



FIRESTARTERS (SCIO)

ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



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Scottish Charity Regulator

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**Registered SCIO
SC033725**

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name: FireStarters (SCIO)

Also known as: FireStarters (UK) / FireStarters

Charity registration number: SC033725

Registered office: 29 Glenvilla Circle, Paisley, Renfrewshire, PA2 8TS

Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 8 Church Street, Johnstone, PA5 8DX

Website: www.firestartersuk.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firestartersUK

Twitter: @FireStartersUK

Trustees

The following served as charity trustees during the year and continue to serve on an ongoing basis up to the date of this report:

Anthony D Allan	Chairperson	
Lynn E Howson	Secretary	appointed 21 September 2022
David McGregor	Treasurer	
Gaynor Murebwa		
Joshua J Park		

The following also served as charity trustee during the year:

Esther Brombley	resigned 18 September 2021
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

FireStarters (SCIO) ("the charity") is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation number SC033725 and is governed by its written constitution which was adopted by the trustees on 3 June 2015. The SCIO was incorporated on 10 August 2015 as a result of the conversion of a charitable company (SC235862, FireStarters (UK) Limited) which was originally incorporated on 23 August 2002.

Appointment of trustees

The charity's trustees are appointed or re-appointed by members annually at the Annual General Meeting and in accordance with the terms contained in the charity's constitution.

Administrative Structure

The trustees are responsible for the overall direction of the charity and serve on a voluntary basis.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the charity are:

- The advancement of the Christian religion by:
 - Training and equipping young leaders in the Christian faith;
 - Promoting the Christian worship of God;
 - Promoting radically pure and godly Christian lifestyle among young people;
 - Teaching young people to hear and obey God's voice, to read and live by his Word, and to be empowered by his Holy Spirit all as in accordance with the Christian gospel;
 - Promoting the message of the Christian gospel amongst young people;
 - Enabling young people to consistently live and share the Christian faith in relevant ways;
 - Promoting, assisting, and encouraging young people's personal growth in the Christian faith;
 - Promoting, participating in and encouraging participation in Christian revival;
 - Promoting youth evangelism, discipleship and training in the Christian faith;
 - Promoting and establishing youth weekends, camps, outreaches, and holidays for the promotion of the Christian faith;
 - Providing and establishing facilities for use in the promotion of the Christian faith;
 - Creating opportunities for young people to be involved in Christian evangelism and Christian mission;
 - Creating a safe and positive environment conducive to Christian growth amongst young people;
 - Promoting Christian servant hood, caring and teaching Christian responsibility and love;
 - Promoting, assisting and encouraging acts of Christian service and charity;
 - Assisting Christian churches in promoting the Christian faith;
 - Assisting Christian churches in youth work and outreach;
 - Teaching young people to pray and believe in God's ability to do all things in accordance with the Christian gospel;
 - Promoting Christian values;
 - Providing resources and finances for the promotion of the Christian faith, the relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship, poverty, age or sickness, as the charity shall in its absolute discretion determine;
 - Making gifts in cash or in kind for such charitable purposes as the charity shall in its absolute discretion determine.

- The advancement of citizenship or community development by:
 - Providing training for young people in taking a lead in community activities;
 - Providing practical help to people in the communities we serve – with a particular focus on the disadvantaged and vulnerable;
 - Giving teaching on our responsibilities for wider society and promoting the concept that we put others before ourselves.
- The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science by:
 - Providing an outlet for the performance of drama, music and dance;
 - Providing a safe place for young people to test out and develop their interest in performing arts.
- The promotion of religious or racial harmony by:
 - Teaching that no matter what our own beliefs or traditions are, we all have a primary goal to love one another:
 - Never resorting to violence or hatred
 - Never to insult or condemn
 - To respect other people's right to an opinion and to make their own choices.

