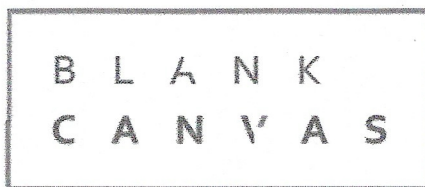


**Charity Number: 1182185**

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**



### **Annual Report 2023-24**

Over the last year Blank Canvas has begun to see the fruits of now over five years of ministry and work across Redcar. The Annual Report is always an opportunity to pause, to look back and celebrate all that has been achieved. To thank the commitment of so many volunteers and staff, alongside looking ahead to our hopes to further supporting young people and families across Redcar, their families and sharing our Christian faith, the very thing that motivates and drives the work of Blank Canvas.

#### **To highlight a few areas of growth in this past year:**

We thanked Revd Mark Hubbard for 5 years of being Chair of Trustees and for all that he did to support the launch of Blank Canvas. As he stepped back, Mark Tate, has stepped into that role and takes on the leadership of Blank Canvas, chairing trustees and working alongside the founders in the strategic direction of the charity. Alongside Mark Tate; Jonny Hedges, Revd Bridget Woodhall and Tim Theobalds have joined the trustee board to bring further experience in operations, governance, strategy and finance.

Blank Canvas has grown in our staff numbers by 100% with the employment of Steve Cassy as a Youth Worker. Carol Petit has joined the team through our partnership with St Hilda's Church and Mustard Seed, and following this, has launched the Advocacy Programme.

The second safe spaces youth club was launched and has become an established part of young people's weeks, alongside our existing youth club.

Throughout the summer, the staff team and volunteers ran a full programme of summer activities and our Social Action projects have taken place throughout the year.

Financially we have received a number of key grants that have enabled Blank Canvas to grow both in capacity but additionally in our impact and reach, with further funding received to enable the future employment of a full time Youth Worker with a focus on discipleship and exploring faith.

The trustees and staff wish to thank God and so many partners, volunteers and churches for the faithful support of Blank Canvas in many ways and for the young people and families of Redcar, who we continue to find deep joy in serving, supporting and sharing faith with.

## **Projects**

### **Youth Club @ St Hilda's**

**When:** Thursday evenings, at St Hilda's Church (Redcar West)

The Youth Club on a Thursday evening is a hub of activity and fun. There is a steady, committed group of young people who come along each week who fill the space with laughter and fun.

The DMC (Deep Meaningful Conversation) room was given a spruce up with fairy lights, inspirational quotes, a space for young people to reflect or pray and there is a group of young people who solidly use this room as their space, plus many young people who engage with it in different ways, using the question cards to chat about deeper things in faith and life.

We continue to do monthly meals, games evenings and other themed sessions which the young people enjoy – anything around food tends to be a hit.

### **Youth Club @ RBC**

**When:** Tuesday evenings, at Redcar Baptist Church (Redcar East)

Our second Youth Club launched in June 2023 at the United Reformed Church. It was only able to run in this space until the Summer and due to a safety issue with the building we moved to Redcar Baptist Church and 'relaunched' in Sept 2023.

We gathered and trained a new team of youth workers for this space who have done an amazing job of building relationships and establishing a culture of fun, kindness, openness and respect. The team have established a DMC room in this youth club too which again, has been an great place for conversations to go deeper, and questions of life and faith to be discussed.

Some highlights this year include youth-led karaoke and 'Youths Got Talent' evenings which the young people really enjoyed doing. We love to see this enthusiasm and leadership and are working with these young people to encourage them in these skills.

## **Workspace**

**When:** Monday afternoons, at St Hilda's Church (Redcar West)

Workspace has grown significantly this year with both young people and team. It's been wonderful to support a whole host of additional young people and has presented challenges to overcome – we've needed more laptops and have had to find ways to ensure the space remains calm and somewhere work take place

Michelle has taken on the cooking as is amazing at cooking delicious meals from scratch that the young people are thoroughly enjoying. Mary loves maths and has become our in-house maths expert supporting any young people who need some support with their maths homework.



We have been able to open up a second quieter room at Workspace that enables some quieter work to take place which has been really positive for some of the young people who attend who found the larger room could be too distracting for them.

We have started to invite guests to come into Workspace and share about career paths or issues that affect young people: including the army, teaching and cyber-crime.

### **Youth Advocacy**

**When:** Adhoc

The Advocacy Programme launched in response to the constant need for support that goes beyond what we can provide in our regular spaces and a need to be 'advocated for'. We see large numbers of young people consistently sharing tough situations, mental health difficulties, bereavements, relational issues, challenges at school and more every week.

Carol oversees the advocacy work and a team of mentors. Through this work we are building up excellent relationships with staff at one of our local schools – a school many of our young people attend, alongside meeting with social workers, and the early help team. We are working closely with parents, and other professionals to provide joined up support for young people that is really impactful.

At the heart of the work is each young person and their individual needs. No two mentor relationships look the same as each is shaped by the needs and desires of the young person involved which is something we're really proud of!

### **Youth-Led Social Action**

Steve has been gathering groups of young people, inspiring them to think about what issues they think most affects their communities and to think through what they might like to do to make an impact in those areas.

Activities have included a litter pick in Locke Park, an ice-skating trip to Billingham Forum with a wellbeing session included for young people struggling with their mental health.

### **Summer Activities**

During the summer through grant funding, we ran a full programme of activities for young people to enjoy. We are aware many of the young people we engage with do not have many or any plans during the holidays and it can be a financially tough time for families, alongside the gap in free school meals.

