



FAMILY SUPPORT RECYCLED



ANNUAL REVIEW YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES (1161613)



@STRIPEYSTORK INFO@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK WWW.STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

OUR ORGANISATION



Stripey Stork believe that **every child deserves the same start** and that by sharing the items our families have outgrown we can support a circular economy in a focused and meaningful way.

Our vision is that **every child in Surrey and Croydon** has access to the essential things they need to develop and meet their potential.

Our mission is to **alleviate the impacts of childhood poverty** by providing a practical way for families to help each other with kindness and purpose.

STRIPEY STORK

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CONNECT WITH US:

   @STRIPEYSTORK
 /COMPANY/STRIPEYSTORK

Registered charity in England and Wales (1161613).




OUR VALUES

We are sensitive to the situations of families and children we help, **without judgement.**

We continue to **share our gratitude** and impact with our staff, volunteers and partners as we grow.

We are **active participants in the wider community**, developing partnerships, and staying open-minded.

We remain true to our guiding principles; bringing our **passion, commitment and quality** to everything we do. 

“You’ll never know how important it is to be able to say to someone in desperate need that we can help and this will get sorted. It breaks down barriers, builds trust and keeps the communication going.”



WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



Stripy Stork believe that every child deserves the same start and that by sharing the items our families have outgrown we can support a circular economy in a focused and meaningful way. We have been successfully supporting local families with practical items they need to raise their children since 2013.

The charity collects **donations of equipment, clothes, toys** and other items for babies and children **up to the age of 18 years** and distributes them to families experiencing hardship across Surrey, Croydon and the surrounding areas. Our service has grown over the ten years we have been in operation, and we have received support from individuals, businesses, funding sources and other community groups.



At Stripy Stork, we believe that the **best way to support families is by working in partnership with local professionals** (health visitors, social workers, schools, family centres etc.) who will make referrals to us on behalf of the families they are supporting.

We aim to meet each request with the items so generously donated by local families. We keep the warehouse well-stocked by sharing a monthly wish list on our social media channels and use funds that are raised to buy items taking advantage of trade and bulk discounts wherever possible. Items are collected by these referral partners from our sites in Reigate and Redhill, or are delivered to their place of work, so that they are ready then to be passed on to families as part of their scheduled visits.

Stripy Stork prides itself on passing on items in great condition. All items are cleaned and, where necessary, safety checked.

We deliver a strong social return on investment with the work that we do. We take care in the presentation of our packs, Stripy Stork want families to feel like they are receiving a gift and not a hand-out.

WELCOME FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE & THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



As I reflect on the past year at Stripey Stork, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support we have received from our community and partners. A notable highlight has been the transformational three-year grant awarded to us by the National Lottery Community Fund, aptly named 'Spreading Our Wings.' This crucial funding allows us to expand our reach and amplify our impact during a time when it is needed most.

The families we support are facing significant hardships, living in poverty and dealing with numerous challenges. These include domestic abuse, mental and physical health issues, insecure or overcrowded housing, rising debt, and the struggles of asylum seekers with no access to public funds. Our support reaches working families, single parents, teenagers leaving the care system, and young parents without family support. Whether expecting their first baby or raising several school-age children, these families share a common need for reliable help during their most vulnerable moments. Behind every referral is a family we deeply care about.

In 2022, the term 'cost-of-living crisis' became a stark reality for many, as the annual rate of inflation soared to 11.1% in October, the highest in 41 years. Families found their incomes stretched thin, unable to cover the rising costs of housing, energy, food, and other essentials. The Citizens Advice Bureau highlighted the prevalence of 'negative budgets,' where expenses exceed income, leaving households with no viable options to stay afloat. This situation has plunged many into debt, including those reliant on Universal Credit, which has not kept pace with inflation.

As we approach our 10th birthday, Stripey Stork have responded to these challenges with agility and determination. We have adapted our services to meet the evolving needs of our community, ensuring that we continue to provide vital support where it is most needed. Taking on a second site in Redhill allow us to scale up campaigns like Santa Stork whilst also developing a much more comprehensive School Days offering in response to the growing number of requests we receive.

We have also strengthened our governance by welcoming three new Trustees, and adding an Advisory Panel with professional and lived experience to ensure our processes support the families we help.

Together, we are making a difference. Thank you for supporting us and for your continued belief in what we do. Your support is crucial as we continue to repurpose valuable items ensuring that all children in Surrey have the same start in life.

With my deepest thanks,

Nicola Dawes DL,
Chief Executive - 12th June 2024



As we present this year's Annual Review, I want to give my thanks to the Stripey Stork team and volunteers. Your energy and commitment have been pivotal in, amongst other things, setting up our second site in Redhill, ensuring that we can reach even more families

in need. A three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund allows us to embark on an exciting new chapter, enabling us to 'Spreading Our Wings'

and expand our reach and impact. You will read more about that in this report.

