shutdown in July but our services generally continued and slowly built up over the year.

March saw the taking on and training of our newest member of staff from amongst our beneficiaries.

Whilst in April we supported a beneficiary to represent him-self in court which led to the Family Forge hosting his online asylum appeal case in May.

The voluntary grounds-work program ran for 7 months from April and continued beyond October at Burscough St John's church where we kept the cemetery and parish land maintained. In July we saw this work bear extra fruit as it became the inspiration to clean up the back yards of our own volunteer asylum seekers houses! Car loads of debris and garden waste were taken to the local tip.

July also saw the beginning of the new swim program and the restarting of the cultural trips program.

ESOL and driving theory was ongoing as usual. With the introduction of the new ECF online program enabling the Family Forge to offer certification at the elementary and Intermediate levels now besides the university accepted Duolingo English Proficiency Test.

Doctor and dentist registration and telephone appointments were a particular problem for many of our beneficiaries during the year causing much anxiety and real pain so this area was incorporated into our registration process by the end of the year.

Finally October saw the purchase of a small second-hand car for the addition of offering regular supervised driving sessions to those refugees or asylum seekers holding UK provisional driving licenses and needing to convert their own national driving experiences to full UK licenses. Supervisory lessons were piloted from April through to September via an individual who had his own car.

The Family Forge also liaised with local groups such as the West Lancs Forum for ESOL providers, DWP- Job Centre, MAF, Ecumenical Centre and Edge Hill University- participating in its Community day.

Some specific support given:

Work experience provided plastering, painting, and decorating the office and preparing the floor for refurbishment

Celebration meal for workers on completion of the refurbishment

Work experience opportunity provided for a chef at gardening program and for the celebration meal
Cabbage and onion growing

Whatsapp social isolation contact by staff and volunteers

MP4 production

Youtube channel creation

Tutoring

Letters to the West Lancashire MP for individuals experiencing particular difficulties

Liaison with solicitors by phone and letter to reassure individuals and sort out problems

Assistance in the preparation of a witness statement

Advice on dentists and waiting lists for dentists
Helped with registration with dentists where it was possible
Filling out HC1 forms
Making of dental appointments
Provision of transport to emergency dentists
Provision of transport to hospital appointments
Provision of a reading program for certain individuals
Provision of a phonetics program for two individuals
Hosting of an online appeal court hearing
Making of social isolation phone-calls and pre court hearing phone-calls to reduce levels of anxiety for two asylum seekers in particular
Provision of character references
Job searches
National Insurance number queries and application
Training for new staff (previous beneficiary)
Supplied maths books
Supplied 6x bicycles
Supplied baby equipment and clothes
Supplied food vouchers for human need and during Aspen card difficulties when a change of government contractor left asylum seekers without money for 3-4 weeks
Supplied a desk and a chair for one person
Human need fund applications made for the purchase of laptops
University advice given
Listening, chats and mentoring with individuals experiencing tension from the Home office
Referral and reference for temporary accommodation for an individual
Driving theory classes
Two Food safety certificate courses
Pick up service ladies for classes
Litter picking in Birch Green
Re-upholstery of dining chairs
Piloting supervisory practical driving sessions with an individual in his own car
Liaised with solicitor re child custody arrangements for an individual
Assisted with goal setting
Advised re work experiences and shortage occupation advice
Assistance with CV writing
Assisted with a citizenship application
Assisted with passport application
Helped negotiate UCAS system for an individual
Assisted with preparation of personal statements and references for UCAS
Assisted with scholarship applications
Applications made for provisional driving licences, theory tests and driving tests
Integration loan applications made
Bank account applications undertaken
Universal credit application and maintaining the log assistance
Travel documents, attestation for travel and visa obtaining assistance
University follow up visit for previous student in York and by phone
Gardening program at Burscough- brush cutter and 4x4ride on brushcutter experience
Gardening in beneficiaries back yards
Provision of lunches at gardening program
Helped with preparation for a deportation appeal
Taught one of the ladies how to ride a bike

