

Mr R G H Lewis
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Park Farm
Frittenden Road
Biddenden
Ashford
Kent TN27 8LG

10th October 2019

Dear Mr Lewis

Further to your generous grant award last October, I wanted to write and update you on our what we have been up to over the past 12 months, particularly in relation to your funding.

As you may recall we were fortunate to receive £4,000 from the Trustees of The Nineveh Charitable Trust towards the salary of our Growing Manager, James Smith. Subsequent to your award, we were able to raise a further £19,000 through awards made by 3 other funders, which meant over the course of the last 12 months 75% of James' salary was funded.

Horticultural activity continues to be the cornerstone of our day-to-day work with most volunteers working on the field helping with crop production and harvesting. James continues to lead the horticultural team and usually spends 80% of his week on the field working, directing, supporting and supervising all activities. The other 20% of his time is spent liaising with suppliers, planning production, overseeing site development and attending meetings regarding volunteer wellbeing. He also mentors our commercial salad grower and liaises with external commercial customers who purchase our produce.

In general, the last 12 months has been extremely busy, demand for our support is as great as ever and we supported in the region of 120 individuals in their recovery from mental health. We have continued to provide a range of training opportunities and for many volunteers getting well enough to return to work continues to be an important goal. We are delighted therefore to report that 35 individuals secured employment as a direct result of their attendance at Growing Well and over the course of the year 38 people participated in accredited training whilst here.

As well as horticultural training, we have continued to provide a bespoke Return to Work course and are now supplementing this with a 8-week Life Skills training course which is currently running with 12 participants. All of our Recovery Through Activity courses are offered free of charge.

We welcomed new General Manager, Mary Houston at the start of the year and Mary's first job was to come up with a strategy to plug a £58,000 hole in our finances. This she has managed to do via a very successful Crowdfunding campaign, which in itself raised over £35,000 together with a further £35,000 of donations from new and existing supporters. You can watch our Crowdfunding video here www.crowdfunding.co.uk/growingwell.

Also in the last 12 months we completed the build of our new Field Kitchen from which some amazing meals are being produced and served up to the workforce each lunchtime. The kitchen offers a volunteering opportunity for some who for one reason or another would prefer not to be on the field. It officially opened just in time for 65 of us to sit down together and enjoy Christmas dinner last December. Having such an amazing facility has also allowed us to explore some cottage industry scale production of jams, jellies and chutneys which are sold either through the website or at community events.

I hope this gives you a flavour of the past year, please do pass on our grateful thanks to the Trustees of The Nineveh Charitable Trust for supporting our work. Regrettably we still do not receive any funding from either Health or Social care sectors despite the majority of referrals coming from these sources, therefore without grants such as yours we would find it extremely difficult to provide the level of support we offer. As ever it would be lovely to welcome you on site if ever you or any of your trustees are in the area.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Moncur
Fundraising Co-ordinator (Grants & Trusts)