

Refugee Roots
(Registered charity, number 1184098)
Financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Refugee Roots
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Full name Refugee Roots

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1184098

Principal address

Suite 53. Unit 6 Sneinton Market, Gedling Street, Nottingham NG1 1DS

Trustees

T Fox
R Madzvia
G Parker
R Rattigan, until 31/05/2024

Rev P Thipa
H Whitton
T Pickup

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The CIO association is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 25 June 2019.

Recruitment of trustees is from those with an existing interest and involvement in working with refugees and asylum seekers and in sympathy with the aims of Refugee Roots, with an intention to maintain a balanced group of trustees, in terms of skills and experience, ethnicity, gender and age.

Appointment is by the existing membership and trustees following an interview, references and safer recruitment measures such as DBS checks being met.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO, which are to be carried out in accordance with Christian principles within the wider communities of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas, are:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are asylum seekers and refugees who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a) Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist asylum seekers and refugees with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy services, advice and support;
 - b) Relieving or preventing poverty among asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary;

Refugee Roots

- c) Providing asylum seekers and refugees with education and training in the English language;
 - d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for asylum seekers and refugees.
2. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:
- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race or religion;
 - b) Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
 - d) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Promoting social inclusion of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers and understanding in society as a public benefit.

1. Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist participants with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy, advice and support.
2. Relieving or preventing poverty among participants by helping them access or providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, clothing, furniture and other necessary items.
3. Providing participants with education and training in the English language.
4. Providing facilities for recreation or other leisure activities to promote the social well-being of participants.

Advancing awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers among the wider public with a particular emphasis in churches, fostering understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality with diversity.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Refugee Roots

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Refugee Roots welcomes all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home

Refugee Roots helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK. We provide a range of activities in Nottingham and the surrounding area including befriending; providing information, advice and guidance; as well as groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

We have refreshed our Vision and Mission statements to;

Our Vision

A place to belong for those seeking refuge and protection to feel welcome and valued, finding support to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Our Mission

We will create a family of networks, connections, people and friendships for refugees and asylum seekers.

We have also made a fresh commitment to “Reshape refugee support where refugees take control and regain autonomy” as a response to our Vision Day in 2023 which was further considered at our Vision Day in 2024.

Chair's Report

This year has been a busy one for Refugee Roots as we continue to provide a place to belong for those seeking refuge and protection. We are now well established at Clarendon Chambers, which is close to Nottingham Trent University and on a public transport route. In addition to the main office, we have a private interview room and other rooms which can be used for group activities.

All of our work and projects are only possible due to the determination, skill, and expertise of our staff, volunteers, and trustees, not forgetting the vital support of funders, local churches and partner organisations.

The Board of Trustees continues to meet regularly. We have been delighted to welcome a new trustee to the board, with others in the process of joining. One trustee also stepped down. Training for trustees is ongoing and trustees work to their strengths to provide the best level of governance.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we also set our sights on the future. Our commitment to providing refugees with a place to belong remains steadfast.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and all those who have contributed to the work of the charity.

Gill Parker, Chair of Trustees

Director's Report

It has been an extraordinary year, marked by growth, resilience, generosity and the shared commitment to extend a place to belong, offering friendship and hope to refugees and asylum seekers in Nottingham and the surrounding areas.

This past year, we saw a significant increase in demand for our services, with our participants rising from 749 in the previous financial year to 1,149 this year. This growth underscores the critical and urgent needs facing participants and highlights the vital role we play in working with those seeking refuge and protection to overcome the barriers they face.

I want to thank all of our donors and partners for your support and generosity. Your contributions have been instrumental in allowing us to respond swiftly to rising needs, and support those who need it most.

To our staff, volunteers, and trustees, you are the heart of this organisation. Your dedication, empathy, and unwavering commitment have made each day brighter for those we support. Your efforts continue to inspire, creating a community where everyone feels they belong and where hope flourishes.

