

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Annual Report and Accounts 2023





**"Children are
the world's most
valuable resource
and its best hope
for the future."**

John F. Kennedy

CHAIR STATEMENT

When Shining Stars first opened its doors, our mission was simple, to nurture the potential within every child and show the world that each one of them is a star. We believed, and continue to believe, that no child needs to be born or labelled as a star to shine. Every child can become a star through support, encouragement, and belief in their unique potential.

Now, almost five years on, I am proud to say we have done it! We have witnessed remarkable transformations. Children who were once stigmatised and excluded are now shining in every glorious way—becoming successful in academics, sports, arts, and leadership. We have seen children who didn't believe in themselves find confidence and independence. We have witnessed children once considered selective mutes take centre stage and captivate an audience. Children with disabilities have emerged as leaders, taking charge of our clubs with strength and resilience.

And this is just the beginning. We are determined to keep raising the bar. This year, we are embracing the challenge with a renewed spirit - the sky is the limit! We've reached for the sky, and as a result, we have created opportunities for over 500 children to rise and become shooting stars, soaring forces in galaxies of possibility, spreading



light to the world, and lifting themselves higher and higher.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our funders. You are the true stars, helping us spread the light and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to shine. Your generosity has fuelled our mission, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

Thank you for believing in our vision and in the potential of every child. With your help, the sky is not just the limit, it's only the beginning.

S. Grosz

Chair



Today's kids have more paths to success than ever, but they also deal with more challenges, more risks, and more dangers. Shining Stars has committed themselves to doing more for the community's youth.

To doing whatever it takes to empower kids to imagine and achieve great futures, guiding, supporting and advocating for them as they grow into their best selves. We believe it takes an army of skilled staff, a safe environment, high-quality programs and positive experiences to ensure kids have a great future.

Our **MISSION:**

TO EMPOWER EVERY CLUB MEMBER, THROUGH SAFE AND IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND LIVE A HEALTHY LIFE

Our **VISION:**

TO TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE LIVES OF ALL CLUB MEMBERS TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.

Shining Stars believes that all young people deserve to thrive. Shining Stars imagines a world where the determinants necessary to thrive are fully accessible to every youth in London. Thriving reflects a significant sense of growth or success in and across many domains. Young people with access to more quality opportunities are more likely to thrive than their peers with similar adaptive skills.

OUR VALUES:

Respect

We recognize that each person has equal, intrinsic worth and deserves to be treated with dignity.

Excellence

We set high expectations and work hard to achieve them by engaging in continuous learning and improvement.

Teamwork

We collaborate openly on common goals to leverage the expanded knowledge of our entire community.

Innovation

We seek out and embrace new possibilities that can increase our impact.

Integrity

We operate with honesty and hold ourselves accountable for all words and actions.



PROJECT THEMES

Our four project themes are: society, subsistence success and skills. These themes encompass the core values that we believe are essential for a child's growth and development.

Society

plays a crucial role in shaping the social skills of children, and it is our responsibility to ensure that all children are included and feel valued. Children who are often excluded from social settings can struggle with developing necessary social skills, which can have long-lasting effects on their mental health and well-being.

Subsistence

In today's world, millions of children and young people are struggling to access food and essentials due to various reasons. As a society, it is our responsibility to support these vulnerable groups and ensure that they have access to the necessities required for their survival. We believe that no child should have to bear the burden of poverty, and we strive towards making their lives better through our small efforts. Through this program, we provide nutritious meals to underprivileged children who come from low-income families. Our aim is not only to fill their stomachs but also improve their overall health and well-being.

Success

is about providing opportunities for personal growth, career development and financial stability. It involves mentorship programs, vocational training and entrepreneurship initiatives. Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed in life. Providing every child with a pathway to success is critical for their future and the future of society as a whole.

Skills

refer to the development of cognitive, emotional and physical abilities that enable children to learn and grow. This includes education, creative expression, problem-solving and critical thinking.

By focusing on these four project themes for supporting children we can create a holistic approach that addresses their needs at every stage of life and create a positive impact on their future.

Holidays in the Stars

Our club is dedicated to ensuring that disadvantaged children have access to safe and enjoyable holiday play schemes. We understand that for many, the school holidays can be a difficult time, with parents struggling to find appropriate activities for their children. Our aim is to provide a solution to this problem by offering a range of fun and engaging activities, all within a safe and secure environment.

"I've always dreamed of having a real face mic like the famous actors, and I never thought I'd get the chance—especially since my part in the talent show was small. But when the drama head agreed to let me wear one, it was the best day of my life! I'll never forget the feeling of performing up high, with the twinkling lights and music, just like in the fairy tale books. Being part of the show gave me so much confidence, and I loved every moment on stage. The experience showed me that I can shine, no matter the size of my role. This program has truly helped me express myself and find my voice!"