Our commitment to reaching every family in Surrey who needs our service has never been stronger. We will continue to support our amazing referral partners across the county who work tirelessly all year round to make a difference in the lives of families.

Thank you for your support. Warm regards,

Karen Lord,
Chair of Trustees - 12th June 2024

CHILD POVERTY

POVERTY IN THE UK

The **increase in the cost of living rose sharply in 2021 and 2022**, caused by several international factors, predominantly Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the strong global demand for consumer goods following the pandemic². There is further evidence of deepening poverty in the **increasing number of people using food banks**, with more emergency food parcels being delivered by the Trussell Trust network than ever before.

The Centre for Early Childhood report that **nearly a third of five-year-olds are not reaching a good level of development**, according to their teachers, and the gap between more disadvantaged children and their peers at age five has already opened up significantly. Analysis of results indicates that disadvantaged children are 4.6 months behind their peers by the end of the reception year.³

The impact of poverty on the early years is well documented, creating **adverse impacts on physical and mental health, family relationships and attachment, and educational attainment**. These impacts have life-long consequences.

At Stripey Stork, we support families in poverty through our network of referral partners. On an immediate practical level, **we meet basic clothing/hygiene needs and provide a safe place for babies and children to sleep**. But by providing items that are clean and safe, we contribute to **improved mental health, reduced isolation and improved self-esteem**. It reduces the number of complex financial decisions the family need to make and enables them to take improved longer-term decisions. Delivering these practical items also helps our referral partners to build a **relationship of trust** with the family.

Our service is also a **practical option for local families with items to donate** and saves many items from going to landfill.



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation¹ recently reported that more than...

1 IN 5 PEOPLE



in the UK were in poverty in 2021/22

= 22% OF POPULATION 14.4 MILLION PEOPLE



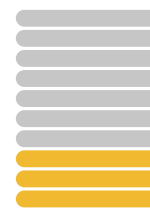
8.1 M



AROUND
2 in 10
WORKING
AGE ADULTS



4.2 M



NEARLY
3 in 10
CHILDREN



2.1 M



AROUND
1 in 6
PENSIONERS

1. UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK Joseph Rowntree Foundation (jrf.org.uk)
2. Rising cost of living in the UK-House of Commons Library (parliament.uk)
3. <https://centreforearlychildhood.org/report>



OUR IMPACT




From September 2022 to August 2023 Stripey Stork responded to requests for help to support 8,530 families (with 13,825 children). This represents a 16% drop from the previous year due to the unprecedented demand in 2021-22 to support refugee and asylum-seeking families. What did increase however was demand on our core offering for families rather than the stock referrals we provide to other baby banks and similar organisations. We had 19% more requests for local families than the year before.

In addition to supporting Surrey families, we have fulfilled requests from East and West Sussex, the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton and as far away as Dover and Sevenoaks in Kent. We have relationships with 1,225 referral partners from 419 organisations including health visitors, social workers, family support workers, midwives, and schools. We also work closely with local charities including I Choose Freedom, Sussex Aid for Refugees, Jigsaw Woking, Welcare, the Good Company, regional Citizen's Advice Bureau branches and local food banks.

It is a service that is needed and valued.

91 
stairgates


 394
buggies/prams

 161
baby gym/
play mats

1,839 
new school bags
filled with stationery

383 
cribs/cots/cot beds/
toddler beds/travel cots

 876
activity packs

3,442 
packs of
nappies/wipes

2,581 
toiletry packs

3,675 
clothing packs
(prepacked by age/gender)

WE RESPONDED TO...

8,530
FAMILIES IN NEED OF SUPPORT
= 13,825 CHILDREN

1,010 
toy bundles

2,168 
shoes and trainers

 5,821
school uniform
bundles

735 
new mattresses

 326
moses baskets

 540
bedding
bundles

80 
baby
carriers
/slings

152 
high chairs

272 
newborn baby packs
(average of 20 items per pack)

 397
book bags



THE NEED FOR OUR SERVICE



We collect data on location, age, and family demographics, and we ask our referral partners to tell us why they are referring families to us, so that we know who needs us most.

The families we support are all experiencing poverty, and many of them face hardship across a number of fronts. They may be affected by **domestic abuse, living with mental and physical health challenges, facing insecure or overcrowded housing, fighting rising levels of debt, or seeking asylum with no access to public funds.**

What is common to all of them is the need for somewhere to turn for help when they need it most. **Behind every referral is a family we care about.**

Mental health



Living in poverty can be both a cause and effect of poor mental health, and we have seen a significant increase in this as a reason for referral in 2022-23.

