



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024

It doesn't seem possible, but SCRATCH will be 25 years old in October! Where has that time gone? Looking back over the years and thinking about how and when the various projects started and the different properties that we have occupied over that time, it is amazing the way things have grown and developed. Despite periods of not knowing where the money was coming from to pay the salaries and rent for the next month, we have sensed God's blessing on the work over the 25 years.

When we started, we probably had no idea that the projects would still be necessary in 25 years. And needed we are, with numbers helped rising each year and the area covered expanding.



Paul (Driver), Ian D (Warehouse Manager and Ian A (Driver) with Satvir Kaur MP

We held an early birthday celebration in August which we combined with our annual Volunteer BBQ. We were blessed with beautiful weather and enjoyed amazing food with 30 plus volunteers, our Directors, representatives from Local Authorities and Referral Agents and the new local MP Satvir Kaur. Satvir has been a supporter of SCRATCH for several years and after the event said *"This incredible resource is an absolute lifeline to Southampton families in need and it is supported by the most amazing team of volunteers. Great to catch up with old friends and new and celebrate this Southampton institution. Delicious food too."*

After the event Ann Laird, Chair of Board said. *"Demand for our services continues to rise year on year and, despite all the challenges, we're still here and still helping our clients. We're hoping for many more years of making a difference."*

Will we still be here in another 25 years? We would like to think that charities like us won't be needed anymore, but that is probably not going to be the case. In which case we hope that we will be able to continue to practically support local disadvantaged people for as long as necessary.

On behalf of the Volunteers, Staff, Directors and those we seek to serve, thank you to those who support our projects financially and / or by donating. Your support is such an encouragement to us and is essential in ensuring our long-term viability.

FURNISH TO FLOURISH

This project started purely by accident before SCRATCH was formed and ran for several years initially from a garage and then from a derelict warehouse. It was only when the charity was launched that we could start developing the project and leasing more suitable premises.

As numbers helped increase so does the need for donations. As well as the larger furniture items, we urgently need donations of the following: -

- Microwaves
- Vacuums
- Curtains
- Towels
- Saucepans
- Casserole dishes
- Baking trays
- Measuring jugs
- Washing up bowls
- Chopping boards
- Kitchen Utensils

If you have any you no longer need, please consider passing them onto a local family in need. Our donation station is open weekdays from 9am to 4.30pm. We are happy to collect if you have furniture items to donate as well.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are involved in many aspects of the work of SCRATCH – from helping with the delivery and collection of furniture, performing warehouse duties, making up bedding packs and kitchen boxes, carrying out small repairs on furniture items and PAT testing small electrical items. However, you may not be aware that we have a wellbeing garden on our site next to the river Itchen in Northam. This is a great space during the summer for volunteers and staff alike to enjoy their lunch break, as well as providing another opportunity for volunteers who wish to be involved in its upkeep during the weekly (weather permitting) Thursday morning gardening club sessions.



We are fortunate to currently have a full complement of volunteers supporting staff on the vans and are operating a waiting list. However, if you, or anyone you know, would like to be involved with any of our projects, please contact Lizzie our volunteer manager on lizzie@scratchcharity.co.uk

CHRISTMAS COMPLETE

This will be our 30th year of running this project and we have every expectation that demand will be as great as ever this year as many families are still dealing with the effects of rising prices.

We are again seeking donations of the following: -

- Books
- Board Games and Puzzles
- Teddies and other soft toys
- Age relevant toys (*no guns or war type toys please*)
- Chocolate and sweets (in their original packaging with a sale by date clearly shown of at least end Jan 25)*
- Colouring books, pencils, pens and other stationery items
- Teenage gifts
- Gifts for babies and toddlers
- Wrapping paper and sellotape
- Large cardboard boxes
- Batteries (all sizes)

**we cannot use any confectionery that isn't in its original packaging as recipients need to clearly see the list of ingredients.*

Whilst we are happy to accept excellent quality secondhand books (with no names written inside), soft toys (that are clean and in exceptional condition) board games and puzzles (complete and with boxes as new), we cannot take any other 2nd hand items this year as we do not have the space or personnel to do the necessary checks.

Donations of the above-mentioned secondhand items need to be with us by Friday 15 November.

New donations can be accepted up until 13 December, but it would be helpful to receive them by the start of December if possible.

Another easy way to donate from the comfort of your own home is to purchase from the Amazon wish lists shown on the website. That way the item(s) will be delivered directly to us.

We have a few locations where you can drop off donated items – a full list is available on our website.

Financial donations are always great as that allows us to purchase items that we know we will be short of (often for babies, toddlers and teenagers). You can make a donation through CAF using the QR code below, phone the office on 023 8077 3132 to make a card payment,

Christmas Complete '24

Your donations will help to provide parcels of toys and gifts to local families, where children might otherwise go without presents this Christmas

Please check our website for ways that you can be involved with donating and volunteering

To make a financial donation, please scan below

SCRATCH
Fighting Local Poverty

023 8077 3132
www.scratchcharity.co.uk
cc@scratchcharity.co.uk

Thank you

or you can send a cheque payable to SCRATCH to 33 Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Southampton, SO14 0SP, with Christmas Complete written on the reverse.



Volunteers will be needed to help sort, pick and package and there are various dates that help is required from 22 November. Please check on our website for details regarding volunteering and for the Amazon wish lists –

<https://www.scratchcharity.co.uk/projects/christmas-complete/index.htm>

If you have any questions, please e-mail cc@scratchcharity.co.uk

[Want to make a difference in your community? New opportunities: maybe this is the one for you?](#)

The SCRATCH charity trustees are looking for more people to join our board. No specific business skills are needed, although a healthy amount of common sense and an open mind are invaluable. Can you ask questions and make sensible decisions based on assessing all the options? If so, you could be a great fit for our team.

If you'd like to know more, without making any commitment at this stage, please contact our chair, Ann Laird, for a chat.

ann.laird@gmail.com

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www.scratchcharity.co.uk

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