Looking forward, we anticipate that demand will continue to increase and expect that we will still have a significant role in refugee support in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. It is important to be aware of the increasingly difficult fundraising climate and we project that this will continue to be the case. Therefore, we are seeking to maximise our fundraising efforts by growing our corporate sponsorship, regular donations, and church partnerships to be able to sustain and develop our work according to the needs of participants and fulfil our charitable aims and objectives. Trust fundraising will still have a significant place in our activities, but we recognise the need to have a mixed income stream for greater sustainability and flexibility.

Adam Baker, Charity Director

Refugee Roots

Refugee Roots has seen a tremendous increase in its capacity and provision of services, with all those involved making it possible for the charity to respond to the increased demand and need for support. 1,149 participants have been supported across all of our projects and activities. The charity has seen increased demand for support as needs have grown and the refugee population locally in the city and surrounding areas has also increased. Opportunities to support Ukrainian refugees living with UK hosts or family have helped widen our network of support and partnership.

A city centre location for the charity has also been significant for the changing landscape of refugee populations in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. The use of temporary emergency accommodation for asylum seekers by the Home Office and various government schemes such as the Homes for Ukraine scheme have made the charity's reach less geographically focussed and far more spread out.

It has been important for the charity in this period to develop new, innovative and creative solutions, partnerships and collaborations. Partnerships to deliver projects have been invaluable as they have enabled more provision and even greater benefit to participants. Local churches and organisations have played an important role in our service delivery model for projects like Access.

Alongside the increased capacity to deliver these important and meaningful support initiatives we have seen an increase to our income which has enabled our work to keep up with the rapid growth and greater need. We continue to seek funds from trusts, foundations, local churches, corporate partners and fundraising activities. Despite increased costs of living we saw growth in our regular donors and online fundraising.

Summary of projects and activities and achievements

One-to-one befriending

Volunteer befrienders met participants weekly for support with language learning, accompanying them to appointments, getting to know local travel links, finding new communities within the city and much more.

47 volunteers have supported **56** individuals across **313** sessions of befriending

"I am grateful to you for your support and help, and the opportunity to learn the language and communicate in a new country."

Participant

Refugee Roots

Access

Our Access project offers social and educational experiences for our participants. Participants can join in a range of activities in a friendly and safe space. Our English conversation groups help to improve English language skills. Participants get to make new connections and make friends in a diverse community. **571** participants were supported across **309** sessions of Access.

"I feel less lonely when I am here."

Participant

Access: Women's Group

Our weekly Women's Group which is part of the Access project has benefited **69** participants. **50** sessions brought diverse women together for language support, craft and social activities.

"I became more confident through the group"

Participant

Access: Cooking and Eating Together

Our monthly Cooking and Eating Together group brought participants and volunteers together to share food and friendship with **97** participants attending across **9** sessions.

Access: Training and Workshops

Training and Workshops offered through the Access project have benefited **68** participants. Among the **31** sessions delivered this has included wellbeing sessions, yoga, employability and digital skills training and other relevant subjects. Participants have reported being able to use what they have learned and put into practice the skills gained from sessions such as interview skills.

Advice and Guidance

Our Advice and Guidance project has supported **679 participants** with more than **1620** sessions held.

Support work has included:

- Finding legal support for asylum seekers
- Applying for housing
- Registering asylum seekers with a GP, dental surgery etc.
- Signposting and making referrals to essential services (housing, health, wellbeing, education, immigration and more)
- Meeting basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and furniture

"Here I have got the support that I needed"

Participant

Refugee Roots

Universal Credit Advice in partnership with Always Community

In partnership with Always Community our Universal Credit Advice project supported **212** participants. The sessions have empowered participants with the knowledge and skills required to access essential financial aid and support with the guidance of trained advisors.

“I had a lot of difficulties and Refugee Roots helped me solve them very quickly.”

Participant

Access Arts

145 participants have been engaged in **152** art sessions. Benefits have included reduced isolation, increased connectedness to the community and greater sense of belonging. Our Access Art's sessions offer an opportunity for participants to explore art and creative activities in a relaxing and social setting. Our twice-a-week art sessions facilitated by artists have allowed our participants to explore mediums and techniques such as watercolour and acrylic painting, charcoal, clay, collage, textiles, marbling, felting, screen printing, mod rock, stained glass, poetry and drama. A number of exhibitions were held during Sherwood Art Week, Refugee Week and in March 2024.

