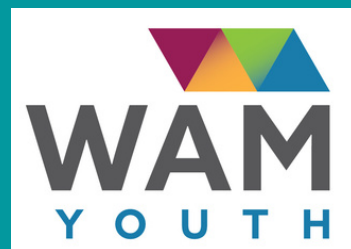


WAM YOUTH



Helping young people build resilience for life

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

CHARITY NO. 1170638



CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Another year has seen WAM working in the community of Winchcombe and the surrounding area. Bringing confidence and hope to the young people that have been touched by WAM, through its work whether it be Mentoring, Youth Groups, Schools work and Woodland.

We are ever grateful to our committed staff for their dedicated implementation of various projects they are involved in, and for the increasing number of volunteers that so freely give of their time to help.

As a charity we would not survive if it were not for those that give so generously on a regular basis so a BIG thank you, and to those organisations that respond to our grant applications.

We are continually grateful to God for His continued blessing on WAM and all it does.

Colin Impey
On Behalf of the Trustees



CONTENTS:

Page 2. *Chairperson's Statement*

Page 3. *Director's Note*

Pages 4. *Premises Update*

Page 5-7. *Impact Stories*

Pages 8-9. *Finance Overview*

Page 10. *Acknowledgements*

A NOTE FROM GEMMA...

Ten years ago in November 2012 I attended a youth work conference with another youth group volunteer Kerry Coombs and the vision for WAM was born.

The vision was inspired by a poetic text in the ancient book of Revelation that describes the transforming power of both hope and light in renewal and restoration of us all to wholeness. There is so much that is metaphorically dark in our world and we can all struggle to see the glimmers of hope and light as we muddle our way through this journey called life.

For us, Jesus was a perfect example of someone who brought hope and light into people's lives, largely through the grace that overflowed from him to those he encountered.

That has been our aim at WAM for the last 10 years, simply to come alongside young people and be channels of grace. In the hope that it helps them to see the light in their worlds. With a lot of help from a lot of others along the way I think we've made a fair crack at that & you can see in some of the stories in this report why I feel justified in saying so!

As I prepare to leave WAM in the safe hands of the Trustees and the new CEO, there is much that feels unfinished and in many ways it's hard not to focus on all that I & WAM haven't been able to do.

But I am grateful for the privilege it's been to birth this charity and to nurture it into adolescence. Grateful for those who have caught the vision and thrown themselves wholeheartedly into it, whether for a short time or for the whole of the last decade! But most of all grateful for the grace I have been shown by those who have endured my learning on the job, my family, young people, parents, staff, trustees and volunteers included. Often I think I have learned more through your demonstration of grace than I could ever hope to be able to teach anyone else.

I will miss the WAM Team more than I suspect I realise but change is part of growth. I know WAM is in good hands and will continue to thrive in the coming years under new leadership and I will enjoy seeing WAM's ongoing development from a different perspective from now on!

Gemma Madle

GEMMA MADLE

Director of WAM Youth



Premises Update

Although it may not have seemed like it, since our move from Encounter Church during 2021/22 we have been working hard to try and secure long-term premises for youth work in Winchcombe. In summer 2022 it looked as though our persistence and hard work was paying off as we were close to agreeing a lease with Gloucestershire County Council for the Old Boys School. However, due to recent changes in legislation around lease arrangements, in September we discovered that the building's energy efficiency rating is currently not at a sufficient level for the building to be let. But tenacious is our middle name and we firmly believe all is not lost! We're waiting on the outcome of a report on what work is required to bring the building up to standard and will proceed from there.

We're very grateful to Winchcombe Scouts, Guides and St Peter's Church for all providing regular and ad hoc spaces in the interim but dedicated premises is key for the sustainability of our services and to provide consistency and ownership for young people. As one young person put it so articulately:

"Local youth services will be more important as they can help the children with their mental health and future aspirations. Furthermore, local youth services provide a sense of community and with what is going on right now in the world that sense of togetherness is crucial"

If you want to stay informed or help with our efforts to secure premises please get in touch with us via our website www.wamyouth.org.uk or email info@wamyouth.org.uk.