The main activities of the charity involve running residential and non-residential weekends, bringing together young people to disciple them in the Christian faith, and encourage friendships, community engagement, and the development of the attendees' confidence and life skills.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE



VISION

We are a generation set on fire
for Jesus to be sparks of revival

Overview

FireStarters has now been running for 27 years and has impacted thousands of young people within this time. Our motto is still that we are “a generation set on fire for Jesus to be sparks of revival”. This year, we have tried to regularly remind the young people of our four key values listed below and are still passionate about seeing them evident within FireStarters and also in the lives of our young people out with our weekends:

1. To have a passion for Jesus
2. To be a family as God intended
3. To grow in boldness to share our faith
4. To raise and equip young leaders

Leadership

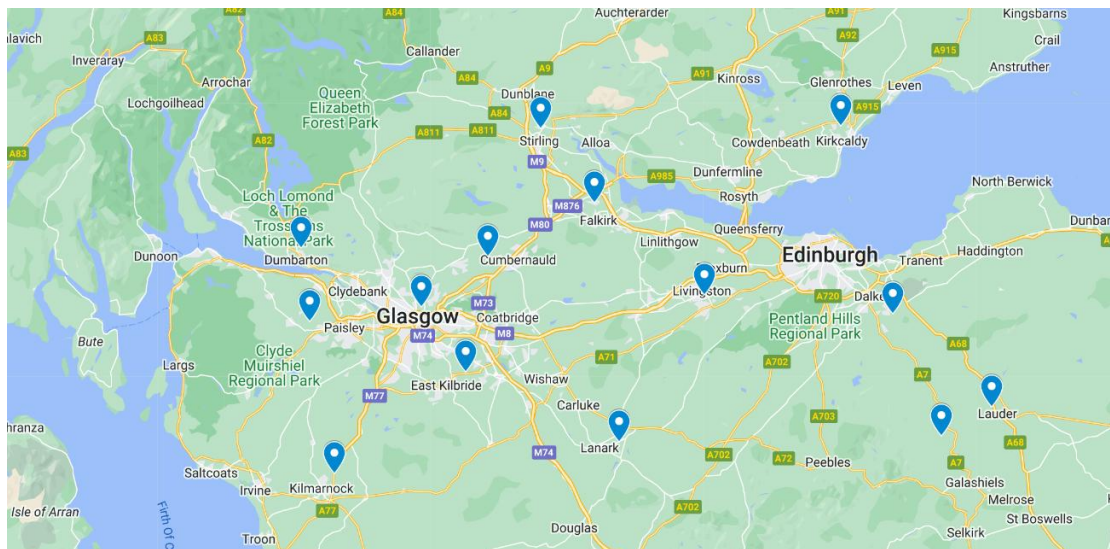
FireStarters continues to be led by Tai and Gaynor Murebwa. They have been trying to find other leaders who are passionate about discipling young people and have managed to recruit a few more volunteers. This is an ongoing process as the ministry continues to grow. Lynn Howson, the founder of FireStarters has also come back to support the ministry which has been a huge blessing.

Growth

FireStarters has seen significant growth this year, particularly since the summer following our summer outreach week. The number of young people who applied to join FireStarters has increased from around 60 to almost 100 with regular attendance increasing from around 50 to around 70-75 each weekend by the end of the year.

This may result in future challenges regarding suitable host churches as some of the churches who have previously partnered with us would now be too small to host us.

We have also noticed a greater geographically spread in the distance young people are traveling to come to weekends. We now have young people coming from Edinburgh, Fife, Ayrshire, The Borders, Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Stirlingshire and North Lanarkshire. The only regions below not represented in FireStarters are Clackmannanshire and North Ayrshire!



Theme

Our theme was Freedom in Christ until the summer and then we started to look at The Refiner's Fire and we have seen some young people walking in freedom from things that have held them back for years. This has been evidenced in changes in mind-sets, in a greater understanding of their identity and in a letting go of attitudes and behaviours that have brought pain and anxiety.