Undertook a search for a solicitor for a difficult case
Undertook a donors search to fund an Appeal Tribunal representation
Accompanying student to driving tests
Home visit in Accrington and a walk made with a past beneficiary
GCSE Maths tuition given
School registration for Kuwait girl made
Conversation and welcome for Kuwait mother and daughter and orientation in Skelmersdale given- many weeks -ongoing
Literacy program for Kuwait mother
Provision of dictionaries to students Oromo/English, Kurdish /English etc
Learn to swim Program initiated
Trips to Windermere
Leyland Vehicle Museum
Liverpool Cathedral and food market
Harrock Hill Trip/hike
Ullswater- canoe and hike
Bolton Abbey- hike
Dungeon Ghyll- hike

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees are aware that any purpose to be considered charitable must be beneficial with any consequent harms not outweighing the benefits and that these benefits must be identifiable. Once again the Covid virus was identified as a potential harm which could impact on the benefits the charity was providing. Consequently the Family Forge closed its office except for the refurbishment during Nov/Dec 2020 and concentrated on work with individuals and small groups during the first six months of the year even closing the office for a ten day period during July 2021 when Covid 19 was rampant in West Lancashire and one of the refugee households contracted the illness.

The charity also looked at the benefits of introducing a supervised driving program for refugees and asylum seekers who had permission to work and the regulations surrounding supervised driving. A risk assessment, guidelines and training program was produced for the activity to ensure the safety of potential drivers, volunteer supervisors and members of the public. Suitable insurance was found. The benefits were identified and considered to outweigh the risks with adherence to the guidance.

The charity also updated and increased its Public liability and other insurances to take account of the increased activity programs which now include more activities out of the classroom and very occasional NFP educational work.

The trustees also recognise that to be charitable any personal benefit must be incidental. No trustee benefitted personally from the activities of the charity except through travel expenses as a result of voluntary working.

The trustees are aware that charitable activities must also benefit the public in general or a sufficient portion of the public with the exception of personal poverty. This year also a number of food vouchers and items were given to individuals experiencing poverty and need.

Achievements and Performance

Nov 2020-Mid Jan 2021 saw the completion of the office refurbishment especially the flooring preparation, laying and replacement of the office fixings, furniture and classroom items.

Meanwhile powerpoint and MP4 production was still taking place as was support of a new Kuwait family.

Feb/March saw the new or new to us computer suite installed and support work and individual

or small group tutoring in the classroom begin.

In the **eight month period** from the March to the end of Oct 2021, 71 asylum seekers/refugees were supported. 65 men and 6 women. These came from 20 nations in total Iranians and Sudanese forming the largest grouping. Nationals besides these came from Syria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kuwait, Moldova (migrant), Senegal, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Libya, Iraq, Nigeria, Turkey, Guinea, Afghanistan, Cuba(migrant), Somalia, Palestine and Italy (migrant).

The age profile was 15-70 of which the main group was aged between 20 and 30 :

18 or under 1

30 or under 36

40 or under 16

50 or under 6

60 or under 3

70 or under 1

don't know 8

Of these more or less half were married and half not married:

Single 25

Married 29

Other 4

Unknown 13

From our records we can deduce that at least one fifth of the students had no previous schooling or left at primary level.

The number of beneficiaries served was lower this year due to the enforced lockdowns and less concentration on online support due to the continued refurbishments. Attendance figures were only kept for the eight month period of March to End October.

Achievements

Through the voluntary work offered via:-

-the outdoor classroom project - students gained experience in brush-cutting, using a 4x4 mini tractor and lawn mowers and succeeded in creating a wild flower meadow and in digging a trench to assist the drainage and maintenance of a cemetery –each student that completed 6 weeks voluntary work was awarded a certificate in recognition .

-a neighbourhood in Birch Green was kept cleaner through a litter picking exercise

-beneficiaries back gardens experienced a makeover

-the office refurbishment was completed and experience was gained in floor preparation in particular

-an experience of upholstery was gained by one student

Besides this a number of firsts were achieved in the year.

We hosted for the first time an asylum court appeal online in the office. This appeal was for an Afghan and was unfortunately unsuccessful but we were able to secure funding for legal representation at a later stage in the process. We thought this important since the situation in Afghanistan was changing rapidly and was not a safe place to deport anyone to. This extra representation proved effective and Leave to Remain was eventually granted.

