Northamptonshire Community Foundation

25 Years of Giving
25 Forward

2025/26 Impact Report











Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR



Since 2001, we've awarded over £25million, supporting 4000+ charities, projects and individuals.



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Front cover: Rose of the Shires Girls Basketball League, BAK UP CIC, Outside In Theatre, Saints (Brackley) Community Trust, Northampton Film Festival
Inside cover: Teamwork Trust, Lumina Arts Alliance

Welcome from our CEO and Chair

This year has been a truly special anniversary for Northamptonshire Community Foundation as we celebrate 25 years of inspiring local giving for local needs.

Since our founding in 2001, we have worked alongside donors, fund holders, partners and local organisations to award more than £25 million in grants, supporting the charities, community groups and volunteers whose work changes lives across our neighbourhoods, towns, villages and countryside.

None of this would have been possible without you. Every gift, fund, partnership and act of generosity has helped strengthen our county, widen opportunity and ensure support reaches the people and places where it matters most. Thank you for championing local giving and being part of this remarkable 25-year journey. As this impact report highlights, in the last year alone our funded work has reached 150,908 beneficiaries.

This milestone year has also brought recognition of the difference locally rooted philanthropy can make. Community foundations across the UK were again ranked among the country's best grant makers as voted by charities, reflecting trust in our network of local funders. We were equally proud to see Northamptonshire Community Foundation featured in the Government's first-ever Our Place to Give plan, recognising the vital role of place-based giving in connecting donors with local priorities and building stronger communities.

Our work continues to evolve in response to the needs we hear across the county, guided by local needs reporting with Local Insights, community surveys and ongoing conversations with donors and grantees. This year, we launched Pathways to Independence: Care Leavers Fund with the Henry Smith Foundation, helping care-experienced young people. We were also delighted to partner with CarFest at Silverstone for the first time, work with Countywide Resilience Partners, and celebrate extraordinary volunteers through our Rose of Northamptonshire Awards at Wicksteed Park.

Thanks to generous funding from the Institute of Philanthropy in Poland and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, we have commissioned 25 Stories of Change through Northampton Film Festival: celebrating the people, projects and partnerships changing the world on our doorstep.

As we look ahead to the next 25 years, our ambition is clear: to grow local giving and build a permanent endowment so every community in Northamptonshire can thrive, and no one is left behind because of where they live, their background or their start in life. Together, we will build a fairer, stronger and more connected Northamptonshire.



Rachel McGrath
Chief Executive



Rachel Mallows
Chair



Brightwayz

2025/2026 in figures

£1.3million
distributed in grants

150,908*
Beneficiaries supported

*We cannot account for repeat beneficiaries.

£25million+
awarded since 2001

18.5%
of local residents impacted by our charitable giving


50 Families Project

Spotlight:

Crime and Safety

582 Number of people reporting increased confidence in keeping themselves safe

361 Number of people reporting that they are less likely to commit anti-social behaviour

56 Number of people reporting that they feel able to enforce their rights

1,304 Number of people reporting that they feel safer in their communities

178 Number of people supported as victims of anti-social behaviour or crime



Sport4Fitness CIC

Positive pathways

Sport4Fitness CIC received £5,000 from the Northamptonshire High Sheriff's Initiative Fund to deliver a school intervention programme combining sport, creative activities and anti-social behaviour awareness for young people at risk of offending. The project helped participants build confidence, improve attendance and develop a better understanding of the consequences of anti-social behaviour, while providing positive alternatives and trusted adult role models. One parent reported that their son's attendance and punctuality improved significantly, and that he now enjoyed school more.

Building safer futures for women

C2C Social Action supports women at risk of, or involved in, the criminal justice system through its Kettering Women's Centre. A £5,000 grant from the Northamptonshire High Sheriff's Initiative Fund enabled the centre to extend its opening hours to four days a week, providing more women with access to trauma-informed support, courses, drop-in sessions and one-to-one guidance.

Since September 2025, the centre has supported 124 women facing challenges including domestic abuse, homelessness, substance misuse and offending behaviour.



Story of change

"Now was the time."

One woman accessing the centre had spent more than 40 years in an abusive relationship. When she decided she was ready to leave, the team at Kettering Women's Centre worked alongside specialist domestic abuse workers from Eve to help her plan and make the move safely.

With practical and emotional support throughout the process, she was able to leave the relationship and begin rebuilding her life.

Her story highlights the importance of trusted, trauma-informed support in helping women make positive changes and move towards a safer future.


C2C Social Action

Spotlight:

Employment and Training

4,569 Number of people reporting increased skills and knowledge

712 Number of people taking up work or volunteer placement/experience opportunities

610 Number of work or volunteer placement/experience opportunities provided

2,509 Number of people whose engagement in education/ learning has improved

964 Number of people reporting that they feel better prepared for work



Northampton Film Festival

Creative career pathways

Northampton Film Festival received £4,000 from the Leslie Church Memorial Fund to deliver its Young Curator Scheme, a five-month training programme for aspiring arts curators, programmers and event organisers.