As a result of the pandemic, many young people have struggled with their mental health greatly. At FireStarters, we have also seen a great shift in this area and a release of joy and freedom as they understand how loved and valued they are and as they pursue all that God has for them. The young people started to learn how to deal with the lies they have believing about themselves and embrace the truth of the gospel and walk in freedom. We have seen young people set free from fear of man and suicidal thoughts, praise God! As the young people have had powerful encounters with the living God, we have seen characters changed to reflect Jesus more with reports from families that the atmosphere in their house has totally changed because of the change in their young person!

Summer Mission Week

The highlight of the year was in August when we took a group of around 40 teenagers to Birmingham for a week of outreach at the commonwealth games. We joined FireStarters Wales for the week and had amazing times in God's presence where God set our young people free and brought them to their knees to intercede for their friends and family, to cry out for revival and for more of Holy Spirit. They also felt a strong call to purity and cried out for repentance as Holy Spirit highlighted areas in their lives where He wanted them to be set free.

Our young people were hungry for God and keen to share Jesus with people in the city. We partnered with Urban Devotion every day, which was brilliant and the young people had many opportunities to share Jesus and the Father's love to the children, some from the most deprived areas in the UK. Others went to the Alexander Stadium every day where many had some wonderful conversations with people, they got to know the stewards and had a Cheer Line where people were celebrated for a moment and then offered a gospel or other tract. We also had a sports ministry team within the vicinity of our host church to minister to those locally, both young and old.

We were so delighted that we saw several souls saved, both on the street and another 4 on our family fun day on the Saturday. We saw the young people grab hold of Romans 1:16 and say 'We are not ashamed of the gospel'

The fruit is still evident in the lives of our young people with many showing a passion to share Jesus with friends at school or strangers on the bus. Many are now hungry for God's word and spend more time in prayer than ever before. Parents have reported they have seen transformations in character and in attitude at home. We are so grateful to God and are already considering a mission week to the Isle of Lewis next summer.

Young Leaders Programme

We have continued to run our young leader's programme and meet out with each weekend with the young leaders to teach and mentor and also to plan weekends. We have seen such a growth in the young leaders as they take on more responsibility to teach in main sessions, to lead small groups, to share devotions and to lead worship. The young leaders have learned to both plan and implement full weekends and have been such a blessing to the younger teens as they have served and loved them. As a result of the move of God we saw during our summer mission, the young leaders we recruited after the summer have been outstanding in the way they have served the other young people. They are confident to preach, lead worship, to share, to minister and to lead discussion groups. They are going to be world changers!!

Outreach

We have continued to share Jesus in new ways each weekend. We have done street outreach and have run family fun days, worship on the street, visited nursing homes to bless residents with singing and chat/prayer, handed out gifts with words from God on the street, prayed for healing, cheer lines on the street, we have run youth nights and knocked on doors to share Jesus with people. As mentioned, we saw several come to know Jesus last summer and are expectant for more fruit in the year ahead.

Funding

As FireStarters continues to grow, it is becoming more challenging to find venues big enough to host us and are trying to make new connections with churches across the central belt.

We have also realised that our faithful FireStarters minibus is no longer fit for purpose. It has served us well for around 18 years but now is too small to carry all the kit we need for each weekend and it is becoming a financial burden due to age related repairs.

As a result, we have started various fundraising activities to raise money, including a big Ceilidh that we hosted in December at Bearsden Baptist Church. We have also seen donations via a Stewardship campaign and a Facebook fundraiser. We have been increasing our activity on social media, Facebook in particular and have seen an increase in followers as a result.

We are currently pursuing the following methods to raise funds:

- Ongoing financial support from young people, their families and church members through promotion of the Family Membership Scheme.
- An increase in young people attending has seen an increase in monthly income.
- Continued support from gift aid scheme.
- One off gifts from individuals who support the vision of FireStarters.
- Fundraising activities for a new minibus.
- The board took the decision to pay one of the senior leaders two days a week for work done to serve the ministry.
- We managed to raise additional funding towards our summer mission to Birmingham by writing to churches we have connections with.
- For many years, FireStarters have been blessed with free office and storage space in Paisley. At the end of 2022 we were informed that the owner needed the property for other purposes so we had to vacate the property and source storage facilities at a monthly cost.
- FireStarters are keen to look at fundraising solutions to help manage the growth we are seeing.