We also for the first time began taking non swimmers among the asylum community to the local swimming pool and had our first success at teaching this important life skill taking that particular person on a journey from real fear to confidence – a fear made worse by his crossing

the channel experience but to a confidence that led him to swim in a lake whilst on a cultural trip. He can now swim 3 different strokes properly.

This same asylum seeker added another first to his quiver as he read his first book ever which was a great achievement since it was in English – not his native language and this quickly led to his completing a second book.

And whilst not firsts, two people gained their Level two Hygiene Certificates and our test student gained his full UK driving licence.

Financial review

The funds during 2020/21 originated in the form of grants from other distributing charities namely Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, Yapp Foundation and an Arnold Clark Award; also from individual private or church donors with special thanks to Aughton Baptist Church; as well as the Additional Restrictions Business Support Grant (ARG) and the WLBC Restart Scheme grant.

The grant funds carried over from the last financial year included monies from the Foyle Foundation for educational work including the production of online and educational materials, the West Lancs Borough Council Discretionary Fund , the Corona Virus Community Support Fund Award of the National Lottery and HM Government towards the outdoor classroom and Covid Classroom initiatives, Allen Lane monies to cover core costs, Greggs Covid Hardship Fund monies primarily for food initiatives during covid19 and a small amount from Lancashire Covid 19 Community Support Fund and National EmergencyTrust award- administered by the community Foundation for Lancashire and Merseyside for online support during lockdowns.

Additional funding

The Family Forge received monies from The Methodist Fund for Human Need for two individuals in need.

Donations this year formed 21.8% of The Family Forge income for the year for which we are extremely grateful. Thank you to all our donors.

No reserves are kept at present.

Plans for the future

In the coming year we will develop our new Richer Lives Project which is a seven point program consisting of:

Support

ESOL and literacy

Cultural Program

Physical activity

Voluntary work experience

Driving Theory and supervised driving

Doctor and dentist and HC2 registration program

We will also continue our search for funding to acquire a property to rent for refugees desiring to remain in Skelmersdale. Refugees often find private property rentals difficult as they need to provide guarantors who are home owners as a condition of tenancy. If the Family Forge becomes a home owner we could provide such guarantees among other benefits.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
The Family Forge

On accounts for the year
ended

31 October 2021

Charity no
(if any) 1161900

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2021

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 13/05/2022

Name: Philip Andrew Atherton

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

Chartered Accountant ICAEW

(if any):

Address: 22 Beacon House, 1 Willow Walk, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UR.

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Family Forge

1161900

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/11/2020

To

31/10/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	10,603	7,160	-	17,763	35,950
Donations	4,985	185	-	5,170	2,817
Fees online tutoring	-	-	-	-	162
Fees other tutoring	-	-	-	-	264
Amazon smile	8	-	-	8	-
Other	789	-	-	789	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,385	7,345	-	23,730	39,193
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,385	7,345	-	23,730	39,193
A3 Payments					
Staff and training	1,633	11,713	-	13,346	8,571
Lease rates and insurance	2,701	1,607	-	4,308	4,067
Gas electricity and water	781	468	-	1,249	986
Computer avg and broadband	967	255	-	1,222	1,238
Office repairs and redecoration	3,439	-	-	3,439	1,695
Office equipment inc computers	3,852	1,426	-	5,278	831
Production education materials	-	166	-	166	5,250
Educational materials tests	-	288	-	288	-
Educational trips	-	291	-	291	25
Personal need grants to individuals	262	715	-	977	60
Volunteer travel and pick up service	422	227	-	649	744
Outdoor classroom inc lunches	1,151	547	-	1,698	1,760
Swimmig and physical activities	-	246	-	246	-
Covid lunches	44	199	-	243	173
Consumables ink stationery etc	72	15	-	87	157
Activity packs marketing and other	211	88	-	299	87
Supervised driving	1,197	1,111	-	2,308	-
Sub total	16,732 #	19,362 #	-	36,094 #	25,644
Total payments	16,732	19,362	-	36,094	25,644
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 347	- 12,017	-	- 12,364	13,549
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,261	14,965	-	20,226	6,677
Cash funds this year end	4,914	2,948	-	7,862	20,226

