



2024 / 25 Impact Report



Northamptonshire
Community Foundation
Giving back to our county



In the 24 years since our inception in 2001, we've awarded more than £24 million



in grants to Northamptonshire-based charities and volunteer-led community groups.



We are committed to supporting the grassroots organisations doing life-changing work



across the county, and to improving the lives of all Northamptonshire residents.

Contents

Foreword & Introduction	3
Headlines & Highlights	4
Crime & Safety	5
Education, Skills & Training	7
Housing & Environment	9
Mental Health	13
Physical Health	15
Poverty & Inequality	17
Volunteers	19
How Can You Help?	21



In 2024/25...

£1.1million
Grants awarded

162,584*
Beneficiaries supported

*We cannot account for repeat beneficiaries.

£24million+
Awarded since 2001

3 in 20
Local residents impacted
by our charitable giving

This year marks an extraordinary milestone,

as we join our national network in celebrating the 50th anniversary of community foundations across the UK—five decades of place-based giving that has transformed lives. Since our inception in Northamptonshire, we have proudly distributed over £24 million in grants, empowering local charities and volunteer-led groups to deliver lasting, meaningful impact across towns, villages, and rural communities. With heartfelt thanks to our generous donors, none of this would be possible without your support.

Through targeted grant making, we reached over 162,000 beneficiaries this year alone, guided by insight from our Hidden Needs Report, community surveys, and ongoing conversations with donors and grantees. We launched two transformative new programmes: a Rural Needs Fund, created through a successful match fund appeal with the Constance Travis Charitable Trust, and a Young People's Fund, supporting initiatives that help young people stay safe, inspired, and supported. We also welcomed new donor partners—including the ACES Legacy Fund, The Randal Charitable Foundation, SWEF, and IM Properties—whose generosity is already extending our reach and impact across the county.

We were honoured to achieve UKCF National Quality Accreditation and a 5-star Charity Excellence Grant Maker rating, alongside recognition as Runners-Up for the People's Choice Award, celebrating the professionalism, care, and impact of community foundation teams nationwide. They reflect our ongoing commitment to excellence, accountability, and transformational giving.

At the heart of our work is place-based generosity: it is local charities and community groups that drive real change, strengthen resilience, and inspire others to give back. This year, we celebrated that spirit through the Rose of Northamptonshire Awards celebrating local volunteers who go above and beyond for their community and launched a Volunteer Recruitment Drive with the Lord-Lieutenant's Office and VCSE Assembly. We also partnered with 78 Derngate and Rathbones to thank our donors and supporters, while contributing to High Sheriff fundraising treks and a Legal Walk, raising vital funds to build safer, stronger communities.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact, helping communities thrive, charities flourish, and philanthropy grow—together building a Northamptonshire where everyone can belong, be supported, and give back.



Rachel McGrath
Chief Executive



Rachel Mallows
Chair

In 2024/25...

40+

Groups & individuals
celebrated at our Annual
Awards event

47

Community Heroes awarded
Rose of Northamptonshire
Awards



£94,000

In grants awarded to projects
tackling climate change

£110,000

In grants awarded to support
communities in rural
Northamptonshire

Since 2001...



Pravasi Mandal

£20million+

In endowment for future
generations

4,000+

Charities, projects and
individuals funded

£24million

Distributed across the
county



Photo by Andy Eathorne

Building confidence through Karate.

North Northants Sports and Welfare Club was established in 1995 to improve mental health and physical wellbeing among residents of Northamptonshire.

Each week, the club runs free karate classes for young people in Kettering who have faced adversity or challenges in secondary school. The sessions, led by skilled volunteers, introduce participants to discipline, fitness, and self-defence in a safe and supportive environment.

Through karate, the club aims to equip young people with practical safety techniques and awareness of potential dangers, while also helping them to build resilience and self-confidence.

These classes have been made possible thanks to funding from the Northamptonshire High Sheriff's Initiative Fund.