Adults in the lowest income households are more than twice as likely to experience poor mental health, and children four times as likely. **In 2021-22, mental health was cited as a reason in 10% of referrals. This year, that rose to 20%.**

Poor mental health can lead to adults being out of work, children being out of school, and families facing increasing isolation and vulnerability. Our practical support can relieve stress, provide self-care items, and create a little hope, that someone cares.

The cost-of-living

The sheer challenge of financial hardship, even when no other factors are present, is a real issue for many families in Surrey.

14%

RISE IN FAMILIES IN DEBT

UP FROM 6%

25%

FAMILIES ON UNIVERSAL CREDIT

UP FROM 12%

25%

WITH 1 OR MORE PARENT/CARER WORKING

UP FROM 16%

For families facing such hardship, being able to access our service can be a lifeline, providing essentials that would otherwise have meant going further into debt, or that the family would just have had to go without.

Domestic abuse

Families affected by domestic abuse can be **unexpectedly forced into poverty** when having to uproot their lives to be safe, and we know that for **8% of families** referred to us in 2022-23, this was a significant factor in their hardship.

Families escaping abuse often have few belongings and have had to leave the security of jobs, schools and support networks. This brings great vulnerability, as well as the new reality of becoming a single parent family.



Refugee support



Although 2022-23 did not require the same very high level of refugee support as the previous year (16% versus 31% last year), we continued to provide support through our key partners. The year began with the arrival of many Ukrainian families, placed with families across Surrey as part of the **Homes for Ukraine** scheme. Many families faced long journeys to safety and were able to bring very little with them. We supported them with all the baby and children items they needed, and once the children were allocated school places we provided school bags, uniforms and school shoes.

We continued to provide for refugee families in hotel accommodation, many grappling with a lack of laundry facilities and outside space, managing isolation and boredom.

SPREADING OUR WINGS

we respond to requests for **OVER 200** families each week



Our service is needed and relied upon more than ever as we find ourselves **responding to requests for over 200 families each week**. With the long-term societal effects of the pandemic persisting and the cost-of-living crisis worsening, families who have never needed to ask for help before suddenly find themselves in very difficult circumstances. In 2022-23, a quarter of families helped had at least one parent or carer in work. We are finding that the reasons for referring are often multiple, as families' circumstances become increasingly difficult and complex.

There are pockets of deprivation in Surrey that are worsening, with new areas falling into this category. While our goal is to reach every family in Surrey that needs our help, we acknowledge the need to expand our services to achieve this. **We are grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for supporting this ambition and awarding us a three-year grant.**

Through this programme of change that we are referring to as **Spreading Our Wings**, we will expand our services **over the next three years** to help even more families. **Our goal is to double our operational capacity, extending the support we offer in Surrey and reaching areas not currently supported by a baby bank.**

A focused space for our campaigns

In July, we signed a lease to take on **additional space at Raven House in Redhill**. We run a series of seasonal campaigns to provide targeted support at times of additional pressure for families, and these need space to run at scale. Our solution was **6,200 sq ft** of the ground floor at Raven House, located two miles from the Reigate warehouse. The proposition included flexible terms, designated parking spaces and plenty of storage.



Stripy Stork on wheels

After a successful delivery pilot trial last year, involving regular deliveries of referrals to a small number of organisations, we were ready to take this to the next level. By using **our trusted 'man with a van'**, we are making on average of **five deliveries each week, supporting around 230 families per month**.

We are applying this working model with groups such as food banks, NHS Hospitals, family centres and other baby banks around Surrey and bordering areas. By collaborating with these charities and community groups already embedded in their communities with local networks, we are reaching families in new areas where support workers are unable to make regular, on-demand visits to our warehouse. Our partners are also collecting donated items, which we bring back to the warehouse to be sorted and prepared for another family.



SPREADING OUR WINGS will be achieved through:

- ◆ Growing the core team and volunteering pool.
- ◆ Making our warehouse work harder for us by increasing opening hours year-round (not just term-time).
 - ◆ Developing our offering for older children in partnership with our young volunteers.
 - ◆ Increasing support for smaller baby banks in Surrey and near its borders.
 - ◆ Expanding our delivery service in terms of frequency and distance covered.
 - ◆ Running seasonal campaigns and special projects from a second site.
- ◆ Building relationships with partner organisations (food banks, community centres) to act as local hubs for distributing items via referrals, whilst also collecting donated items brought back to our warehouse.

THE COST OF LIVING - ONE MUM'S STRUGGLES



We were introduced to a Mum who had first heard about Stripey Stork at a cost-of-living event run by a local family centre. She was given two of our age-specific activity packs filled with a selection of games, stationery, crafts, self-care items and activities to keep young minds busy.

She is a single parent to a primary-age son and a teenage daughter. Her daughter, who lives with ASD and anxiety, was learning at home at the time while she was waiting for a suitable school place to come up. Being at home all day meant they were having to deal with even higher heating and food bills.