With two activities taking place every week: a weekly beach trip and picnic and a movie night and meal. Plus, three additional trips: to the woods, a day trip to Saltburn and a scavenger hunt around Redcar. Around 30 young people engaged with the different activities and found such joy in the days. Positive relationships were built with one another, fun memories made and confidence grown during the summer weeks.



## **Giving and Partnerships**

We are deeply grateful for all the regular and one-off donations we've received this year from our supporters. A big thank you to First Woodway Baptist Church, Baptist Insurance Corporation, County Durham Community Foundation, Scurrah Wainwright, Just Sow, The Benefact Trust, Tesco Community Grants, Feast of Fun, The Fellowship of St John and Beyond Housing for their support towards our work.

Our partnerships with the local churches across Redcar are key to our work and continue to flourish. We are thankful to serve alongside Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish, Redcar Baptist Church, Kirkleatham Parish, St Peter's Church, United Reformed Church and Christchurch Coatham and Dormanstown.

## **Looking forward**

We look forward to this next year with further funding enabling the launch of our discipleship programme, we hope and look forward to new growth in meeting new young people and their families, journeying with them in overcoming challenges and seeing new stories of hope created.

**Abi Hedges (Projects Lead)**

**Blank Canvas**  
**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**General Receipts and Payments Account**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations		6,683	4,595
Gift Aid		1,029	257
Grants	2	45,173	8,865
Youth Club Subs		428	112
Other	3	16,781	6,314
Total Receipts		<u>70,094</u>	<u>20,143</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Wages		20,088	14,027
Administration/Insurance/Training		5,783	2,643
Projects		8,345	1,855
Total Payments		<u>34,216</u>	<u>18,525</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>35,878</u>	<u>1,618</u>
Bank accounts and cash at 1 April		<u>23,467</u>	<u>21,849</u>
Bank accounts and cash at 31 March		<u>59,345</u>	<u>23,467</u>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2024**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash Funds as at 31 March	172	61
Nat West Account	59,173	23,406
	<u>59,345</u>	<u>23,467</u>
Represented by		
Cash Funds as at 1 April	61	-
Nat West Account	23,406	21,849
	<u>23,467</u>	<u>21,849</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments	<u>35,878</u>	<u>1,618</u>
	<u>59,345</u>	<u>23,467</u>

Approved on 16 July 2024 by Blank Canvas Trustees who authorised the following Trustees to sign on their behalf:



Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer)



Mark Tate (Chair)

**Blank Canvas**  
**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**Basis of the financial statements**

The financial statements of Blank Canvas have been prepared in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payment basis.

**2 Grant Income**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Arnold Clarkes Community Fund	-	1,000
County Durham Community Foundation	-	7,865
Baptist Insurance Company	12,163	-
Just Sow	10,000	-
The Fellowship of St John	10,000	-
The Scurrah Wainwright Charity	5,000	-
Feast of Fun	2,970	-
Benefact Trust Grant	2,950	-
Beyond Housing	1,090	-
Groundwork	1,000	-
Total	<u>45,173</u>	<u>8,865</u>

**3 Other Income**

Redcar Baptist Church	2,083	2,917
Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish	1,000	1,000
Sabic UK Petrochem	-	1,000
St Hilda's Church, Redcar	600	600
Mustard Seed	480	440
Youth for Christ, Denmark	-	340
Amazon Smile	-	17
First Baptist Church – Woodway	11,785	-
Peter Grogan (Local councillor)	500	-
Misc.	333	-
Total	<u>16,781</u>	<u>6,314</u>



**Blank Canvas**  
**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Blank Canvas.**

I report on the financial statements of Blank Canvas for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 6 to 7.

**Respective Responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Blank Canvas trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and subsequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I am satisfied that the General Receipts and Payments Account discloses money received and expended by Blank Canvas and that the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Notes to the Financial Statements present the financial position of Blank Canvas to the degree required by the Charities Act.

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



Jonathan Thompson

Date

26/7/24

1 Manor Farm Place  
Great Smeaton  
Northallerton  
DL6 2HP

**Blank Canvas**  
**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Report on Financial Management for Year 2023/24**

**Introduction**

The General Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities summarise the finances for the year and disclose the financial position at the end of the year.

A deficit budget was set and approved at a Trustee Meeting in February 2023.

Reports were produced for the Trustees on a regular basis which enabled them to monitor receipts and payments.

**Review of the Finances**

The principal points to be made are as follows:

- Donations of £6,683 have been received during the year from a number of individuals.
- A further £16,781 has also been received from various organisations, including a large donation of £11,785 from First Baptist Church, Woodway, Texas to support the employment of current/additional staff at Blank Canvas. We would also like to thank the following Churches - Redcar Baptist Church, Nicholas Postgate Trust and St Hilda's for their continued generosity.
- A gift aid claim was made and received for donations received in the previous tax year.
- We were also successful in receiving the following Grants/Donations during the financial year, of which a number have been spent during 2023/4 and others which were received towards 2024/5, and therefore will be carried forward. We would like to thank them here formally.
  - The Scurrah Wainwright Charity - £5,000
  - Together Middlesbrough (Feast of Fun) - £2,970
  - Just Sow - £10,000
  - Benefact Trust - £2,950
  - Beyond Housing - £1,090
  - Groundwork - £1,000
  - Baptist Insurance Company - £12,163
  - Peter Grogan - £500
  - Fellowship of St John - £10,000
- Due to the timings of Grants/Donations received in 2023/4 the Trustees agreed that £42,613 of the funds in the bank account will be used for expenditure in 2024/25

Blank Canvas is very thankful for those that support the charity.

The Trustees of Blank Canvas  
July 2024