Story of change

M had been struggling at school and had moved to home schooling. Since joining the club's free karate sessions, M has thrived in an environment where they can socialise with peers, strengthen their technical skills, and grow in confidence.

M's parents have noticed a marked improvement in their child's self-belief, as well as greater focus and concentration during home learning.

6,878

People reported that they felt safer in their community



Using music to drive change.

The Core at Corby Cube's Project M engaged the hardest to reach young people in Corby and got them involved in music training and production sessions that use music and performance as the driving force for positive change.

Following a grant from the Northamptonshire High Sheriff's Initiative Fund, which was match-funded by the Proceeds of Crime Fund, Project M diverted a number of young people who were likely to become involved in gang culture and violence towards a more positive outlet.

Story of change

GM says that Project M gave him the confidence to perform to a crowd. His first ever performance to a real audience was at The Core theatre to around 100 people. Realising he could achieve this, gave him a newfound sense of belief in his abilities and he felt encouraged by all the praise he received for his performance which was the highlight of the evening and the end performance of the show.

GM says that without Project M he would not have found this proper focus on music and is now thinking about how to release his music professionally. He has completely cut ties with negative influencers in Wellingborough and is based full time in Corby; looking forward he wants to write and record more original music and release this on major download platforms.

3,299

People are less likely to commit anti-social behaviour



Tackling hardship, loneliness and isolation.



Everyday English

Everyday English provides advice, support and education for people who do not speak English as their first language. Their community conversation cafes are safe and lively spaces where people can come together to exchange languages and culture.

To further develop these cafes, Everyday English were awarded a grant from the Northamptonshire Queen's Institute Relief Fund. This grant award supported the group to reach out to local refugee communities and to set up a 12-week course of one-to-one language buddying and workshop sessions, to provide both educational resources and a way to tackle issues of loneliness and isolation.

Story of change

When "Sarah" first joined the project, she was struggling with severe isolation, low confidence, and anxiety after losing her job and experiencing personal hardship. She described feeling invisible in her own community and rarely left her home.

Through attending Everyday English sessions, Sarah slowly began to rebuild her confidence. At first, she barely spoke, but over time, she started sharing her experiences, participating in activities, and offering support to others. With encouragement, she took part in skills workshops, which helped her rediscover her love for creative work.

By the end of the project, Sarah was not only regularly attending but volunteering to help set up sessions and welcome new participants. She said the project "gave her a reason to get up in the morning" and helped her feel "part of something for the first time in years."

Building confidence and a love for the theatre.



The Northampton Musical Theatre Company (NMTC) is run entirely by volunteers and supports members to find the role that best suits them, from performing on stage or joining the concert singing group, to helping backstage or with costumes. The company's Youth Society offers 6-17 year olds opportunities to get involved with musical theatre.

A grant from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire enabled NMTC to give educational musical theatre training to 43 children aged 7-17, which culminated in four full production performances of *Oliver the Musical*, alongside a live orchestra.

“My daughter Orla, aged 7yrs, performed in NMTC Youth's production of *Oliver* in 2024. Whilst Orla loved singing and dancing, she was quite shy and lacked confidence. She went along to the *Oliver* workshop, which was an audition, but did so well that she didn't even realise it had taken place.

During rehearsals, Orla's confidence grew and grew. She had fun with her friends and was gently encouraged to perform. It was great for her to be able to learn from the other older children and to aspire to be like them. I was so proud watching Orla in the performance, which was to such a high standard, she now has the buzz for musical theatre and went on to audition for a concert with NMTC, and due to her increased confidence, was given a solo singing part. ”

3,219

People reported increased skills and knowledge.

Crafting cultures **together.**

Carbon Theatre's Seedling project, funded by a grant from the Constance Travis Community Endowment Fund, supported participants to use creative activities to explore multicultural family heritages and the future of our planet. Seedling gave a voice to marginalised and underrepresented communities, and explored their relationships with the climate crisis.