“Doing art makes me feel happy and relaxed, and to make friends. It's good for mental health.”

Participant

Overall outcomes reported by participants

Participants have reported the following:

- **81%** felt less isolated
- **85%** felt more connected to their communities
- **87%** felt more confident
- **85%** reported they had been helped
- **88%** reported the help they received made a difference in their lives
- **80%** developed skills to reach their potential
- **78%** felt their English had improved

Volunteering

154 volunteers have been involved in the charity. Volunteers from the local community, churches, colleges and universities have supported various projects and activities such as language support, befriending, activity support and much more. Volunteers that care make the difference.

Refugee Roots

The charity's policy on reserves

Trustees aim to keep three months of unrestricted funds in reserve. We review our reserves policy annually unless a review is required earlier. We do not have on-going liability for rent, hire of equipment etc.

Financial review

We are satisfied with our current financial position. We continue to seek funds from trusts and foundations, and we are working on diversifying our income sources to ensure we can continue our much-needed work, and develop the work appropriately to have the maximum benefit possible. We are seeking corporate partnerships and sponsorship from interested potential partners. We are also developing other fundraising initiatives and financial giving sources for a more sustainable future. This includes a campaign to raise larger amounts of funds from sources other than trusts and foundations.

The charity's risks

Failure of grant applications, donations or fund-raising activities.

Increased costs and the cost of living crisis are having an adverse effect on giving from the general public. We share with all charities major uncertainties about funding in the present financial climate. We have seen greater challenges raising funds from trusts and foundations due to the volume of applications and oversubscription.

We have appropriate insurance for a charity.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed CC Parker Date 06/03/2025

C Parker, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Refugee Roots
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Roots (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed



Date

11/03/25

John O'Brien MSc, FCIE

Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Refugee Roots
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 30 June 2024

2023				2024
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
	Receipts			
219632	Grants & donations	2 40813	171029	211842
865	Fundraising	-	-	-
1736	Sales	4083	-	4083
<u>136264</u>	Total receipts	<u>44896</u>	<u>171029</u>	<u>215925</u>
	Payments			
-	Accounts, Bookkeeping and Payroll	1182	1369	2551
16223	Activities and Events	1431	9749	11180
8544	Consultancy	-	3300	3300
9539	Equipment, Repairs and Renewals	2373	476	2849
178	Fee Charges	58	3	61
5615	Hardship Payments	194	2155	2349
8952	Hospitality and Refreshments	544	3935	4479
517	Insurances	-	101	101
1913	IT	1889	3549	5438
-	Legal and Professional	1570	889	2459
3949	Marketing	-	2948	2948
887	Memberships and Subscriptions	588	132	720
4189	Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	3829	3829
10400	Rent	1234	10664	11898
1291	Resource and Guidance Material	-	1015	1015
10830	Room Hire	970	4573	5543
106302	Salaries, NI and Pension	20768	127829	148597
1294	Staff Training and Welfare	1404	1576	2980
2662	Telephone	-	1444	1444
2442	Travel and Accommodation	866	907	1773
7157	Volunteer Costs	1003	5089	6092
<u>202884</u>	Total payments	<u>36074</u>	<u>185532</u>	<u>221606</u>
19348	Net receipts/(payments)	8822	(14503)	(5681)
94050	Cash funds at start of this period	56145	57253	113398
-	Transfers between funds	(2738)	2738	-
<u>113398</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>62229</u>	<u>45487</u>	<u>107717</u>

Refugee Roots
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 30 June 2024

2023		2024
£	Cash assets	£
113398	Bank accounts	107667
-	Cash in hand	50
<u>113398</u>		<u>107717</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use	
	General equipment.	
	Laptops purchased June 2020 at a cost of £1850	
	Tablet purchased May 2021 at a cost of £729	
	Laptops purchased June 2021 at a cost of £2700	
	Laptop purchased Jan 2022 at a cost of £876	
	Cabinet purchased June 2023 at a cost of £516	
	Printer purchased June 2023 at a cost of £1554	
	Total	<u>8225</u>
	Debtors	
5000	HMRC (Employment allowance for 2 years)	10000
<u>5000</u>		<u>10000</u>
	Liabilities: creditors	
(2482)	HMRC	(2394)
(161)	Pensions	-
-	Payroll Ca Plus	(263)
(612)	Independent examination	(678)
<u>(3255)</u>		<u>(3335)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed T Pickup
T Pickup, Trustee

