

INTRODUCING SCRATCH AND THE PROJECTS WE OPERATE

We work for **PEOPLE**

SCRATCH is committed to making a positive difference for our clients by responding to the crippling effects of poverty caused by, but not limited to: -

- ◆ Unemployment
- ◆ Debt
- ◆ Family Breakdown
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Exclusion
- ◆ Physical and Mental Illness
- ◆ Lack of skills
- ◆ Benefit issues
- ◆ Homelessness
- ◆ Financial difficulties

We achieve this by recycling **PRODUCTS**

SCRATCH understands and reacts to the changing environment and needs of our clients / funders by supplying basic needs including: -

- ◆ Furniture & Household items
- ◆ Toys and gifts at Christmas
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Small electrical items
- ◆ Volunteering opportunities
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Advice and guidance
- ◆ Utility vouchers *
- ◆ Domestic Appliances *

**for certain areas subject to meeting strict criteria*

We have a long standing, established **PLACE**

SCRATCH works effectively in the local and wider community through our relationship with: -

- ◆ Local Authorities
- ◆ Professional referral agencies
- ◆ Statutory and voluntary groups
- ◆ Employers
- ◆ Job Centre
- ◆ Other charities
- ◆ Church groups

What do our projects aim to achieve?



Practically relieving the effects of poverty

THE DORCAS PROJECT provides furniture packs to individuals and families referred to us by our agency partners in Southampton, the surrounding areas and out across Hampshire.

A Dorcas furniture package consists of basic items including, beds, bedding, seating, wardrobe, chest of drawers, tables and chairs, crockery, cutlery, etc., kettle and toaster. Although some of the cost of this package is subsidised by local authorities SCRATCH requires additional income to fully fund a package.



Reusing furniture and materials to reduce waste

We have established a workshop for volunteers to repair furniture rather than let it go to landfill. Volunteers also make new items of garden furniture by upcycling pallets. Recently we have offered upcycling courses, teaching new skills to volunteers so that furniture and textiles can be sold through our shops to raise funds for SCRATCH. We also redistributed 'end of line' and dented tins of paint donated to us from retailers. They go to clients referred by support agencies and local community groups.



Supporting local families at Christmas

This project supports vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families. Schools, businesses, individuals and churches from across the city and beyond donate toys, gifts and finance. Referral agencies provide SCRATCH with details of children who would otherwise receive little or nothing for Christmas. Up to 2000 parcels containing seven or eight appropriate gifts are delivered on the days leading up to Christmas.



Empowering Volunteers

SCRATCH has many years' experience of working with and empowering volunteers. By working alongside staff members and other volunteers many learn new skills and increase their self-confidence. Volunteering helps people be more active and less socially isolated. Our Employment Support Officer encourages volunteers back into work, through one to one support with basic skills and help with job search, employment applications and mock interviews.

MISSION STATEMENT

To relieve the effects of poverty for families and individuals with needs recognised by approved referral agencies in Southampton and the surrounding area and to support like minded organisations

Our goals and targets

Our overall goal is to optimise our operation to provide the best possible service to our clients in Southampton and further afield across Hampshire. Our aim is to improve the physical and social wellbeing of those we seek to serve.

We will do this by being: -

- Committed to making a positive difference for our clients
- Wise stewards of our finances
- Able to understand and react to the changing environment and needs of our clients / funders
- Openly supportive of other entities where appropriate to share and enhance our knowledge and expertise
- Committed to the development of our staff and volunteers
- Prepared to follow best practice

How can you support our work?

We require the following: -

- ◆ Ongoing donations of furniture and household items.
- ◆ Toys and gifts and sturdy cardboard boxes for our Christmas Complete project
- ◆ Finance for the day to day running of our various projects
- ◆ Sponsorship for specific areas such as fuel for our lorry and van
- ◆ Funds to purchase new kettles, toasters and saucepan sets for disadvantaged families

We would welcome the opportunity to meeting you to discuss our work

SCRATCH, 33 Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Southampton SO14 0SP

Tel: 023 8077 3132

e-mail: reception@scratchcharity.co.uk

www.scratchcharity.co.uk

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