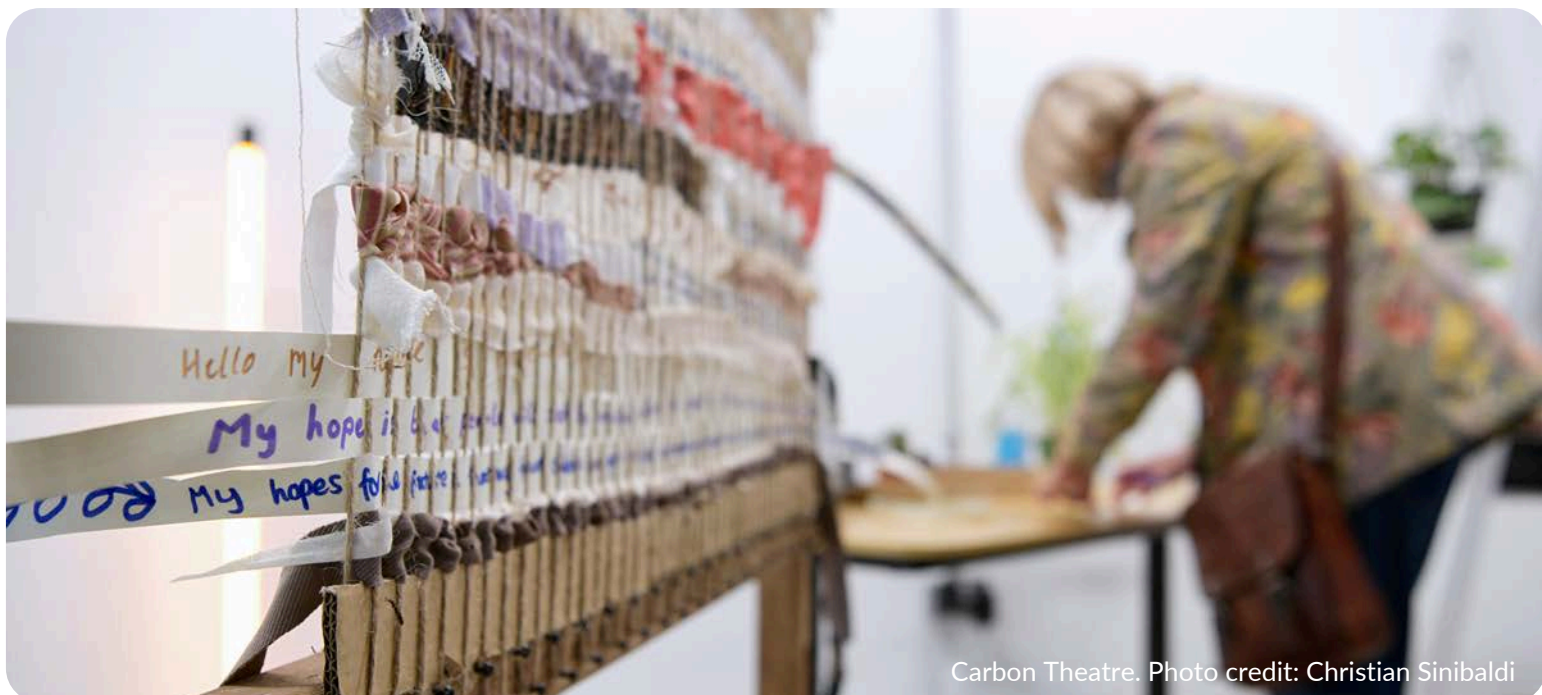
Community-focused creative workshops took place across the county; attendees were encouraged to create their own textile square inspired by their memories and any stories they wanted to tell. The squares were displayed to the public in Northampton, Corby and Kettering and were visited by more than 1,000 people.