THE NUMBERS FOR



21

young people attended our youth groups each week (on average)

21

volunteers invested their time in mentoring a young person

45

young people benefited from meeting with a mentor

74

young people attended our youth groups during the year

150

young people enjoyed group sessions in our woodland

1000+

hours of mentoring

£215,000

raised through grants, contracts and donations*

Between

£688,000 &

£1,354,500

delivered in benefits to the UK taxpayer**

REFERENCES

*WAM's Annual Accounts 2022

**The economic value of Youth Work; A UK Youth Report 2022 (<https://www.ukyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Economic-Value-of-Youth-Work-Final-260822-STC-clean75-1.pdf>)



Our Impact

All of what we do at WAM works towards 4 key outcomes:

- Young people feel more valued
- Young people have better positive relationships
- Young people are more resilient
- Young people believe they have a contribution to make to society

For example K is a young person that feels more valued because of the time her mentor has invested in her. K shared with her mentor that she has been working out her sexuality and gender identity. Her mentor has supported her through this, affirming her value throughout. When issues have arisen at school with teachers or peers, her mentor has helped her to work through her feelings and find strategies to feel safe.

Another young person T was not attending school due to experiences of bullying and difficult relationships with peers. Her mentor has helped her to relearn how to build positive relationships with others and helped her transition back into school. WAM worked with T's social worker, mum and school to gradually build her attendance back up and she is now attending regularly and has positive friendships at school.

R joined us in Spring 2022, a very nervous and shy individual who showed a clear passion for wildlife and their habitats. When working with us in the woodland he designed and created many animal homes including a bird box (which is now home to a family), a mouse house (now home to a family of dormice) and a few reptile hideouts hidden throughout the forest. R's time working in the woodlands has built his resilience and confidence to a level that has more recently enabled him to undertake a volunteering placement at a local reptile centre, helping him to see he can contribute to wider society.

F is a young carer and time spent with his mentor gives him an outlet to talk about how he is coping, family life and issues at school helping to build his resilience. G is a young person who we have been supporting through mentoring for 8 months.

Prior to meeting their mentor, due to social anxiety, G rarely left the house. Their mentor has been able to help G build their confidence and resilience and they are now going out at least twice a week, sometimes more.

P was struggling to manage his behaviour at school but mentoring has helped him to learn how to manage his reactions in the heat of the moment and recognise that others have valid opinions/views, all of which is helping him to have better positive relationships.



Our Impact

D is a young person who has been attending our Outdoors project for 3 years. When he arrived at WAM he was considered unsafe to be in school and close to permanent exclusion. He came to us with low expectations for the future and unrealistic career goals, a troubled individual who had been involved with police in the past. WAM staff worked with D for 2 days a week, teaching him outdoor living skills and encouraging his creativity in building shelters, gardening and cooking. His passion for cooking shone through his sessions, cooking on a Thursday for the entire team with confidence and imagination, trying new recipes and understanding that it was natural to make mistakes, building his own confidence in decision making. This consistency and relaxed approach to learning built D's confidence in himself and in his ability to be part of wider society. In 2021 D secured a volunteering placement at a local nursery where he helped with potting and replanting. In Summer 2022 D left WAM with a food hygiene qualification, several AQA courses, his main GCSE's (something that he didn't believe was achievable when he arrived) and moved on to a training placement at a local college.

A lives between her parents houses and has faced many challenges in recent years. Working with her mentor has built her confidence and self-belief in the contribution she has to bring to society. She recently volunteered to help at one of our family activity days and worked really hard to make the families feel welcome and enjoy all that was on offer.