“The gas and electric keep going off, and everything costs more. It’s so hard to find enough money for what the kids need.”

Mum was supporting her daughter with creative ways of managing worry that they’d learned along the way. To avoid overload, her home-learning schedule involved a lot of drawing, colouring, mindfulness and self-regulation. Despite their efforts, being away from friends and peers can be very isolating, so the young girl was delighted to find the activity pack we provided was full of many of the exact things she loves to do, which made her feel understood:

“It was like it was made for me!”

Mum told us how it was clear that the packs were made with love: **“Their eyes lit up. They had never received something where it was so clear that someone had really thought about what THEY needed. Like a random act of kindness that day. It made me feel like... Yes, this is going to really help us.”**

This practical help gave Mum the confidence to seek a further referral for other items, and also tell her friends in similar circumstances about our service.

ONE MUM'S UNTHINKABLE CHOICE

Beth is an Engagement Support Officer at First Community Health and Care and has been seeing firsthand the desperate situation more families are finding themselves in. She referred a Mum for help whose family were living relatively comfortably up until last year; her husband was working and they could afford the essentials with a little leftover.

Things tragically took a turn for the worse. Her husband had been battling with poor mental health and sadly took his own life. Overnight Mandy was a grieving widow with two young children. It became impossible to keep up the payments on their private rental and the family became homeless. The council stepped in to provide emergency accommodation which consisted of a budget hotel for the first four months. After that they were moved between hotels in two different counties; a consequence of the councils disagreeing who should take responsibility for housing them.

At first, they had a little money to fall back on but most of that was spent on buying ‘food to go’. Having no cooking facilities in the hotel room meant she couldn’t cook a nutritious and warm meal, so they had no choice but to rely on expensive, convenient food. Although they were referred to foodbanks, cooking facilities are often needed for the items they provide. On top of everything else, Mum was understandably worried about the health of her growing children.

One day she called Beth in tears because she had no money left to buy nappies. Her Universal Credit wasn’t due for a few days, and she’d already borrowed from friends. She was in an impossible situation, having to make an unthinkable choice, nappies or food for her children, and really had nowhere else to turn. Beth quickly got in her car and headed to our warehouse to pick up some emergency packs of nappies amongst some other essentials.

Beth told us: “It was a real low point for Mum, so to find out there are organisations like Stripey Stork that will prop her up gave her hope. Families are living in desperation and with such uncertainty, and the need in our community is only getting worse.”

This is the harsh reality that many families are finding themselves in. Being evicted because their rent and bills become unaffordable during these financially difficult times. Living with constant uncertainty and having to make such unthinkable choices.

“Sometimes we find ourselves sitting in the car at 6pm, hungry and cold, waiting to hear where we’re being moved to. There’s no stability or routine for the children. At a time when they should be winding down for bed, we’re waiting on news of where that bed will be.” Mum



SCHOOL DAYS APPEAL - SCALING-UP



Stripy Stork have always stocked school uniform, and for many years we have been running our **Bags4School campaign** supported by the local Esure office. Since the cost-of-living crisis began, more families are being referred to us because they are struggling to afford the practical items needed for their school-aged children. This year it was clear we needed to **scale-up our school readiness project**, so plans were made for a more complete school offering that would operate at the scale required. We named this project 'School Days' in recognition of the costs of attending school being greater than just uniform, and our belief that **no child's access to education should be limited by their financial circumstances.**

In May, we put a call-out to our supporters and partnering schools, seeking **donations of non-branded school uniform and PE kits, school shoes and trainers**, as well as brand new stationery. The community responded to our call for help. Partnering schools organised **donation drives** - Reigate Grammar School, Reigate St Mary's School, Merstham Primary School and Nursery, Lime Tree Primary School, St John's Redhill, Furzefield Community Primary School, Carrington School, and Chinthurst School Tadworth - and before long we had a haul of wonderful donations ready for new homes.

Our site at **Raven House** had been secured so we could start running the project from there, and our volunteers set to work. Over the summer we transformed the space into a school uniform shop for referral partners.



Our referral partners have shared with us how anxious the families feel when they can't provide all the school essentials for their children:

"The relief from the worry of providing school uniform is tangible. Families always put this expense before anything else so the money this saves them is amazing."

"The fidget toys you supplied to reward children with low attendance who are making an effort to improve, have had a positive impact on overall school attendance. We are now above the national average which will have a life-long impact on these children and their future success."



"Stripy Stork provided a lovely warm coat, which in turn made it possible for the child to attend school. You also provided a school bag and stationery including a scientific calculator, which helped with their anxiety as they felt prepared."