TRP

Dated 09.03.2025

Refugee Roots
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Donations	11762	-	11762
Church Donations	11534	168	11702
Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham	15000	-	15000
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	119964	119964
Peoples Health Lottery	-	2517	2517
Bags of Help	-	500	500
Communities of Identity	-	3360	3360
Thomas Farr	-	3000	3000
National Grid Electricity Distribution	-	4557	4557
Garfield Weston	-	20000	20000
Nottingham City Council	-	10000	10000
JN Derbyshire	-	3000	3000
Arts Council	-	2980	2980
Lady Hind	-	3500	3500
	<u>38296</u>	<u>173546</u>	<u>211842</u>

Refugee Roots

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance	Receipts	(Payments)	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Access	28462	10360	(31934)	-	6888
Befriending	9516	61	(4723)	1561	6415
Community Matters	-	4557	(4557)	-	-
Welcome & Integration VCS	-	10000	(2667)	-	7333
Hardship	54	-	(54)	-	-
RC Midlands Region (NLCF)	-	93110	(93110)	-	-
Access Arts	12186	2980	(11625)	(3541)	-
Ukraine support	3431	-	(3431)	-	-
A Place to Belong	-	20000	-	-	20000
Afghan Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	26854	(26854)	-	-
Admin Core	-	-	(2738)	2738	-
Advice and guidance	3604	3107	(3846)	1980	4845
	57253	171029	(185539)	2738	45481
Unrestricted funds					
General	56145	44896	(36080)	(2738)	62223
	56145	44896	(36080)	(2738)	62223

"A place to belong" is a core fund. The partner was "Garfield Weston Foundation" (ends Feb 2025).

"Access" is a restricted fund for the Access project offering free conversational English classes, workshops and social activities such as Cooking & Eating Together; it also includes our Women's Group. Funders of the Access project include: Thomas Farr (ends Sep 2024), Albert Hunt Trust (ended Jan 2024), Boots Charitable Trust (ended Mar 2024), Communities of Identity (ended Mar 2024), Lady Hind (ends August 2024), Tesco Bags of Help (ends August 2024) and others.

"Advice and Guidance" is our Advice and Guidance provision. Funders included JN Derbyshire (Mar 2024).

"Admin Core" is a core fund for the Admin Assistant's salary, the funder is Hilden Charitable Trust awarded £7000 for one year (ended Sep 2023).

"Access Arts" is our Art project which is part of the programme "National Lottery Project Grants". The funder is Arts Council England National Lottery (ended Mar 2024).

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"Befriending" is for the befriending project. Volunteers provide weekly support one to one with refugees and asylum seekers. Funders have included Albert Hunt Trust (ended Jan 2024), and others.

"Community Cost of Living Fund". The fund was to cover the retrospective costs of running existing critical services and for delivering, expanding and adapting existing services. The funding came from the UK Government and was managed by the National Lottery Community Fund (ended Mar 2024).

"Community Matters Fund" refers to a grant which was awarded by National Grid Electricity Distribution via Local Giving for operating a "Warm Bank" (ended Mar 2024).

"Hardship" refers to hardship grants and provisions. Funders and partners have included Acts 435 and others.

"RC Midlands Region" is the programme funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (3-year award, ends July 2025).

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham provide a core grant towards the Charity Director's salary (ended Jan 2024).

Refugee Roots is grateful for a grant of £25,000 towards core costs, awarded by the Postcode Places Trust thanks to players of the People's Postcode Lottery (ended June 2024).

"Welcome & Integration VCS" is the Asylum Seeker Dispersal grant programme from central government and funds our work to address isolation and empower asylum seekers (ends Jan 2025).

4. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

5. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