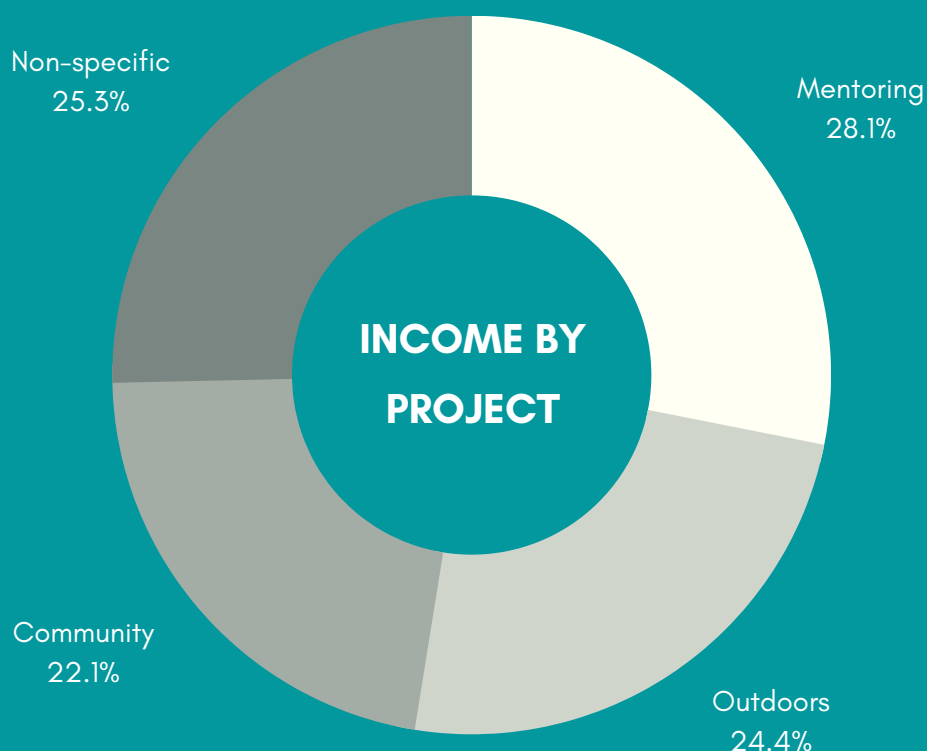
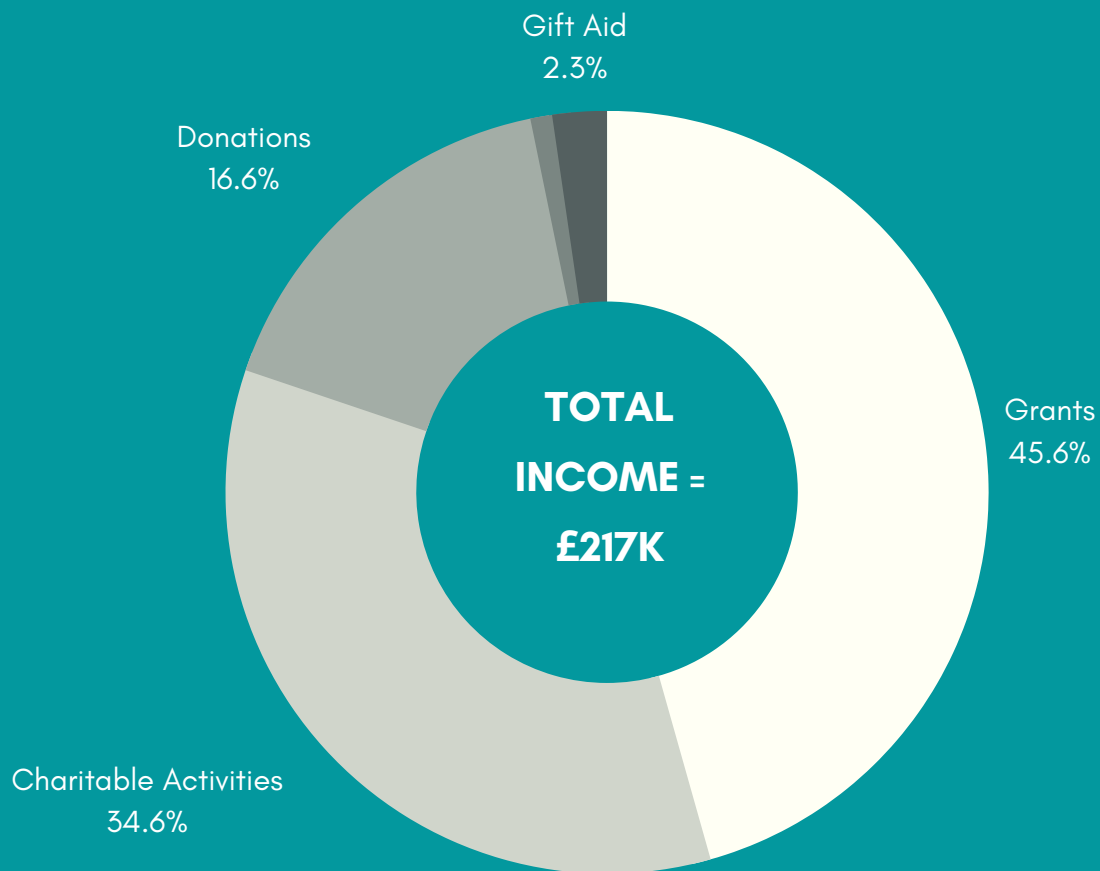
The girls who participated in the EmpowHER course built their confidence to enable them to present to their Year Group a case for Period Time Out Cards and provision of Emergency Sanitary Products. They then took this to their School's Senior Leadership Team on behalf of all the girls in their year group, an experience that helped them to understand they have a contribution to make to their community, that they have a voice and can influence outcomes

