

2018

A YEAR IN NUMBERS
FROM PROJECT TRUST



50

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



Project Trust celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. From our home on the Isle of Coll, we continue to offer rewarding, life-changing educational placements to school-leavers. We feel that this is a fantastic achievement for an educational charity which has been based in the Inner Hebrides for the past 44 years. Whilst we celebrate 50 years of successes, achievements and progress (none of which would have been possible without our supporters), we also look forward to the next 50 years of working with young, ambitious school-leavers throughout their overseas placements.

Our focus heading in to our next 50 years is on continuing to ensure that the Project Trust experience is open to and supportive of every young person who wishes to take part in one of our long-term overseas volunteering placements. We work with more and more young people from

disadvantaged backgrounds, and we are determined to ensure that every person with the motivation and aptitude required to succeed with Project Trust is supported at every stage of their journey with us.



231

INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE

In 2017/18, 231 young people finished school and left their home comforts and securities behind them as they embarked upon a long-term placement overseas. They made a commitment to Project Trust that for eight or twelve months they would live in a completely



new environment overseas and would immerse themselves in their community. The bravery of each young person who takes on this commitment at 17-19 years of age is inspirational. To spend a year of your life in a place that takes you out of your comfort zone, and to then be able to call that same place 'home' by the end of the year is an incredible journey to take.

In this current academic year (2018/19), 232 young people are undertaking their own journeys with Project Trust. They are currently overseas experiencing their own adventures and overcoming their own challenges. Throughout 2019, I will have the pleasure of writing to you again to share their stories.

100

THE GREATEST ENDORSEMENT

Last year, the 100th son or daughter of a Project Trust Returned Volunteer headed overseas with Project Trust on their own placement. When it comes to an endorsement of our work, we cannot think of a better one than that.

The amount that our Volunteers gain over the course of their placements is difficult to measure. However, it's something that we feel is worth trying.

97%

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Last year, we asked our Volunteers to complete a self-assessment of their skills at crucial stages of their Project Trust journey. We asked Volunteers to assess their confidence, resilience, communication & collaboration, leadership and awareness before, during and after their placements.

Of those who completed the self-assessment, 97% reported an overall increase in their skills.



40,230

GLOBAL IMPACT

The work that Project Trust Volunteers accomplish each year challenges them. Their impact is far-reaching, extensive and nothing short of remarkable. Numbers will never do justice to how much our young Volunteers mean to their communities overseas.

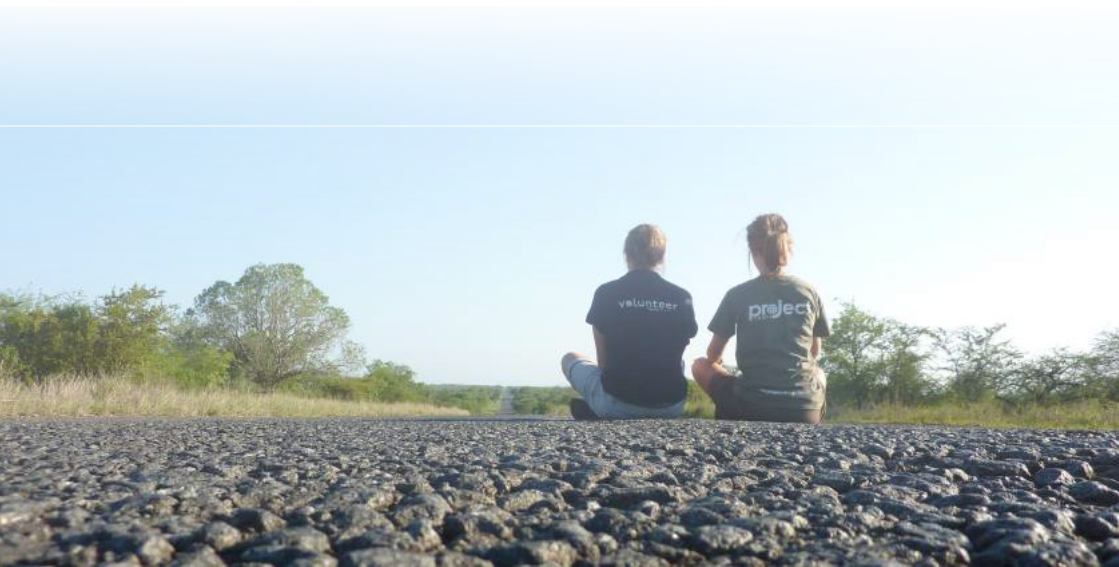
Last year, Project Trust Volunteers supported 40,230 children, young people and adults in teaching and youth work projects around the world.