SCHOOL DAYS APPEAL - SCALING-UP



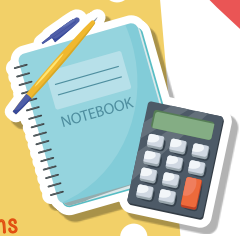
BAGS OF CONFIDENCE
Each of our school bags are lovingly filled with all the items each child needs for starting school.

We've given out...

- 1,823 PAIRS OF SCHOOL SHOES & TRAINERS
- 273 PE BAGS & LUNCHBOXES
- 1,839 NEW SCHOOL BAGS (filled with stationery)

...each school bag bundle typically contains:

- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ A4 drawing/ruled pad
- ✓ Pencils and pencil case
- ✓ Rubber and sharpener
- ✓ Colouring pens/pencils/crayons
- ✓ Colouring/puzzle book



During the period covered in this report, we've helped

2,589 FAMILIES
4,431 CHILDREN
with school support

5,821 ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM



We cover a range of ages, from preschool to teenagers. For the older children we include handwriting pens, highlighters, a maths set, ruler and scientific calculator. For the younger children we like to include a keyring or small beanie baby/teddy. As well as providing the practical items, School Days does so much more. It gives children the confidence to fit in with their peers and have something to call their own.

156 PRE-SCHOOL FILLED BAGS
537 INFANT SCHOOL FILLED BAGS

818 JUNIOR SCHOOL FILLED BAGS
328 SENIOR SCHOOL FILLED BAGS

"Without the support of Stripey Stork my child would have stood out when starting school, but thanks to you he blended right in and had a great first day."

One piece of the Jigsaw

In the summer months, once again we worked with **Jigsaw charity in Woking**, as they helped prepare families for the start of the academic year with essential school supplies. We came together as members of the **Surrey Baby Bank Forum**, and have been sharing resources and stock ever since.

Sal's Shoes - setting up shop

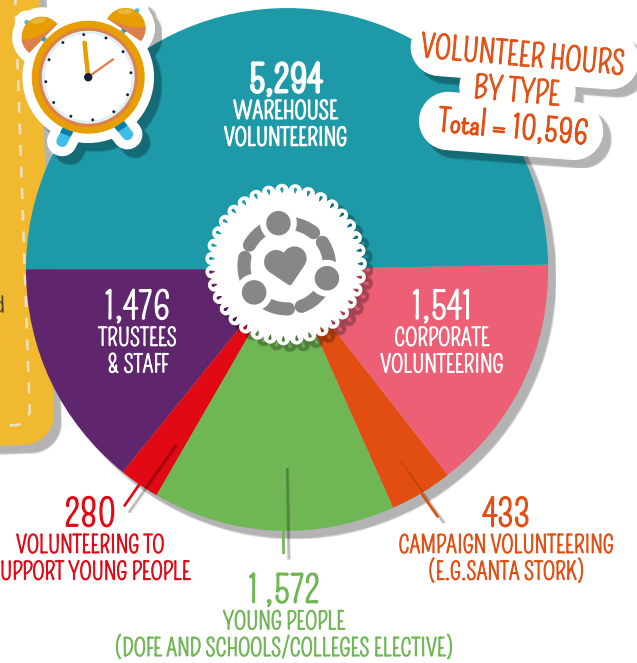
Shoes are a fundamental part of school uniform, with children often getting in trouble for not having the correct ones. They are arguably the **most expensive item** and for many families the cost of new shoes is beyond their budget. Children often have no option but to **wear old ones that are too small or falling apart**. Thanks to our long-term charity partner, Sal's Shoes, who opened their tenth shop within our space at Raven House, providing **all the brand-new school shoes and trainers we needed**. This went a long way to ensuring the children being supported by us all had well-fitted, suitable shoes to start school.



THE POWER OF TEAM STORK

We couldn't do what we do and achieve the same level of impact without our loyal and hardworking volunteers. From the moment they don their aprons, they are busy ensuring donations are checked and sorted, clothes packs are made up and equipment is cleaned. When we needed help getting our second site at Raven House up and operational for our School Days Appeal, they were there. They create a friendly and inclusive environment and are at the very heart of our team - **Team Stork!**

There is a **core team of 88 volunteers** who help regularly at our warehouse or home, and a **wider team of nearly 300** who help on an ad-hoc basis and act as ambassadors in the community. We only need to put a special request out and usually within minutes we'll have offers of help. Together, our volunteers have offered **10,596 hours** of their time in the reporting period and we are so grateful.



What has become more apparent overtime is the **ripple effect** of volunteering at Stripy Stork. As well as the incredible benefit to us and the communities we serve, there's also what volunteering does and means for the volunteers themselves...

"Volunteering at Stripy Stork has changed my career path. It made me realise I didn't want to go back to my pre-kids career so I now work for a cancer charity."

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

"It makes me emotional when I make up a clothing pack for a little girl who has nothing and picture her delight at the wonderful things she will receive."

