



Hearts of Hackney Community

Project Impact Report

2025



www.theseedproject.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read Our Impact Report

Our Mission

Our mission in sharing this information is to encourage our community to get involved and to highlight and cultivate skilled leaders who unite communities for action, change, and lasting impact. We aim to empower other churches and grassroots organisations to take practical steps that will enhance their reach and success.

Call to ACTION

We invite funders, partners and stakeholders to stand with us as we continue this journey. Together we can expand our reach, strengthen families, and ensure that every child in Hackney and beyond has the opportunity to thrive.

Join us in shaping this new chapter. With your support, we can:

- Equip more children with dignity as they begin school.
- Instil hope into our communities and rebuild resilience and trust from within.
- Train and mobilise local leaders for long-term change.
- Expand the reach and sustainability of community action.

**Together, we are building echoes
of hope, empowerment and
equity across Hackney and beyond.**

Everyone deserves a place to feel Love

Hearts of Hackney began as a community prayer circle in partnership with Trinity Saints United, Haggerston, with the vision of supporting families and young people, strengthening community engagement & establishing new faith communities.

Shades on, the future is bright!



The year in review



Opening Statement

“Hearts of Hackney is evolving into something bigger, Echoes of the Heart”

So far this year, Hearts of Hackney has begun sowing seeds of hope, connection, and resilience across our community. Rooted in faith and committed to equity, we have gathered families, neighbours, and partners to pray, learn, and act together for the good of Hackney’s children and young people.

Through our pilot projects, we have built bridges between grassroots organisations, local authorities, faith groups and the residents, strengthening the bonds that hold our community together.

From weekly prayer circles to information and support evenings, Hearts of Hackney has created spaces where people feel seen, supported and empowered.

The highlights of this season include our school uniform appeal, which raised an incredible £2,115 in just 14 days, enabling 70 children to begin the school year with dignity and confidence.

This simple yet powerful act of solidarity demonstrates what can be achieved when the community comes together with a single purpose: equity.

As we look ahead, Hearts of Hackney is evolving into something bigger, ‘Echoes of the Heart’ – a new chapter in which we will continue to grow, partner and empower.

With your support, we will scale our impact, train and mobilise local leaders, and build a model of community power in action.

Aleka Gutzmore, Lay Pioneer and Founder



"I want our actions and prayers to lift some of the weight of life and remind people that there's a community standing beside them, cheering them on."

Aleka – Project Founder



65 Hearts joined our fund to provide school uniform essentials to local children.

4 | 400+

Promoting intergenerational activities – touching four generations across 400+ community members.

468

Children directly impacted in the summer activities.

Projects

Details

Outcome

Primary School Empowerment Packs

Empower primary school children & leavers.

"You're Future is Bright!"

- 72 Children were encouraged with gifts and a message of HOPE.
- The children received a goodie bag filled with sweets, biscuits, sunglasses, a motivational and prayer card.

Emancipation Day Picnic and Sports Day

Sports, Music Culture and Wellness in the park.

- 55 Attendees, four generations interacting – new community connections.
- Connected sports initiative.

Hearts of Hackney School Uniform Appeal

Purchase and Distribute basic school uniform essentials to children

- 65 Hearts collectively raised £2115 during a 14-day appeal
- Parents' feedback that the gift helped financially, and their child got excited about the new school year.
- Might Hands – 276 Children will receive winter gloves.

Prayer & community



We Pray every Thursday at 8:00 PM

"The part of the project that stood out the most was that the children in Hackney are being prayed for."

Our goal is not just to grow in faith individually but to connect as a 'village' of believers. We can strengthen our faith and support each other on our spiritual journeys. As the age-old saying goes,

'It takes a village to raise a child.'

When we take responsibility to serve and protect one another and become keepers of our brothers and sisters, We unite in love and create an atmosphere conducive to progress, ultimately returning to the love that God prescribes in His Word.

Together we can inspire change and instil a sense of belonging.

As believers and people of Faith, we have two powerful weapons: the word of God and prayer. We often forget the power of prayer, yet we also know that when we join together, God hears and answers our prayers.



let us PRAY

As we share, I pray that the seeds we scatter will flourish and bear fruits much like the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. 'Those being love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control.'

Galatians 5:22-23

Support in Action



How can we piece together the puzzle to create a beautiful picture of hope?

Our community is home to individuals who make significant contributions and provide valuable services and solutions to everyday challenges.

To enhance awareness, our sessions aim at showcasing their community efforts & provide space for constructive reasoning, Q & A and deep listening. While building trust, resilience and hope.



Guest Speaker: Cortney Brown – Father2Father



Our Young People & Police Contact

Your Concerns

The incidents involving Child Q and Child X took place in Hackney.

Despite the seriousness of these situations, there is concern about repeated injustice, as children in Hackney are four times more likely to have interactions with the police.

Our Response

We facilitated the sharing of valuable information with young people, parents, guardians, and the broader community to help build confidence in potential interactions with the police. We offered pastoral and practical support through sessions that cover your rights, police procedures, and best practices.