W arrived at WAM woodlands after being excluded from a number of schools for disruptive behavior. At first his engagement was minimal and he was very wary of communicating with his key worker. Allowing W to explore different topics of conversation, his key worker slowly started to build trust and W opened up, engaging more with his sessions. Allowing him a space where he felt valued and listened allowed us to explore his behavioural choices and think about consequences to actions, positive relationships and plan for the future. W finished with WAM woodlands in October where he is now settled into a new school environment where he is building better positive relationships.

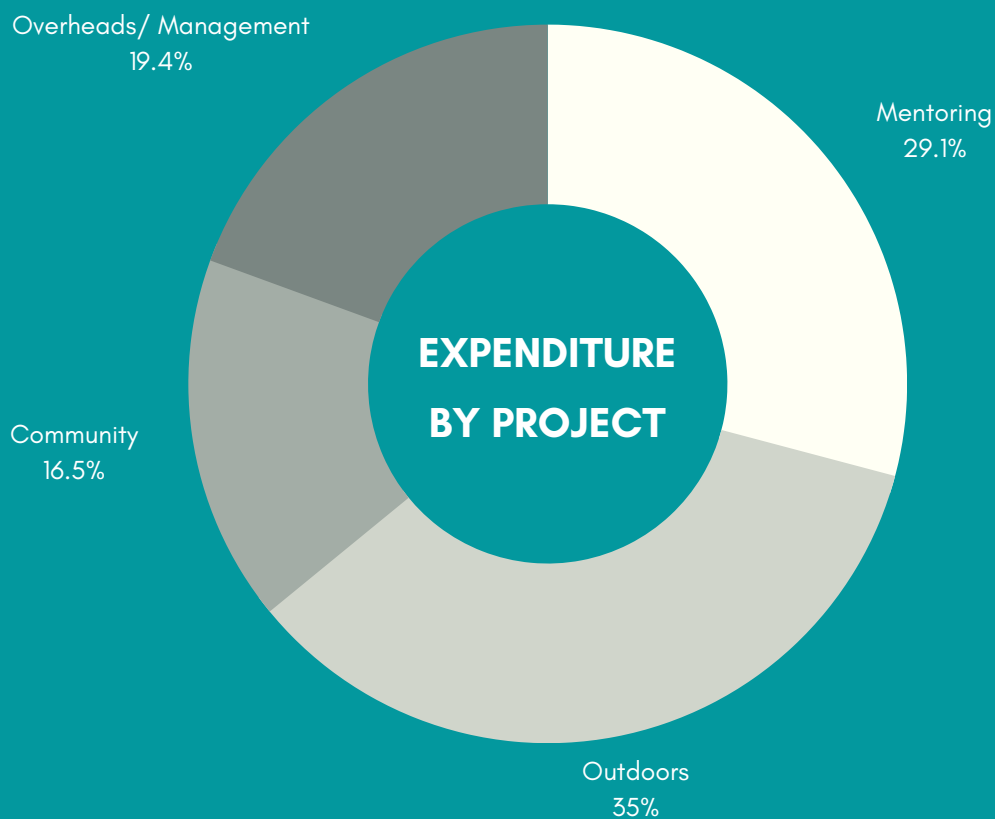
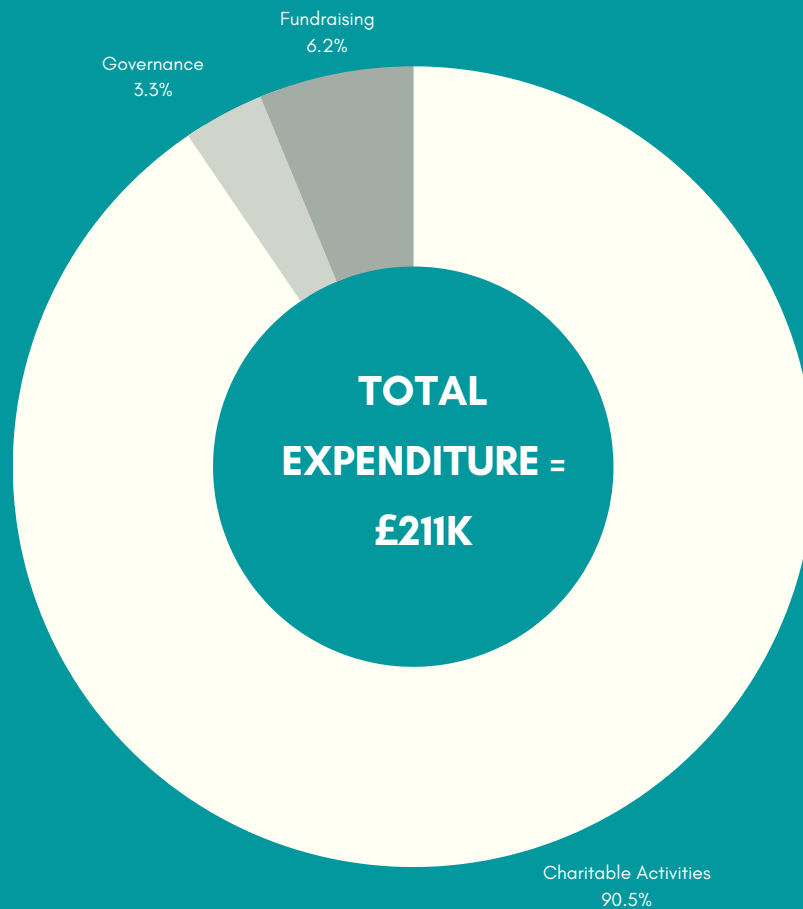
R is a young person who has a parent in prison and was at risk of disengaging with school and engaging in risky/anti-social behaviours in the community. Their mentor has helped them to learn to manage their anger, identifying "triggers" and strategies to help them in those moments. In their mentoring they have also been able to explore empathy and develop emotional intelligence, something that has helped make their relationships with others, including teachers, more positive! Another area their mentor has helped them to work on is being kind to others, finding ways to support younger students at school, to include those who