“I rediscovered my love of sewing and crafting in general. Connecting to my heritage in the shoe industry not only via my fabric square but also finding out that other people in the group (and their relatives) had worked with relatives of mine. I've been meeting up regularly with one of the other group members to continue pursuing other art and craft based activities, to the benefit of my wellbeing!”

“It has helped me to believe in my sewing skills as I had lost my confidence to a certain extent and felt lost. It helped me to channel my ideas and plan a piece. As a group, it has encouraged us to see if we can set up a local group to work together, especially to raise money for a local charity.”

13,553

People reported feeling an increased sense of belonging in their community.



Carbon Theatre. Photo credit: Christian Sinibaldi

Addressing the hidden causes of homelessness.

The Hope Centre works with people who are experiencing disadvantage, homelessness and/or an inability to afford vital resources due to poverty.

Following a grant from the Northamptonshire Queen's Institute Relief Fund, Hope launched a new project in collaboration with the Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, to provide focused support to the homeless community. Weekly crisis café sessions supported several people each week, and one-to-one sessions with volunteer counsellors and mental health specialists were also available. Direct referrals from these sessions to the Hope Crisis Team, when needed, enabled quick intervention for those experiencing serious mental health crises.

“The grant has supported a hard to reach community who very rarely access mental health support. Often the needs of the homeless focus on the immediate crisis support of accommodation, clothing, showers and food and rarely are the underlying causes of homelessness addressed.

This funding has enabled Hope to live the person-centred approach we strive for and has supported the trauma informed care that is needed to really make a difference to peoples lives.”

50

People moved from street homelessness to sheltered accommodation or independent living.



Northampton Hope Centre



Laugh Out Loud Theatre



Fermynwoods
Contemporary Art



Towcester Midsummer
Music Festival

Northamptonshire Titans
Foundation



Teamwork Trust



Northamptonshire Sport



Right Resolution CIC



Fighting isolation with friendship.

Northampton Irish Support Group cater to the needs of older and vulnerable members of the Irish community in Northamptonshire. Their bi-weekly community events give members an opportunity to socialise and try new activities, as well as receive support with administrative tasks.

A grant from the Northamptonshire Queen's Institute Relief Fund supported Northampton Irish Support Group's Wellbeing Cafés, where everyone is invited to enjoy a two course lunch and bottomless teas and coffees. After lunch, visitors are encouraged to join in with the day's activity, which has recently included chair yoga, tai chi, card making and cake decorating.

Story of change

One of our members suffers from Huntington's Disease, and when he first came to the Wellbeing Café, he was shy and very alone.

Now, he takes part in every activity and has connected and bonded with so many people. He attends all sorts of different activities throughout the week and joins in on trips and holidays with our members. He attends every event we host and is often the first person to put his name down. He regularly makes a point of thanking us for changing his life and states that "If it wasn't for Northampton Irish Support Group, I would be sat alone in my flat with nobody to talk to and nowhere to go and no hope."

7,070

People reported improved mental health and wellbeing



Northamptonshire Mind



Northampton Irish Support Group

Making festivals inclusive.

Rockin' Roadrunner's Roadrunner Festival is a free annual event that is open to all, but set up specifically so that people with disabilities, their carers and their families, can enjoy a day out. The stage is host to performances from able and disabled musicians, DJs, dancers, singers, sing signers, entertainers and performers. In the park, 35 stalls are run by disability related organisations, food vendors, a fairground, sensory space and more.

Every year in September, the Roadrunner Festival creates a safe, vibrant and exciting environment to enable their service users to socialise outside of their normal routines, to increase community inclusion and to support their mental wellbeing. The festival is funded by a grant from the Cecil Pettit Fund.

“This event is truly one-of-a-kind, fulfilling a myriad of needs for a diverse array of attendees. At its core, it provides a festival atmosphere that not only celebrates disability but also embraces the arts. It offers a platform for people of all backgrounds to come together in unity.”

-Event organiser

“I love selling my jewellery and enjoying the music and it makes me feel proud when people buy my jewellery. My confidence has grown since taking part in the festival... I was having so much fun I forgot all about my worries.”

