



Sent by email to: sally@ninevehtrust.org.uk

Sally Hutchinson
Administrator
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Park Farm
Frittenden Road
Biddenden
Ashford
Kent TN27 8LG

20th April 2022

Dear Sally

We were delighted to receive a grant of £5,000 from the Trustees of The Nineveh Charitable Trust last May and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the grant please find below a summary of our year including information on how your award has been spent.

When we received your grant at the end of May 2021 we had not long re-opened following the second Covid lockdown. As I mentioned in my January update, volunteer numbers were initially low, however this was offset by a significant number of new referrals. By the end of the year attendance had been at approximately 75% capacity, we had supported 73 individuals, starting 39 new volunteers, with 13 leaving the project for a range of reasons.

Despite all the disruption and uncertainty caused by the pandemic the past year has gone extremely well. New volunteers have settled in well and as we move through Spring there is an air of calm preparedness as we head into our busiest time of the year. The propagation polytunnel is overflowing with newly germinated crops which are almost ready to go into the ground and will be ready for late summer harvest and we have just launched an Easter plants and herbs sale.

In order to allow us to help more people, we have recently introduced a soft time cap of approximately 12 months within our service. Our support is now goals based and works towards positive progression on from Growing Well. Regular 1-1 meetings take place between the Volunteer Support Co-ordinator and individual volunteers to identify goals and ensure that all activities at Growing Well are structured in a way that helps individuals to achieve their goals. We are also adopting a more pro-active approach to support volunteers whose attendance and engagement is low to seek alternative paths to recovery.

Last year's appeal to fund the Recovery Through Activity programme through applications to Trusts and Foundations met with a great response. With the support of a number of Trusts we were able to raise the full amount through a combination of restricted and unrestricted grants. We believe that our new streamlined, focused approach is the way forward and we will continue to make this the mainstay of our work with volunteers. As part of the programme we will also continue to offer volunteers the opportunity to try out different leisure, community or social activities in the hope that individuals will enjoy new experiences and be motivated to get involved beyond Growing Well. We also plan to shortly resume a programme of activities to help volunteers become 'work ready', this will involve a series of workshops to help prepare beneficiaries, including practical guidance around building a CV, where to gain work experience and where to get support once in employment should they need it.



The replication feasibility study we carried out last year was extremely useful in helping us to understand a range of issues that would need to be taken into consideration were we to open additional Growing Well sites in Cumbria. To that end we are quite a way into discussions with a commercial partner in Eden and have secured National Lottery funding to support running costs of the new site and the core costs of our management team. Further discussions are also ongoing with Copeland and Barrow Councils, both of whom are keen to have us set up in their localities on council-owned land.

In the past year we created a new integrated team of 'therapeutic growers' by combining our commercial growing, horticulture training and field activity leader staff into a single department of four who can all support our volunteers' mental health and help them achieve their goals, lead field activity, teach our in-house horticulture skills curriculum and fulfil our commercial growing commitments.

The majority of the crops grown and harvested by our volunteers supply people living in our local community via our Crop Share scheme and this continues to grow in popularity. During the first lockdown we passed over 100 customers for the first time and we are ambitious to grow numbers to 125 over the next year.

Looking forward as we go through 2022 our priorities are to get at least one of our replication sites off the ground, continue to embed our new goals-based approach with volunteers, strengthen our Board of Trustees through the appointment of 3 or 4 new members (recruitment interviews have just taken place) and begin to extract information from our new database to better demonstrate our volunteer outcomes and achievements, and our overall social impact.

I hope that this report is useful and meets your needs, I would like to close by once again expressing our grateful thanks for your support and faith in our work, we remain extremely grateful to The Nineveh Charitable Trust and hope that we can work together again in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Moncur
Fundraiser
E. fiona@growingwell.co.uk