Additionally, we highlight intervention schemes and provide relevant contact information. We also produced a free download with an overview of agencies available for young people, parents and family support.



You can **DOWNLOAD**
& share with families
& young people



SCAN ME!

*"The prayer circle gave me
hope for my children's
future." – Local parent.*

Speakers & Supporting Organisations from left to right:

Francesca Fadda-Archibald – Young Hackney | Catriona McGregor – Bhatt Murphy Solicitor
Deji Adeosun – Group Account Hackney | Steven Oram – Appropriate Adult Services
Vanessa Green – Restore2Rise



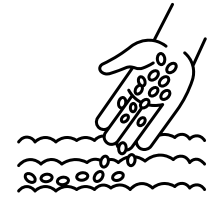
Community Feedback

The Hearts of Hackney project provides a vital space for young people to voice the issues that matter most to them, often overlooked concerns. Through thoughtful facilitation, the project creates a platform where both young and older generations can share their perspectives and engage in meaningful conversations.

Under strong leadership, the project fosters a respectful environment where all voices are heard, ensuring that even opposing views are considered. This approach creates a deeper understanding of community challenges, empowering participants to collaborate on real solutions. In an inner-city context, the Hearts of Hackney project stands as a powerful example of how open dialogue, leadership, and respect can inspire positive change and bring people together.

– Ian Ruthborn, Independent Public Relations & Communications Professional

Encouragement sowing seeds



A Future Full of Promise

This year, we joyfully celebrated 32 Year 6 students from Holy Trinity CE Primary School at their leavers' assembly. They all received a stylish gift bag with sweets, biscuits, colourful sunglasses and a heartfelt prayer and message, symbolising their bright futures.

Their incredible resilience and kindness have truly inspired us all! This summer, we reached out to a total of 70 local children, providing them with gift packs that embodied hope and encouragement, making them feel appreciated and capable.

As the Year 6 students embark on their next adventures, they carry with them valuable lessons of community and hope, with endless potential ahead!



Earlier this year, we invited Steven Oram to join a prayer circle to discuss his community project. **Proud and Gifted** is an initiative that celebrates and uplifts the achievements of young people in the community. Steven is both a father and a grandfather, and his work, both professional and voluntary, focuses on 'celebrating young people's achievements'.

He highlights their success in the media and online, while also recognising small but impactful acts. To date, he has celebrated the achievements of over 800 young people.

"If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." – Romans 12:8



Cultural Connections

Emancipation Day Picnic and Sports Day.

As part of our commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering unity, we hosted a vibrant community event. This celebration drew inspiration from Emancipation Day, which is widely observed across the former British West Indies on 1st August, commemorating the historic moment in 1834 when the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect. In many regions, the day marks the beginning of cultural festivities.

Emancipation Day remains a powerful symbol of freedom, resilience, and reflection for communities across the Caribbean and the diaspora, and now, for Hackney, it is a joyful day marked by community spirit, cultural pride, and meaningful engagement.

The event included a family picnic and sports day, featuring all the traditional sports day favourites, including egg and spoon races, three-legged races, and the sack race, encouraging laughter, bonding, and participation from all ages.

We created moments of togetherness and fun, sharing food and reinforcing the values of unity and shared experience, all while being enveloped in uplifting rhythms and sounds that reflected the rich cultural heritage being honoured, adding to the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

This celebration created a valuable space for education, joy, and unity — honouring the legacy of Emancipation Day while building new connections within our local community.



“I've never experienced this level of hospitality and activities for the children for free” – Local parent.

Acknowledgements

Key community partners contributed to the success of the day:

- **Conscious Sisters**, in collaboration with Anouska Raymond's outstanding community outreach, provided powerful and informative Black history resources and activities, deepening the cultural significance of the occasion.
- **MB Community** provided a skilled sports coach who led engaging ball skills training sessions for a mixed group of 12 children aged 5–11, helping to build confidence, coordination, and teamwork.
- **Keva Therapy** offered holistic health information alongside relaxing chair massages, encouraging wellbeing and self-care among attendees.
- The **School PTA** brought a creative flair, with Pat Adal delivering beautiful tribal inspired face painting that captured the joy and vibrancy of the day.



Uniform Helping Hand

Listening leads to Action

In response to the rising cost of living and Hackney's position as the borough with the second-highest child poverty rate in London (45%), the Hearts of Hackney project launched a grassroots initiative to support families with essential school uniform items.

It began with **one simple act**, buying a uniform for a single child, driven by lived experience and the belief that no family should feel alone in times of need.

I'm a mother of four children at different stages of education. The support helped reduce the stress of getting all the kids' stuff. I'm extremely grateful.

Small actions taken from the heart can have a significant impact, especially when they are received unexpectedly.

The project was led by two pioneering women: Anouska Raymond, the Head of the School PTA and Founder of Conscious Sistars, and Aleka Gutzmore, a community organiser and family, youth & children ministry lead.