Participants gained hands-on experience in event delivery while developing skills in marketing, audience engagement, communication and teamwork. Many reported increased confidence, new aspirations and a stronger understanding of creative career opportunities.

Opening doors to opportunity

Teamwork Trust received a £9,990 grant from the Constance Travis Community Endowment Fund to establish a new Employment Hub in Wellingborough, helping people with autism, learning disabilities and mental health challenges move closer to volunteering, training and employment opportunities.

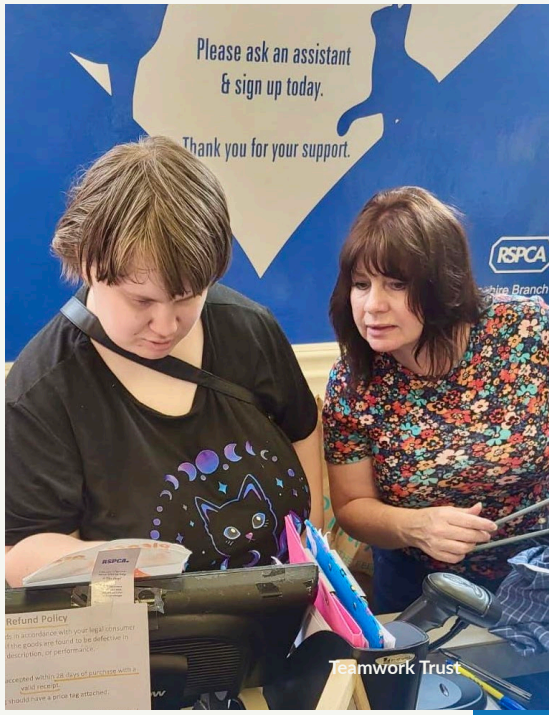
The Hub provides a safe and supportive environment where participants can build confidence, develop practical skills and access tailored support through volunteering opportunities, workplace visits, skills workshops and enterprise activities.



Story of change

"I enjoy going into the shop. I like to be busy. Working on the till has given me the confidence to think about working in retail." Kali, Teamwork Trust participant and volunteer

Through the Employment Hub, Kali gained hands-on experience volunteering in Teamwork Trust's shop, developing practical workplace skills and growing in confidence. What began as an opportunity to try something new has helped her envisage a future in employment, demonstrating how tailored support and real-world experience can open doors to greater independence and opportunity.



Teamwork Trust

Spotlight:

Environment

1,861 Number of people using more sustainable transport, e.g. bus, cycling, walking

3 Number of tonnes of waste diverted from landfill

539 Area (hectares) of natural space maintained or improved

1,002 Number of units of energy (kWh) generated from renewable sources

2 Area (hectares) of natural space restored or created



Crick Allotment Society

Greener growing

Crick Allotment Society received a £2,394 grant from the Yelvertoft Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund to purchase a battery-powered green waste shredder, helping members recycle garden waste into compost and mulch.

The equipment has reduced reliance on commercially produced compost, eliminated bonfires on site and supported the Society's efforts to cut carbon emissions through more sustainable gardening practices. Volunteers also operate the shredder during communal sessions, ensuring all members can benefit while strengthening community connections.

Art inspiring action on climate change

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art received a £50,000 grant from the Northamptonshire Creative Climate Action Fund to deliver two ambitious projects, Tipping Point and What's Eating Our Reality, designed to help local communities engage with climate change in creative and meaningful ways.

Through immersive art, digital storytelling and shared experiences, the programme encouraged people to reflect on environmental issues, explore possible solutions and consider the role they can play in creating a more sustainable future.

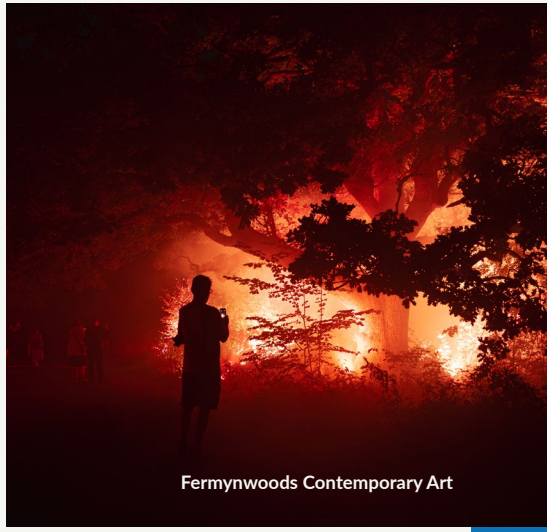


Story of change

"It was a wonderful evening - definitely Corby at its most ambitious best, rooted in community and connection."
Morag Ballantyne

Through Tipping Point, more than 3,000 people experienced an immersive light and sound installation in woodland at the heart of Corby, sparking conversations about biodiversity loss, climate change and environmental responsibility. Participants in What's Eating Our Reality reported a greater understanding of food justice and sustainability, with many making practical changes such as reducing food waste, growing their own food and introducing more plant-based meals into their diets.

