



DIOCESE OF HEXHAM &
NEWCASTLE

CARITAS HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE FUND GRANT REPORT

Name of Group: DHN Justice & Peace Refugee Project

Name of Contact: Marjory Knowles

Email address: Marjory.knowles@gmail.com

Date & Amount of Grant Awarded: August 2022

What did you want the grant for? Towards core costs for the Project

What did you do with the grant awarded? Please give details of how the Caritas grant was spent.

The grant was used towards the Project's core costs (employment, rent, expenses). This included the employment of a P/T (18hrs) Project Co-ordinator and a P/T (12hrs) Project Worker

What impact has your project made (*what difference has it made to the mission of the Church in your community? If you are able to include some data giving an idea of how many people were helped etc, that would be very welcome*)

We have experienced an increase in numbers over the year. This can be attributed to an increase in asylum seekers being sent to the Northeast. The cost-of-living crisis is also impacting asylum seekers who have not seen a relevant increase in the allowance they receive. It is also impacting the Project due to reducing food donations and the relevant increase in the purchase of food to make up the food bags as well the increase inflationary pressures on this cost. [Click here](#) to see the latest data from the Project, an article from one of the Project's English teachers and last years annual report. The current year report is being prepared.

Signed: *Marjory Knowles*

Date: 18/09/23

The following is a testimony from Angela Helm - Volunteer English teacher at Justice & Peace Refugee Project:

Practical help at the Justice and Peace Refugee Project

Two young men arrived, for the first time, at my English class in St Dominic's Church Hall. They came to England a few months ago from Darfur in Sudan. They have very little English but managed to tell me the bare outlines of their story. It has taken them five years to get to this country! Libya was the worst place they encountered and they spent more than two years travelling to the coast. They had to find work to pay for their journey and often the wages were never given to them, or they were robbed and their money was stolen. Eventually they reached the coast and set off to Malta. No welcome there and they continued for the next two years through Italy and France to Calais where they lived in 'The Jungle' for a long time before crossing the Channel. The Home Office Immigration officers brought them to Newcastle.



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I took them next door to St Vincent's to be registered in the Project as asylum-seekers. Azad was a great asset because he speaks Arabic and was able to welcome them and explain how the project could help them. They visibly relaxed!

It was a quiet time in the big hall and lots of people welcomed them in a friendly way even though communication was difficult. Very soon they were given food, clothes and shower gel etc. The food was carefully selected as they have no cooking facilities in the hotel. M*** was given a backpack which made him smile a lot! It was so wonderful to realise that at last they were being treated with respect, love and kindness after their horrendous journey over the last five years. They set off back to the Novotel, carrying naan bread from the Co-op, cakes from Greggs and fruit from Stanhope Street! I felt very moved as they waved goodbye to us. Next week we hope to see them again.

Please share this story with the J&P committee and Steering group and thank them for their dedication and efforts to enable such blessed events to happen. All the volunteers who give their time and energy work together as a great team.

"That is a story to be shared! Welcoming the strangers, treating them with dignity and giving them hope. It's what the Project has done for over 20 years. When we feel frustrated by things, read this again." (Comment from a member of the Project steering group)