With the help of volunteers, they identified families in need, raised funds, and managed the purchase, packing, and distribution of uniform packs.

In just two weeks, the initiative raised an impressive £2,115, thanks to the



generosity of 65 donors from across the UK, who contributed amounts ranging from £5 to £500.

As a result, **70 children aged 5–16, from both primary and secondary schools across Hackney, received uniform essentials**, including trousers, shirts, polos, tights, and socks, along with a personal letter and prayer.

These small but powerful additions reminded each child that they are seen, loved, and supported by their wider community.

This initiative embodies the heart of Hearts of Hackney: combining compassion, faith, and practical action to support families navigating systems that were not built for them.

Weekly prayers for Hackney's children are a core part of the project, but this work recognises that prayer without action is incomplete.

Through local leadership, community generosity, and a shared belief in collective care, the Hearts of Hackney uniform fund provided not only clothing but dignity, encouragement, and hope for the school year ahead.

Mighty Hands

"With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever."

– Psalm 136:12

For **Black History Month**, we continued the idea from the uniform appeal: **276 school children** will receive a **gift of winter gloves**.

The campaign will celebrate and focus our thinking on the people who came to the U.K. from the Caribbean and other countries. Those who worked hard brought culture, kindness, food, music, and helped build the community we all enjoy today.



HEARTS OF HACKNEY SCHOOL UNIFORM APPEAL

BIG IMPACT

How did this support contribute to the well-being of our community?

"I feel seen and supported by the community: this service helped reduce my anxiety and allow my children and I have a pleasant time preparing for school. It allowed me to purchase other essential items without feeling the pressure and stress."

I truly appreciate your assistance; it has been incredibly helpful during this financially challenging time. Thank you so much for your support.

"I'm a mother of four children at different stages of education. The support helped reduce the stress of getting all the kids stuff. I'm extremely grateful."

Thank you, Team

"The part of the project that stood out the most was that the children in Hackney are being prayed for."

Very Helpful!!

I truly appreciate the personal message of encouragement. Knowing that people from all over the UK have come together to support one another has really touched my heart and made me feel a genuine sense of belonging.

"The encouragement boosted my child's confidence and I feel seen as a single mother"

"My child was excited to start school"

Future Plans



Echoes of the Heart will build on the foundations laid by Hearts of Hackney and scale its impact across North East London and beyond. At the core of our approach is community organising – a proven method for empowering communities to lead their own change.

We will continue to apply the principles of community organising:

- **Listening first** – engaging with local residents and stakeholders to identify real needs.
- **Building relationships** – fostering unity across diverse groups and organisations.
- **Developing leadership** – equipping people with the skills and confidence to act.
- **Shared action** – mobilising communities for campaigns, events, and systemic change.
- **Sustainability** – embedding long-term strategies that leave communities stronger.

Growth

The project will:

- **Deliver** professional services and training to grassroots and faith-based organisations.
- **Provide** community organising, project management and leadership development.
- **Train** local volunteers in marketing, digital tools and social outreach.
- **Partner** with local groups to deliver sustainable impact across different “Echoes” (e.g. Hearts of Hackney, Hearts of [other regions])
- **Host** Activities in the community that increase resilience, knowledge and belonging through workshops, gatherings, support groups, and well-being sessions for vulnerable and underrepresented groups.

Developmental Plans

- **Regional Expansion:** Launching “Hearts of...” projects in neighbouring areas under the Echoes of the Heart model.
- **Volunteer Development:** Training local people in marketing, social media, and leadership tools to extend reach and influence.
- **Uniform Appeal Expansion:** Scaling up to support 300 children in 2026.

Why This Matters

By embedding community organising principles into every project, ‘Echoes of the Heart’ ensures that communities are not passive recipients of aid but active drivers of change. Our model delivers measurable impact for funders, empowers grassroots leaders, and creates long-term equity and inclusion across Hackney.

MINI Budget & ²⁰²⁵ Fundraising

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash £31.25

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable £0.00

REVENUES

Donations

Uniform Appeal £2115.00

Trinity Saints £625.00

PILOT ACTIVITY COSTS 2025

Venue and event costs: £ 387.00

Volunteer expenses: £ 120.00

Communication/printing: £ 150.00

Uniform Purchases: £ 1717.27

Mighty Hands £ 334.48



Funding Aspirations

In 2026/27, we aim to expand our reach, form partnerships, and serve underrepresented and underserved communities. Our brand will reflect the established values and mission, allowing us to resonate as Echoes of the Heart.

We will build on the foundational work done by Hearts of Hackney, scaling our impact throughout North East London and beyond. Central to our approach is community organising—a proven method for empowering communities to lead their own change.

£35 500+

Required from Donations, Partnerships, Revenue Generation and local incentive grants

We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous support



Thank you

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the development of this project.

Thank you to those who have prayed for us, offered encouragement, and shared concerns and initiatives.

Without you, the community, the heart of this project, we would not have achieved so much goodness.



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