-Stall Holder

4,502

People reported a reduction of stress, anxiety and/or symptoms of depression.



Dancing with the over-60s.



Dancemind is a community-based arts organisation using dance and movement to promote wellbeing in adults with mental or physical health challenges, especially older people.

In partnership with Age UK, Spring Social Prescribing and Delapré Abbey, Dancemind run their Dance Elders programme, to support the physical and mental wellbeing of people aged 60+ through dance classes and optional performances in Delapré Abbey's woodland. The programme has been funded into 2025 by a grant from the Northamptonshire Queen's Institute Relief Fund.

“These classes have literally carried me through winter and into spring. I feel creative, connected, and supported, and the gentle movement nurtures my soul.”

Story of change

A male participant in his 70s, living with Parkinson's, previously a performer, had long since withdrawn from dance due to physical and emotional challenges linked with his diagnosis. He reached out to join the class, wanting to find connection and a sense of meaning for himself.

After noting a considerable change in seeing his confidence grow, he joined the performance company and is now working towards being part of a performance piece. He shared that joining the over 60s dance programme reawakened his sense of self, he described feeling “like someone switched the lights back on.”

1,907

Hours of respite care provided.

Supporting families through tough times.



Home-Start Wellingborough and District have a team of dedicated, trained volunteers who work with local families to support them through tough times. Their home visits are a vital part of their early intervention services; volunteers visit families in their own space to assess their needs and provide tailored support to improve the wellbeing of the whole family.

Home visits and early intervention support was funded by a grant from the Northamptonshire High Sheriff's Initiative Fund.

Story of change

Mum and Dad were referred with their 5 young children, including triplets who were experiencing learning difficulties, they were non-verbal and struggling to understand boundaries.

A volunteer visited weekly to help get the boys out and run off some energy safely; the triplets attended Home-Starts weekly stay and play group with Mum to learn how to socialise and play with their peers, and Mum was supported with counselling. The triplets were then able to attend nursery full time. They have now started school and Mum has applied to become a Home-Start volunteer to offer help to other mums going through similar things.

6,356

People reported improved physical health and wellbeing

Feeding vulnerable households across Northamptonshire.

Impact Now's Food Bank is there for those who are facing food insecurity, financial hardship and who are at risk of homelessness. From July - September 2024, the charity gave out 999 bags of food and clothing to 2,599 people in need.

A grant from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire enabled Impact Now to manage the food bank's critical running and storage costs, so they could meet a growing need for support from families and individuals during the cost of living crisis and continue to reduce food insecurity, ease financial stress, and help individuals feel seen, supported, and connected.

A story of change

Ms C was referred to Impact Now by her Universal Credit work coach; she suffers from social anxiety, which has left her unable to leave her home. Due to her mental health condition and inability to work, Ms C found it increasingly difficult to access basic necessities, particularly food. She was isolated and vulnerable.

Impact Now enrolled Ms C into their long-term food aid support programme. Ms C is now provided with a tailored food bag every two weeks, which is delivered directly to her home. This consistent support has brought stability to the household, reduced financial pressure, and helped Ms C feel seen, supported, and less isolated.

7,136

People reported improved social networks.



Making sure babies have a safe place to sleep.

Baby Basics Northampton are working to ensure that every baby born in Northamptonshire has a safe place to sleep. Their newborn starter packs provide parents and their babies with all of the essentials for the first three months of a newborn's life.

A grant award from the Margaret Giffen Community Fund enabled the creation of 22 starter packs for new parents in North Northamptonshire. During this time, Baby Basics also delivered their 2,500th newborn starter pack, all of which have supported vulnerable new parents and prevented them from falling into further hardship.

“The family that I had been working with had been hesitant to let me into the house, they were completely unprepared for the arrival of their new baby and were not only embarrassed, but feared that they would lose their baby because of it.