Corporate volunteers

Lexis Nexis Risk Solutions, Esure, Total Energies, Sony, Surrey County Council, Toyota, Nestle, WTW and HCUK, have had numerous team volunteering days with us during this financial year. We are grateful to all the organisations who see the value in their teams donating their time and energy, and we love seeing what they get out of it too.

Between September 2022 and August 2023, we welcomed **403 volunteers on team away days** to the warehouse and helping with our campaigns. Between them they've **contributed 1,541 hours of corporate social responsibility (CSR) time**. It is always great to welcome them to Team Stork and they so often become ambassadors for what we do spreading the word with family and friends.



OUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS

We are always so grateful when people choose to fundraise for us. The fact that they've felt inspired enough to take action is admirable and deserves to be celebrated, especially when it comes from such a young age...



Ellie and Lizzy are two very special girls who used their entrepreneurial skills together with their kind hearts to make the '**Ellabel**' jewellery range for charity. They sold the handmade necklaces and keyrings from a stall they set up outside their home, raising an amazing **£371** each for Stripey Stork and The Trussell Trust.



10-year-old Olivia was doing her **Charities Interest Badge** for school and designed a poster to **organise collecting donations** for us.

She wrote a letter telling us how lucky her and her siblings felt for having nice things and how it made her sad that some children don't have such things. She collected lots of items for us to pass on, and even raised some money which she put towards new toiletries. With such kindness at a young age, we know she's going to go far.



10-year-old Emma used her artistic talents to make a unique range of **Christmas cards** using paints and stencils. It's easy to see where she gets her thoughtfulness from as her parents matched the amount she raised, meaning a generous donation was made on her behalf.



Young supporter **Chloe** proved she was worthy of her appointment as **Charity Ambassador** for her school when she organised a **book sale which raised £180**. She collected and sorted through book donations, put posters up around the school and held the sale in the playground. When she visited to see how her funds were being spent, she even set to work making up some premature baby packs. What a hands-on superstar!



Amelia was about to turn **3** and, in our opinion, asked for the best gift - a way to help others. Instead of buying presents, **friends and family were asked to donate school essentials** instead to support our **School Days campaign**.

The haul they collectively bought was amazing and the timing was perfect with it being near the start of the academic year. Kindness runs in the family, as Amelia's Mum volunteers at their local Hygiene Bank.



SUPPORT FROM LOCAL BUSINESS

Celtric Contractors continue to be amazing partners, helping with campaigns throughout the year including **Santa Stork**, doing **Run Reigate** for us, introducing us to new partners, and supporting us whenever the opportunity arises.



We were lucky enough to be supported by **Reigate independent store Miwk** on their special Star Wars Day.

Reigate Manor continue to be our go-to hotel venue and put on another great **Stripey4Stipey quiz and curry night** in June. Their sister hotel, **Hartsfield Manor**, also hosted a delicious **afternoon tea** for Stripey in October.



Cavendish Lodge Nursery in Reigate organised a **donation drive** and as a result collected lots of children's clothes from our wish list and a stockpile of nappies - something we always need.



Transpeed are a local removals firm who continue to support us by selling their customers' unwanted furniture and donating the money to us.

OTHER WAYS WE ARE SUPPORTED

The volunteers were given a boost when the children at **Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School in Hersham** wrote them thank you letters in time for Blue Monday in January, following a visit just before Christmas. It was a such a thoughtful pick-me-up and it made the warehouse full of love and appreciation.



We'd also like to **thank all the corporate volunteering groups** that have joined us over this financial period. Their enthusiasm, hard work and willingness to do more is really appreciated and makes such a difference.

OUR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

One of our goals this year was to provide more opportunities for young people to volunteer with us. We have collaborated with many schools before, and it's always encouraging to see how receptive these young audiences are. We had also started seeing an **increasing number of requests for older children (11-16 years)**, so were keen to stock **larger quantities and a fuller range of items for this age group**. We knew that by involving teenagers at the warehouse, we would **benefit from their insights into our offer for this age group**.



1,572 YOUNG VOLUNTEER HOURS



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH SCHEME

A great way to enhance our young person's volunteering offer was to give them the chance to volunteer with us as part of the **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme**.



These volunteering opportunities are much in demand, and the Duke of Edinburgh core values of being inclusive, rewarding and supportive closely align with our own.

We held two information sessions in September, resulting in 30 students signing up for after-school placements for Bronze, Silver or Gold. The scheme has proved a great success and since its launch, we've consistently managed a waiting list for new recruits.

Typical tasks include sorting clothes, making up activity packs, hygiene packs and school bags, as well as checking and cleaning equipment such as highchairs and travel cots, to ensure all donated items are ready to go out. Additionally, students may get involved in seasonal campaigns, input into what goes in our **Teen Care Packs** and assemble activity packs for teenagers, for example those who are

seeking refuge in temporary accommodation.