Henny aged 11

"This winter holiday was unforgettable! I was so excited to join, and the welcoming atmosphere made me feel right at home. I had a blast with the balloon modeling—creating my own shapes was a real highlight! The exercise song was so much fun; we all danced and laughed together, which really brought us closer. My favorite activity was making veggie skewers at lunchtime. It was not only fun to prepare but also healthy and delicious! I loved sharing them with my friends. I made fantastic friends and had an incredible time. I can't wait for the next winter holidays!"

Sarah, aged 9

Talent show by Choice

Our club is dedicated to providing drama training and performance opportunities for children who struggle academically. We understand that not all children excel in traditional academic subjects, and we believe that the arts can provide a valuable outlet for their creativity and self-expression. Through our drama program, children learn important skills such as public speaking, teamwork, and confidence building and to succeed both on stage and in life.



"Since my daughter, Ava, joined the Weekly Superstars, her social skills have improved tremendously. Initially, she struggled to make friends and often felt isolated, but the inclusive environment has helped her connect with other kids. Now, she actively participates in group activities and has made several close friends. This program has been a lifeline for her social development!"

Ettel S., Parent of a Weekly Superstars Participant

Weekly Superstars

This project is Part funded by Young Hackney

Our weekly youth clubs are designed to cater to the unique interests and needs of different age groups. We offer a range of activities that are both fun and educational, including sports, crafts, music, drama, and more. Our team of trained staff members ensures that each child feels included and valued while participating in these activities. Moreover, our youth clubs provide an opportunity for children to develop social skills and make new friends. We encourage teamwork, communication, and respect among all participants. We understand the importance of keeping children engaged in constructive activities during their free time.

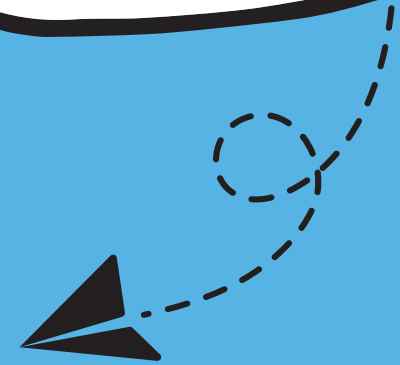


"As a leader for the Shining Stars clubs, I've learned invaluable skills like critical thinking and effective communication that empower me to guide my peers. It's rewarding to organize events and see the positive impact we're making together. This experience has not only shaped my leadership abilities but has also helped me connect with others in a meaningful way. I'm grateful for the opportunity to grow and inspire change in my community!"

Bella, Leader of Year 5

Leadership Badge

The demand for strong character and leadership skills is increasing in classrooms and workplaces. Being able to think critically, demonstrate empathy for others, communicate effectively, solve problems and collaborate well are necessary skills for young people to navigate the challenges of adolescence and adulthood. Leadership Training promotes social-emotional skills, youth develop the strong character traits central to being effective leaders and agents of change among their peers and within their communities. This approach keeps youth engaged and challenged and builds on their existing knowledge and skills.





"Having access to healthy meals at the club has been life-changing for me. Before joining, I often went home feeling hungry and tired, but now I can count on a nutritious meal every day. The food is not only delicious but also helps me feel more energized and ready to take on activities. It's so important to know that I'm getting the nutrition I need to grow and thrive. This support makes me feel valued and cared for, and it truly enhances my experience at the club."

Libby, aged 8

The big Food Problem

In today's world, it is unfortunate that there are still children who go hungry every day. We have taken a small step towards this by providing free meals to children in our clubs. We believe that every child deserves a nutritious meal to fuel their growth and development. The food we serve is healthy and balanced, ensuring that the children get all the necessary nutrients they need. Our efforts may be small in comparison to the scale of the problem, but we firmly believe that every little bit counts.



Why youth club activities are so important, and the benefits of learning skills out of a school setting.



Children and YP can develop new friendships when there is no history and prior knowledge of their academic and social capabilities. They can be appreciated for what they are, and not what they used to be, or where they come from.



Knowledge without the school setting is beneficial for children who cannot sit still, struggle with concentration, or just need to be more active so that their brain can work best.



In school, children and YP are used to being taught and receiving knowledge. In youth club settings, children are welcome to be part of the facilitating sector on many occasions.



TRACKING OUR ASCENT

At Shining Stars, we take a comprehensive and structured approach to monitoring and evaluating the impact of our services, ensuring that we can effectively measure progress and continuously improve our offerings. We use both qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the outcomes of our programs and the positive changes in the lives of the children we serve.

1. Baseline Assessments and Goal Setting

At the start of every child's journey with us, we conduct detailed baseline assessments to understand their individual needs, challenges, and strengths. This includes evaluating their social, emotional, and academic development. Based on these assessments, we collaboratively set personalized goals with the children and their families. These goals serve as the foundation for tracking progress over time.