When I arrived at their home to deliver the pack, I realised the true extent of their struggles. I was able to not only give them their amazing pack from Baby Basics Northampton but to also give them the proper support that they needed in other areas, all from delivering their pack.”

-Midwife

5,415

People reported that they feel less lonely.



Baby Basics Northampton

From volunteer to **star performer**.

United African Association (UAA) is committed to celebrating the culture and heritage of its members, and a grant from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire supported this by enabling Africa Day in 2024.

Africa Day celebrations saw 650 attendees from 19 African countries come together to share their pride in cultural dances, songs and history. The charity were able to bolster celebrations with food, drinks, decorations, a DJ and an MC, and they expect the event to grow each year.

Story of change

PR has been a volunteer with UAA since 2020, helping out regularly at the office and foodbank, doing deliveries and befriending isolated individuals. In the months leading up to the event he formed a group of like-minded Zimbabweans and learned to play the mbira (African thumb piano). With regular practice their skills have improved a lot and their pieces also incorporated Shona language songs and dance. The group provided unique entertainment to the audience who had never seen or heard these instruments.

The group are now planning to perform at community events and occasionally accompany UAA's African drumming group. PR is now a firm and long term volunteer. Although shy and reluctant to perform, he now has the confidence to sing and play a musical instrument.

499

New volunteers registered as a direct result of funded projects.



Supporting young people to **have their voices heard.**

South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE) is a youth charity dedicated to promoting and coordinating activities and services for young people in South Northamptonshire. To engage young people across South Northamptonshire, SNYE received a grant award from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire to start the area's first Youth Council.

The council identifies and tackles key issues of importance to local young people, seeks the views of young people and promotes opportunities for them to get involved and have their say. Youth Council meetings are regularly attended by members of the local town council and West Northamptonshire Council, so members' thoughts can be fed back and actioned within the wider community.

Story of change

A, aged 14, was very timid when they joined the Youth Council, but wanted to help change the lack of representation for young people in their town. They weren't confident in speaking up but, through fundraisers, regular meetings and a social team building event, they have truly come into their own. A now feels confident enough to speak up among the rest of the group and has formed strong friendships with the other young people who, like her, want to see positive change within their communities. A has recently expressed an interest in local politics and wants to study law and/or Politics at A level.

227

People volunteering regularly.



How can you *help*?

Whether you want to give during your lifetime or to leave a legacy, we can ensure that your generosity has the broadest possible impact across your local community.

Become a Friend of the Foundation

Donate monthly or annually and become a Friend of the Foundation. We pool all of our Friends' donations together and our Friends decide how and where to direct these funds.

Join our Corporate Giving Network

The Corporate Giving Network enables local businesses and entrepreneurs to give back to their community, through place-based philanthropy. Members form a giving circle of like-minded businesses whose donations will be combined to create funding for local groups providing life-changing services to those in need.

Consider leaving a legacy

By making Northamptonshire Community Foundation a beneficiary of your Will or part of your estate plan, you are making a valuable contribution to a better future for our communities. We can work with you or your Professional Advisor, to ensure that your wishes are met and that your generosity will last for generations to come.

Set up a named fund

Setting up a fund is an excellent option if you have a strong interest in supporting a particular cause and/or would like to be more actively engaged in your charitable giving. Whether you are an individual, family, business, or charitable trust, we will work with you to set up a fund that best suits your charitable goals.

Support an appeal

Our fundraising appeals tackle the most urgent and priority needs in Northamptonshire. Making a direct donation to any of our current appeals means supporting our county's most vulnerable residents.

Hold a fundraising event or charity day

We will support you every step of the way, as you raise essential funds for your local community foundation.



Read our Good to Give Guide

Contact

enquiries@ncf.uk.com
01604 320033

18 Albion Place
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN1 1UD

Tel: 01604 230033

Email: enquiries@ncf.uk.com

Web: www.ncf.uk.com



@northantscf



**Northamptonshire
Community Foundation**
Giving back to our county