

## HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES/HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES

### Treasurer's Report 2019

Thanks to the generosity of all our donors we were able to meet all of our clients needs but not their wants! I would also take this opportunity to thank all those who give anonymously, gifts always appreciated. Although we made a small deficit of £2,724 on our Income & Expenditure Account our surpluses from previous years amply covered this. We now have funds of £10,143, excluding our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) funds, and which is just under £200 per family.

During the year we benefitted from several fund raising events and we are very grateful to all those friends who organised these and, of course, those who supported them.

We received £404 in Gift Aid refund and shows how worthwhile this form of giving is. If you're a tax payer please consider giving this way and speak with me or email me for more information.

We continue to employ a part-time ESOL Volunteer Coordinator (Caroline Herring) with the valuable help of Community Development Action Herts who host the post. She is coordinating volunteers in providing language support and events for the families across the whole of the county. We are very grateful to COSARAF for helping to fund this. We also took part in a fund raising event organised by The Funding Network and raised £3,800 towards this. We will need extra finances to enable this post to continue throughout 2020 and beyond.

As the 52 families have now settled in we are finding that their needs are changing. Looking at the expenditure in more detail (2018 in brackets) our major expenses have been:

- . £2,941 (£7,846) for the provision of televisions and licences.
- . £1,941 (£2,491) for bikes & safety equipment.
- . Nil (£2,550) for Summer & Christmas gifts. In the summer our funds were limited so we decided to provide outings instead and which the families indicated they would prefer.
- . £3,209 (£2,142) for parties and outings, which are popular with our families and enable everyone, families and volunteers, to mix in a friendly and convivial way.
- . £5,030 (nil) was spent on IT & Computers. Thanks to everyone who donated a total of £3,519 towards this appeal, leaving a shortfall of £1,511.
- . £914 (nil) for education related costs.
- . £662 (nil) for driving lessons to help lead to independence & employment.

Contd/

## HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES/HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES

### Treasurer's Report 2019 (contd)

We now use Virgin Money Giving for online donations and are grateful to everyone who supports us in this way particularly several friends who give a regular monthly donation – one from Sunderland!

This year we registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complied with their guidelines in all our fund raising and in particular:

Where possible our volunteers have overseen fund raising events although we did use The Funding Network, a professional fund-raiser, to help raise funds for our ESOL Volunteer Coordinator post.

During the year we were not bound by any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising and no complaints were received about our fundraising activities.

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.

We couldn't operate as we do without our Volunteers who gladly give their time and expertise free of charge and this is very much appreciated.

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

I'm glad that we're in a good financial position going into 2020 and I'm sure I can rely on your continuing support.

Mick Hayter  
Treasurer. 20 February 2020