

ABOVE US ONLY SKY
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

OBJECTS

The Objects of the charity are the relief of poverty for the homeless by meeting their immediate needs, as an expression of Christian faith.

THE CHARITY: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The charity began as a response to meeting homeless people who were developing hypothermia as a result of sleeping rough in the winter. The main thrust of the charity's activities is to provide warm, waterproof military-grade sleeping bags. Another means of providing relief is through warm clothing, such as fleeces, and necessary toiletries for the homeless.

The charity works very closely with Christian partner organisations, such as Church-Without-Walls, East London Mission and Canning Town Friars, who are dealing with the homeless on a daily basis. This ensures that the needs that are being met by the charity are genuine. The work of the charity is conducted solely by a team of volunteers, who give their time and expertise freely to serve the needs of the homeless. The Trustees also volunteer with partner organisations, meeting with individuals who are homeless and assessing their needs.

THIS YEAR

The need for sleeping bags in 2023 saw a significant increase from the previous year, and additional stock was purchased to meet demand. A total of 233 arctic-grade sleeping bags were given out during the year in London boroughs and the surrounding areas by our partners. In addition, 110 warm fleeces and 21 tents were provided to those in need. From the grant fund, we provided much-needed toiletries to our regular partners, and also continued to meet a need for toiletries from a local charity providing a refuge for women and children who are homeless due to domestic abuse.

Above Us Only Sky's main focus continues to be on the immediate needs of the homeless, giving out life-saving sleeping bags and warm fleeces where there is need. A stock of 4 sleeping bags remained at the end of the year.

Our team of volunteers continued to manage the charity's finances, administration and stock, and the Trustees wish to express their grateful thanks to all who continue to work to meet the charity's aims and objectives.

The Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

NEXT YEAR

The charity will continue to purchase and distribute warm, waterproof sleeping bags for as long as funds allow and the need remains. The Trustees will also consider supporting the homeless with their individual needs as they arise.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity received £5,080 in income during the year (2022: £11,512). Both regular and one-off donations were down slightly on the previous year, and the previous year's figures also included a grant of £4,073 for the purchase of toiletries for the homeless. Expenditure was considerably higher this year, at a total of £11,286 (2022: £1,886), as stock held over from the previous year had been distributed and purchases of sleeping bags, fleeces and tents were needed. The resulting net decrease in funds for the year was £6,206 (2022: increase of £9,626).

The charity aims to hold enough in reserves to buy stocks of sleeping bags (the cost of which have increased exponentially in recent years) to cover well into the next financial year. The trustees consider that the year-end balance of £29,346 will enable the charity to continue meeting the needs of the homeless into 2024 and beyond.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the profit and loss of the Charity for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Acts. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and those of the Charity's trust deed.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on:

and signed on its behalf by:

Above Us Only Sky?

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income received				
Regular donations		3,105		3,585
One-off donations		1,277		3,028
Grants/Awards		-		4,073
Gift Aid claims - HMRC		698		826
		<u>5,080</u>		<u>11,512</u>
 Expenditure				
Sleeping bags, jackets, fleeces	8,497		-	
General support for homeless	747		-	
Other expenses	545		704	
Fundraising expenses	50		50	
Grant fund - toiletries	<u>1,447</u>		<u>1,132</u>	
		11,286		1,886
 Net increase/ (decrease) in funds		<u><u>- 6,206</u></u>		<u><u>9,626</u></u>

Above Us Only Sky?

**Balance Sheet at
31st December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>29,346</u>	<u>35,552</u>
Opening balance	35,552	25,926
Net increase/ (decrease) in funds	<u>- 6,206</u>	<u>9,626</u>
Closing balance	<u>29,346</u>	<u>35,552</u>

Above Us Only Sky?

**Funds for the year ended
31st December 2023**

	Opening balance	Income	Payments	Adjustments	Closing balance
Restricted Funds					
<i>Warm Fund</i>	896	810	(1,706)		-
<i>Grant Fund</i>	4,495	-	(1,448)		3,048
	5,391	810	(3,154)	-	3,048
Unrestricted Funds					
<i>General Fund</i>	23,900	3,571	(7,898)		19,573
<i>Gift Aid</i>	4,761	698	(234)		5,225
	28,661	4,269	(8,132)	-	24,798
Designated Funds					
<i>Emergency Accommod</i>	1,000.00				1,000
<i>Travel home</i>	500.00				500
	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Total Funds	35,552	5,079	(11,286)	-	29,346