2. Regular Feedback and Observations

We closely monitor each child's development through regular observations during activities, group sessions, and one-on-one interactions. Our trained staff take note of behavioural changes, improvements in confidence, and skills acquired. Additionally, we have a structured feedback system where staff, volunteers, and mentors provide weekly reports on the children's engagement, participation, and any breakthroughs they observe.

3. Data Collection and Surveys

We gather quantitative data through participation rates, attendance tracking, and pre- and post-program surveys. These surveys are designed for both children and parents to evaluate the child's progress in key areas such as confidence, social skills, leadership, and independence. Parents and caregivers play a vital role in providing feedback on how the children's experiences at Shining Stars are translating into real-life improvements at home and school.

4. Outcome Measurement Framework

My Star is a version of the Outcomes Star tool that we use to measure and support change in children and young people, covering eight areas of a child's life, including:

- Physical health
- Where they live
- Being safe
- Relationships
- Feelings and behaviour
- Friends
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Education and learning



Data excerpts from 'Superstar Survey' 2023 User Feedback

86% improved
friendships and
relationships

91% improved
identity and self esteem

6 weekly youth clubs
530 youth members
43 young volunteers
15 adult volunteers

92% increased
skills and knowledge

82% increased
user involvement

79% improved
health and wellbeing



ON THE HORIZON

2024

Crisis Response Initiative:

Develop a dedicated program to support young families facing the cost of living crisis, offering resources such as emergency food supplies, financial literacy workshops, and access to essential services.

Expansion to Young Adults and Young Mothers:

Broaden services to include young adults, particularly young mothers and former participants who may be struggling. This will provide access to life skills training, parenting workshops, and community support networks, helping them navigate challenges and build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Engaging Funders for Multi-Year Support:

Strengthen relationships with current and potential funders to secure multi-year funding commitments, allowing for more stable program planning and sustainability.

Referral and Signposting Services:

Establish a comprehensive referral system that connects families and young people with additional support services, such as mental health resources, Sen services, poverty relief, and educational opportunities, ensuring holistic support for their needs.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHINING STARS LONDON

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with the 2011 Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

De Claron Ltd.
3a The Vale
LONDON NW11 8SB

Date 30 March 2024

Shining Stars London (1186702) - y/e 31.12.2023

y/e 31.12.2023

y/e 31.12.2022

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT					
INCOMING RESOURCES					
DONATIONS RECEIVED 1		13,851.00	13,851.00		33,515.00
GRANTS RECEIVED	49,728.60	-	49,728.60	46,799.58	
	49,728.60	13,851.00	63,579.60	46,799.58	3 3,515.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		63,579.60			80,314.58
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
DONATIONS GIVEN		-			5 ,000.00
COST OF GENERAL EXPENDITURE					
ADMIN & STATIONARY		607.74	607.74		-
ADVERTISING & PUBLICATION	3,757.20	-	3,757.20		2,872.18
HIRING COSTS		-	-		4,568.80
					3,283.87
TRAVEL & PARCEL	3,350.00	2,626.20	5,976.20		3,551.60
WAGES			-		6,995.00
FUNDRAISING EXP		228.00	228.00		
	7,107.20	3,461.94	10,569.14		21,271.45
TOTAL COST OF GENERAL EXPENDITURE		10,569.14			31,840.59

Shining Stars London (1186702) - y/e 31.12.2023

y/e 31.12.2023

y/e 31.12.2022

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
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INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT CONTINUED

CHARITABLE PROGRAMS		-	-	62,262.73	-
HOLIDAY CLUB				9,608.00	
MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS	3,916.00	-			
TALENT SHOW	24,196.51	-	24,196.51	36,393.00	
EVENTS AND TRIPS	8,250.00	-	8,250.00	10,795.00	
YOUTH CLUB	14,947.32	-	14,947.32	5,466.73	
TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENSES	51,309.83			62,262.73	
	58,417.03	3,461.94	61,878.97	62,262.73	26,271.45
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
LEGAL AND ADMIN EXP	372.00		372.00		1,113.00
GENERAL EXPENSES			-		1,749.66
	372.00	-	372.00	-	2,862.66
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		62,250.97			91,396.84
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		1,328.63			(11,082.26)
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		15,484.07			26,566.33
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		16,812.70			15,484.07

Balance Sheet

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
CURRENT ASSETS					
CASH IN HAND	15,692.70			15,484.07	
PREPAYMENTS	1,120.00				
		16,812.70			15,484.07
SHORT TERM CREDITORS		-			-
NET ASSETS		16,812.70			15,484.07
FUND ACCOUNTS					
TOTAL FUNDS		16,812.70			15,484.07

Shining Stars London

16 Gilda Crescent London N16 6JP

Trustees:

Joel Ostreicher, Sarah Gross, Jacob Kornbluh

Charity Number:
1186702

Accountants:

De Claron Ltd.
3A The Vale London NW11 8SB

Email:

shiningstarslondon@gmail.com