The project demonstrates how creativity can help communities connect with complex environmental issues, inspiring both reflection and action.


Fermynwoods Contemporary Art

Spotlight:

Health and Wellbeing

28,909	Number of people reporting improved mental health or wellbeing
25,273	Number of people reporting improved physical health or wellbeing
21,240	Number of people reporting increased self-esteem and confidence
13,294	Number of people reporting improved social networks
1,304	Number of people reporting improvements in their diet to be more healthy



Venture RDA

Therapeutic riding

Venture RDA provides therapeutic riding sessions for children and young people with disabilities, helping them build confidence, independence and physical strength.

Thanks to a £2,000 grant from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund, the charity supported 150 beneficiaries, with families describing the service as a "lifeline" that offers both practical and emotional support. One parent said the sessions had transformed their child's confidence and wellbeing, giving them "the chance to shine".

The power of walking together

Northamptonshire Walks received a £2,000 grant from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire to help deliver free guided walks across the county. The funding supported essential running costs, including public liability insurance, first aid equipment, mapping tools and website maintenance, enabling the organisation to continue providing accessible opportunities for people to improve their physical and mental wellbeing through walking.

Story of change

"Your kindness and beautiful nature has brought me health, confidence, happiness and new friendships which are precious. I will never forget what Northamptonshire Walks has done for me and continues to do." Claire, Northamptonshire Walks participant

Three years ago, Claire joined a walk following treatment for aggressive cancer and felt anxious about meeting new people. Through the welcoming and inclusive community created by Northamptonshire Walks, she built new friendships, regained her confidence and improved her wellbeing.

Her story reflects the wider impact of the project, which helps people overcome loneliness, anxiety and health challenges through the simple act of walking together. By creating opportunities for connection, support and physical activity, Northamptonshire Walks is helping thousands of people lead healthier, happier and more connected lives.


Northamptonshire Walks

Spotlight:

Poverty and Inequality

26,047

Number of people receiving emergency supplies

156

Residents supported to improve accommodation needs and financial wellbeing



Finding belonging

En-Fold received £2,000 from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire to expand social support groups for autistic adults across the county.

The groups provided safe, low-pressure spaces where participants could build friendships, reduce isolation and improve their wellbeing, with 60 people reporting improved mental health and wellbeing. One participant described the experience as "finding my tribe", after years of feeling isolated and struggling to fit into traditional social settings.

Food, dignity and hope

IMPACT-NOW received a £2,000 grant from the Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire to help strengthen its Community Ladder Food Larder and food bank services.

The funding enabled the charity to purchase essential food supplies, helping vulnerable households across Northampton access nutritious, culturally appropriate food during periods of financial hardship while also connecting people to wider support services.

Story of change

"The dignity, affordability, and accessibility of the service enabled her to maintain her wellbeing and begin to regain a sense of control over her situation." IMPACT-NOW

Many people accessing IMPACT-NOW's services face impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. Through its choice-based food larder and emergency food bank, the charity provides more than food alone, offering dignity, stability and practical support during difficult times.

The grant helped the organisation reach 2,561 beneficiaries, with 87% reporting improved access to healthy food and 75% reporting improved mental wellbeing. In addition, 150 people were referred to other advice and support services, helping address the wider causes of poverty and inequality. By combining immediate relief with longer-term support, the project is helping individuals and families build resilience and move towards a more secure future.





Spotlight:

Volunteering

841 Number of people volunteering regularly

533 Number of new volunteers as a direct result of a grant

102 Number of people taking up work or volunteer placement/experience opportunities



Volunteer Action Oundle

Supporting communities through volunteering

Volunteer Action Oundle received £8,112 from the Constance Travis Community Endowment Fund to expand its volunteer network and strengthen transport and befriending services across rural East Northamptonshire. The funding helped recruit 39 new volunteers, enabling the charity to support 2,406 people with journeys to medical appointments, social activities and other essential services.

By reducing isolation and helping residents maintain their independence, volunteers are strengthening connections and improving quality of life across local communities.

Growing confidence through volunteering

Moulton Community CIO received a £9,995 grant from the Volunteering for Health Fund to strengthen and expand its volunteer programme. The funding enabled the library to introduce structured training, mentoring and wellbeing support, helping volunteers develop new skills, build confidence and play an even greater role in supporting the community. The project also successfully introduced intergenerational volunteering, bringing together younger and older volunteers to share skills and experiences. Throughout the year, 55 volunteers supported activities that benefited 190 people across the community.

Story of change

"Knowing I have the right knowledge and guidance has given me reassurance that I'm doing things correctly and providing a professional and trustworthy service."
Anne, Community Larder volunteer

Through funded training and support, Anne gained new skills and confidence in her volunteering role. She now feels better equipped to support local people, demonstrating how investing in volunteers can strengthen both individuals and communities.



Moulton Community CIO

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 lifechanging 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 Adviser, 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.

Scan the QR code to find out more:



African Youth Arise

Northamptonshire Community Foundation

25 Years of Giving
25 Forward

More than a funder: championing local philanthropy and charities

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