They've embraced the attention to detail and the sense of quality that we strive for, and

we couldn't be prouder of how they have risen to the challenge.

YOUTH WITHOUT LIMITS

1,100 HOURS BY DUKE OF EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS - 66 STUDENTS FROM 13 SCHOOLS/COLLEGE

STUDENTS COMPLETED AWARDS

BRONZE - 48 SILVER - 13 GOLD - 5



"I just wanted to say how much I've enjoyed volunteering and how welcoming you and the other volunteers are. It really is a great atmosphere to work in and I feel like it's been really worthwhile." Alex

The feedback from referral partners is that the **offering we now have for teenagers has improved**.

A significant part of this improvement is attributed to the Duke of Edinburgh students, who often choose and pack the clothes - **teenagers helping teenagers in a focused and meaningful way**.

In addition to making a significant contribution to our service and providing them with the **opportunity to learn new skills**, they've also had the chance to hear from some of our key referral partners, namely **I Choose Freedom** and **Home-Start**.

Spending time at Stripy Stork has exposed them to the **hidden poverty in their local area** and given them a sense of appreciation.

Our Duke of Edinburgh students also act as young ambassadors for our service, often spreading the word to family and friends about how they can get involved.

"I have learnt new skills, made new friends and tried something I didn't think I could do and felt more confident. It's been amazing!" Edie

OUR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

We've also been further developing our partnership with **Reigate Grammar School**. Every half term, their Fourth Form students elect to volunteer with a local charity, and we've been fortunate to have a steady flow of student volunteers. Every week, we eagerly anticipate their arrival as they pile out of their school minibus, enthusiastically ready to get involved. Their insight into teenage fashion and preferred toiletry products for this age group has been really useful and helps us ensure that the packs that go out are going to be appreciated by their recipients.



WOODFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL



We've initiated what we hope will be a long-lasting relationship with **Woodfield School in Merstham** - a local school for children with learning and additional needs. We've hosted several visits from different pupils and welcomed four students who volunteer weekly. They've been keeping busy with quality checking toys and games, sorting coats, and providing us with valuable advice on which soft toys they believe children of a similar age would appreciate.



TEENAGERS LENDING A HELPING HAND

EAST SURREY COLLEGE

We are grateful to the various groups of **SEND students from East Surrey College** volunteering as part of their Skills for Independence course. This opportunity provides them with a great way to develop teamwork and communication skills beyond the familiar college environment, preparing them for work. They have expressed their enjoyment of learning about charity work and understanding why the quality of items is just as important when they are being used to help people.



"I enjoyed helping clean and pack away stuff knowing it's going to families." Ella



During the Summer holidays of 2023, following an influx of donations of teenage clothing we put a call-out on social media to see if there were any **helpful teenagers** looking for ways to fill their time. We were delighted that indeed there were, with a bunch of them registering to help with sorting the very next day. We've been learning from the best!

Santa Stork

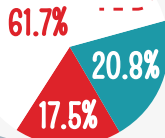
IN 2022, DISTRIBUTED 7,188 GIFTS TO:

4,434 CHILDREN RECEIVED
A MAIN GIFT WITH STOCKING FILLERS

1,496 CHILDREN RECEIVED
STOCKING FILLERS
(TO SUPPORT OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS)

1,258 OF THEIR
PARENTS/CARERS

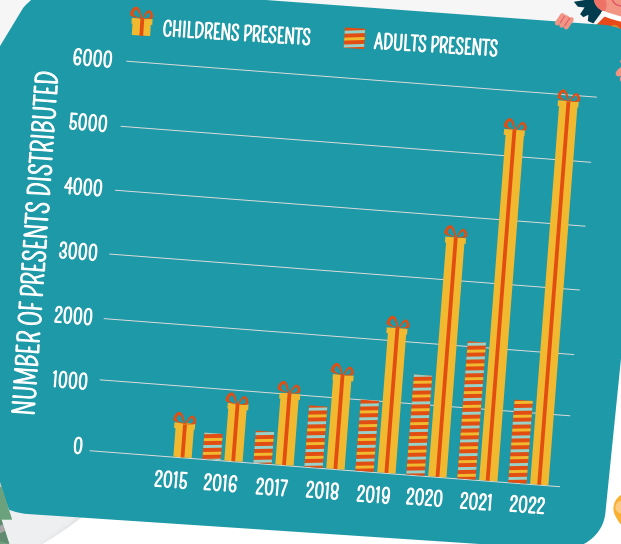
IN ADDITION: **1,480 CHILDREN RECEIVED**
CHRISTMAS BUNDLES (PRE-LOVED
CHRISTMAS JUMPERS/TOYS/BOOKS)



TOGETHER THESE WONDERFUL GIFTS
HAVE AN APPROXIMATE VALUE OF **£111,570**

Santa Stork 2022 was our ninth Christmas campaign. Each year, it grows operationally with demand and this year, thanks to our amazing community, we were able to rise to that demand.