Conclusion

We have also met out with weekends for nights of worship and hope to do this more next year. We are so grateful for all God is doing in FireStarters. We have seen great numerical growth, however, what has delighted our hearts is the evidence of significant spiritual growth in the lives of many of the young people. God is faithful and as we continue to serve Him within FireStarters, we can see that God is passionate about this generation of teenagers and has great plans for them. What a privilege to be part of their journey and to be used by God to see a generation set on fire for Jesus to be sparks of revival.

Revival is coming and we want to be ready, hallelujah!

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity reported a surplus of **£463** (2021: £342 deficit) for the year and has accumulated reserves of **£29,012** (2021: £28,549) as at the year end. Voluntary donations continue to be the main source of income, including the participation by some donors in the Gift Aid scheme. Due to the COVID restrictions and the cancellation of a number of in-person events as we moved to online events in previous years, we saw a return to more normal levels of income from charitable activities this year and associated increase in expenditure relating to items such as food and travel.

The main area for expenditure continued to be the charitable activities including the expenditure relating to running residential weekends and other activities for young people, with the greatest spends in the areas of travel, food, accommodation and insurance.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain unrestricted funds (ie. funds not committed or invested in fixed assets) at a level that equates to approximately twelve months unrestricted expenditure. The charity's unrestricted reserves at 31 August 2022 amounted to **£20,560** (2021: £20,397) which, although above the required level, was acceptable to the trustees.

Risk Management

The charity trustees frequently review the risks to which the charity is exposed and take all sensible measures to reduce such risk or provide insurance cover where this is possible. All major insurable risks are subject to normal charity and employer's insurance. The trustees require that risk assessments are carried out for all its activities and take such remedial action as indicated by these assessments. The charity has written policies in relation to Health & Safety, Data Protection, Equal Opportunities and Child Protection which are communicated at least on an annual basis to all staff and volunteers, who are instructed to follow these policies at all times. The senior management are advised on Fire Safety issues by an external consultant volunteer to ensure compliance with regulation. The charity is a member of the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service and receives advice and updates on a regular basis from them on matters concerning Child Protection. In addition, all volunteers are required to have police checks before working with us through the Central Registered Body in Scotland. Contractual risks are reviewed before being entered into to assess that they could not significantly impact upon the charity's ability to fulfil its objectives. Expenditure is monitored and the financial situation examined by the Treasurer on a monthly basis so as to minimise any areas of potential financial risk.

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and those of the charity's constitution.

Independent examination

The trustees recommend that the accounts are independently examined and Mr Iain Higgins was appointed as independent examiner. The trustees recommend that the services of Mr Higgins are utilised until further notice.

This report was approved by the trustees on 31 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by


David McGregor
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

I report on the accounts of FireStarters (SCIO) for the year ending 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages ten to thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanation from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations

have not been met, or

- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Iain Higgins FCCA

5 Hillcrest Avenue
Duntocher
Clydebank
G81 6PD

31 May 2023

FireStarters (SCIO)
SC033725

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
RECEIPTS	Note				
Donations		16,674	3,366	20,040	9,016
Grants		-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	2	2,266	4,150	6,416	810
Investment income		9	-	9	2
Other income		-	-	-	3
Total Receipts		18,949	7,516	26,465	9,831
PAYMENTS					
Charitable Activities	3	17,474	8,168	25,642	8,956
Gifts and Donations	5	360	-	360	442
Purchase of equipment		-	-	-	400
Governance	6	-	-	-	375
Other		-	-	-	-
Total Payments		17,834	8,168	26,002	10,173
Surplus / (deficit) before transfers		1,115	(652)	463	(342)
Transfers		(952)	952	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) after transfers		163	300	463	(342)