One of Project Trust's six core values is 'positive social impact', and we ensure our Volunteers do not take work away from local people. Instead, they provide much needed skills and assistance to communities that benefit from a sustainable relationship with Project Trust.

83 VOLUNTEER MENTORING SCHEME

I am sure it will come as no surprise to hear that we love our Returned Volunteers. It's not that they are *like* family; they *are* family. We continue to think of new ways to engage with our Returned Volunteers, and I'm delighted to be able to update you on one of our newest initiatives – the Volunteer Mentoring Scheme.

Project Trust launched a UK-wide Mentoring Scheme in September 2017, following on from a successful pilot scheme in Scotland in the previous year. The Mentoring Scheme provides an extra layer of support during fundraising to those who are perhaps lacking this support elsewhere in their lives. Returned Volunteers who have gone through the fundraising process already and have then spent a year overseas have invaluable guidance and empathy to those who are finding fundraising difficult. This latest initiative has been received very well amongst our Returned Volunteer community and 83 signed up to offer their support as Mentors in 2018.



£21,700

BURSARY SUPPORT



An increasing number of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds want the opportunity to volunteer overseas and challenge themselves. Our 4-day Selection Course on the Isle of Coll allows us to really get to know the motivations and skills of every young person we work with. This means that we can provide bursary support to those who we know will benefit from a Project Trust placement but will genuinely struggle to raise the necessary funds.

Our Selection Course Bursary has allowed those from the most deprived areas of the UK to attend a Selection Course on the Isle of Coll. It can cover the cost of the course deposit as well as the travel costs associated with getting to and from the Isle of Coll.

Our Access Fund provides means-tested bursary support to those in need of financial support. This includes, but is not limited to, those who come from a low income family, to those who do not have support from their school or immediate community with their fundraising. Last year, Project Trust invested over £21,000 in our Volunteers who required additional financial support.

We continue to invest in ensuring that Project Trust is available to every young person, regardless of their socio-economic background. We are currently working towards an aim of having £50,000 of financial assistance available per year to those in greatest need of extra support.

A NUMBER OF NUMBERS

CBI's recent study into the employability of school and college leavers identifies several challenges facing school-leavers. Specifically, employers remain dissatisfied with the attitudes and skills of school and college leavers – problem solving (40%), communication (46%), resilience and self-regulation (48%) and international cultural awareness (56%).

“Our findings show that employers rate attitude and aptitude for work as the most important factors when recruiting school and college leavers. These characteristics are ranked more highly than academic grades and formal qualifications, underlining the importance for young people to develop capabilities such as resilience, critical thinking, ambition, and leadership in order to succeed in later life.”

Project Trust addresses these issues by developing young people's confidence, effectiveness, creativity, independence, resilience, awareness and communication skills. We achieve this by supporting school-leavers throughout their challenging, long-term volunteering placement overseas – living and working in an overseas community for eight or twelve months empowers a young person to take control of their life.



ONE VISION

While the world may have provided Project Trust with a variety of problems to solve over the past 50 years, our values have remained consistent and our vision has not changed.

Project Trust's vision is of an empowered generation of confident and effective young people. Acting as responsible global citizens, our Volunteers make a positive difference to their overseas host communities and then share their learning and understanding when they return home.

That is why we continue to do what we do. And that is why we are determined to succeed as we embark upon our next 50 years. We will continue to empower the next generation to leave the world a better place than they found it. And then the next generation. And then the generation after that. Because, in the words of Project Trust Returned Volunteer, Innes (Honduras 2015/16):

"In a time of cultural ignorance and rising hate, it is so important for the younger generation to see more of the world."



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