**HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES**

**Treasurer’s Report 2018**

Once again I’m able to report that we have had another really successful year on the financial front. I’m always heartened by the generosity of all our donors, whether individuals, churches, Faith Groups or Organisations who respond to our appeals for help. During the year we raised £26,697 enabling us to meet all the requests for help and still leave a surplus of £7,398. This was possible as we received almost £6,000 in December. Excluding our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) funds we have about £250 available to spend per family.

During the year we benefitted from several fund raising events and we are very grateful to all those who organised these. In particular, I must thank Rev David Munchin who cycled to Rome & raised over £5,500 for us & this amount is still rising.

We received £790 in Gift Aid refund which covers the period from when we became a charity to end of November. I have spare forms available if anyone would like one.

In February we were, with the help of Community Development Action Herts, able to employ a part-time ESOL Volunteer Coordinator (Caroline Herring). She is coordinating volunteers in providing language support to the families across the whole of the county. We are very grateful to Hertfordshire Community Foundation, East of England Migration Partnership, nine councils and a £1,000 award from the High Sheriff for funding this post. We have enough funding for this post until 31st December 2019.

Looking at the expenditure in more detail our major expenses have been:

. £7,846 for the provision of televisions and licences

. £2,491 for bikes & safety equipment (which the families really appreciate)

. £2,550 for a Summer & Christmas gift of £50 to each family

. Parties and outings are always popular with our families and these provided an opportunity for everyone, families and volunteers, to mix in a friendly and convivial way.

In 2019 we will, I think, see a change in the type of help the families need as many begin to seek employment and become independent.

As many will know MyDonate will cease trading at end of June 2019. We have decided to use Virgin Money Giving for donations and this will be in operation in the New Year.

My thanks go to all our Volunteers who gladly give their time and expertise free of charge.

I would thank Geoff Harper, our Independent Financial Examiner, for examining our accounts and also to my fellow Committee members for their help and support throughout the year.

Contd/

**HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES**

**Treasurer’s Report 2018/contd**

During 2019 we intend to register with the Fundraising Regulator although we have complied with their guidelines in all our fund raising and in particular:

1. Where possible our volunteers have overseen fund raising events & no professional fund-raiser has been employed.
2. During 2018 we were not bound by any voluntary scheme for regulating fund-raising.
3. No complaints have been received about our fundraising activities.
4. We do not contact anyone individually asking for donations although we do periodically ask our volunteers and supporters for donations for specific reasons and which are detailed in the appeal.

As we go into 2019 our finances are sound, although the families already here will need on-going support and, depending on the number of families who come in 2019, we will probably need an increased level of income. Thanks to everyone’s generosity I don’t think I will be disappointed.

Mick Hayter

Treasurer. 20th March 2019