FireStarters (SCIO)
SC033725

STATEMENT OF BALANCES
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
BANK AND CASH IN HAND				
Opening balances	20,397	8,152	28,549	28,891
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	163	300	463	(342)
Closing balances	20,560	8,452	29,012	28,549

OTHER ASSETS

Gift Aid Tax Rebate	3,254	-	3,254	870
Vehicle (estimated current market value)	4,500	-	4,500	4,500
Musical equipment	1,066	-	1,066	1,066
Computer equipment	787	-	787	787
Circus equipment	178	-	178	178
Cleaning equipment	210	-	210	210
Total Other Assets	9,995	-	9,995	8,054

LIABILITIES

Independent Examiner's Fee	375	-	375	375
Total Liabilities	375	-	375	375

Approved by the trustees on 31 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by


David McGregor
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Charitable activities income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Weekend donations	2,266	4,105	6,371	810
Merchandise sales	-	45	45	-
Other charitable activities	-	-	-	-
Total Charitable activities income	2,266	4,150	6,416	810

3. Charitable Activities expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Food	4,243	3,610	7,853	918
Travel	3,627	2,198	5,825	1,851
Accommodation	2,013	808	2,821	649
Salaries	2,500	-	2,500	-
Rent payable	1,080	-	1,080	-
Resource materials	569	338	907	336
Insurance	748	-	748	1,625
Visiting speakers	225	500	725	50
Telephone	721	-	721	880
Website / Email admin	698	-	698	572
Merchandise purchases	-	650	650	-
Bank charges	372	-	372	81
Postages	283	9	292	278
CCLI	191	-	191	182
Computer costs	72	-	72	701
Zoom subscription	58	-	58	173
Office costs	22	12	34	82
Flowers & Cards	30	-	30	-
Printing and publicity	-	25	25	10
Employer's Pension contributions	19	-	19	-
Equipment purchases	3	10	13	492
First Aid / Health & Safety	-	8	8	76
Conference fees	-	-	-	-
Other charitable activities	-	-	-	-
Total Charitable activities expend.	17,474	8,168	25,642	8,956

4. Taxation

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities. The charity is also not registered for VAT, and any expenditure includes any VAT charged.

5. Grants & Donations made

Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the trustees on the basis of need and are only made to those organisations and activities which are compatible with the charitable objectives of the charity. No gifts were made to political parties. During the year, grants totalling **£360** (2021: £442) and ranging from £30 to £30 were paid to 1 individual (2021: 3) in accordance with the charity's objectives.

No grants were paid out to organisations by the charity.

6. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Independent Examination	-	-	-	375
Legal Advice	-	-	-	-
Total Governance Costs	-	-	-	375

7. Transactions with trustees or connected persons

One charity trustee received remuneration amounting to £2,500 for her role as Senior Project Lead. This payment was made in accordance with the requirements set out in the charity's constitution under a contract of employment.

During the year, expenses totalling £237 (2021: £101) was paid to two (2021: two) charity trustees. No other charity trustee received expenses during the period, other than reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the charity.

The charity's insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance cover for all its trustees, the cost of which is estimated at £120 per year.

8. Restricted Funds

	31 Aug 21	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31 Aug 22
	£	£	£	£	£
Training fund	1,152	300	-	-	1,452
Van fund	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
Birmingham mission fund	-	7,216	(8,168)	952	-
Total Restricted Funds	8,152	7,516	(8,168)	952	8,452

Training fund: donations received specifically to finance the cost of training.

Van fund: funding received towards the purchase of a new vehicle.

Birmingham mission fund: income and expenditure relating to the summer mission to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

9. Unrestricted Funds

	31 Aug 21	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31 Aug 22
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	20,397	18,949	(17,834)	(952)	20,560
Total Unrestricted Funds	20,397	18,949	(17,834)	(952)	20,560

The General Fund encompasses all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is restricted.