aren't as skilled in sports so they aren't left out and even to say something positive to a teacher! This has helped R to see that they can have contribution to make to society and that the seemingly small things do make a change to the world around us.

ANNUAL INCOME

A full set of accounts is filed with the Charity Commission each year. This is an overview based on draft figures for Sep 21-Aug 22



ANNUAL EXPENDITURE



WITH THANKS

Thanks to the following organisations who have supported us this year both financially and practically!

Bromford Housing, CHK Foundation, Churches Together in Winchcombe, National Lottery, Encounter Trust, Gloucestershire Community Foundation, Gloucestershire County Council, Gilbert Lane Trust, HONC Committee, The Fore Trust, Mini VIPs, Winchcombe Country Show, Winchcombe Together, Mercia Probus, Winchcombe Ladies Probus, McInnes Communications, St Peter's Church, Tewkesbury Borough Council, UK Youth, Friends of Winchcombe Abbey, Residents of Greet, Winchcombe Cycling Club, Winchcombe Rotary, Winchcombe Scouts & Guides, Winchcombe Town Council, Winchcombe's Townswomen's Guild, Winchcombe Youth Partnership, our County Cllr David Gray and the many individuals whose donations have made our work possible.

Contact & Enquiries:

WAM Youth
Studio 1
Hailes Workshops
Hailes
Winchcombe
Gloucestershire
GL54 5PB

T:01242 603678

E: info@wamyouth.org.uk