Christmas started especially early this year as we kicked off the campaign with a Christmas in July event held at Reigate Town Hall, which was well attended by local partners and funders. We were acutely aware that the cost-of-living crisis was going to have a major effect, not only the increasing number of families that would need our support this Christmas, but also on the disposable income of our usual donors. This worry was compounded by the significantly increased cost of gifts compared to last year. Fortunately, everyone in the room shared our belief that every child should have a gift to open on Christmas morning, and we had their full support.



The next job was to secure a space to scale-up our operations. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council once again offered a temporary space to base the project in.

Now we had the space and momentum, we needed to try and secure some serious funding. We seized the opportunity to apply for a Crowdfunder with BA Better World Community Fund. The goal was to raise £15,000 so all donations of up to £250 would be doubled. It was an 'all or nothing' situation. We were delighted when we hit our target, releasing the match-funding. In 56 days, 357 donors, plus the match-funding contribution gave us a very valuable **£36,972 (+ gift aid)**.

Getting the gift list right is another vital part of the project. For the third consecutive year, we were pleased to partner with local retailer Toy Barnhaus. Together we created a catalogue of 75 gifts for children from 0-18 years; some old favourites from last year made it onto the list, as well as some popular new choices. We are lucky enough to have a steady flow of young volunteers at the warehouse we can consult with about desired gifts. We are grateful to Toy Barnhaus for ensuring we get the best value for money by price-matching high street retailers and giving us an additional discount.

The gift catalogue was then shared with our regular referral partners. They could sit down with the families they support to choose a suitable gift for their children. Choice is one of the things that sets Santa Stork apart from other 'toy drive' campaigns. We believe that it is important to allow families to choose the gifts for their children, particularly when they are experiencing poverty and may not have much choice in other aspects of their lives.





The requests started flooding in, while the gifts were being uploaded onto our virtual Santa Shop. The community started pledging gifts from the shop, the funds were used to place orders, and Santa Stork was in full swing.



At Stripey Stork we like to add special touches where possible, so in addition to giving every child a carefully matched main gift, they also receive age-appropriate stocking fillers- a brand-new book, chocolate coins or a selection box.

We were grateful to have the support of **Penguin Random House**, which donated a good range of books to complement each Christmas bundle. The community also answered our call by donating stocking fillers from our wish list, which they could drop at various collection points in Surrey.



It's not often that our catalogue doesn't have an appropriate gift, but occasionally we get a special request for which we're happy to oblige. One such request was on behalf of a **Harry Potter loving 10-year-old boy**. He'd been having such a tough time that we wanted to make sure he had something wonderful to open on Christmas morning. The perfect present was found by one of our Chief Elves.



Maintaining **dignity** is crucial, so as a way of involving the parents/carers in the giving process, we provide wrapping paper, tape and gift labels, meaning they can wrap the gifts themselves. In addition, we supply any batteries required.



"Without your help there would be many children who are already suffering a bleak and cold Christmas, going without hope at this special time of year."

Our friends at **The Belfry Shopping Centre** in Redhill always do a great job of bringing Christmas joy and sparkle to town. We were delighted to be chosen as their charity partner for their **Grotto** this year, which **raised an amazing £2,661**.



We were grateful to have the opportunity to bring Santa's Shop to the **ICG Gala dinner**, where we set up stall with QR codes on the ready. This annual fundraiser is held to raise money for children's charities, and we were lucky enough to be **donated £10,000** from the proceeds.

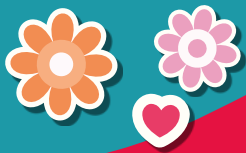


STORK STORY: ON THE GOOD LIST

One referral partner was collecting gifts for **two young boys whose Dad had suddenly died**. The sudden loss of their main income meant that Mum was really struggling financially, as well as having to deal with her **own grief and support the boys**. Mum had confessed that she was dreading Christmas and was worried that the boys would think they'd been naughty and that was why Santa hadn't been. As well as **providing gifts for the children, we included a toiletry set that the boys could give to Mum**. Santa Stork is about so much more than simply a gift for a child - it's about taking that stress and guilt away from parents, supporting them through their most difficult times and letting them know that there are people who care.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to every individual, business and community groups who donated gifts, pledged money, volunteered their time, delivered presents and helped to spread the word. **You brought Christmas magic** to those going through a difficult time, at what can be an extremely difficult time of year.



A GIFT FOR MUM



A Gift for Mum is Stripey Stork's Mother's Day campaign. Thanks to our amazing community, we were able to give out 608 pampering gift sets, each accompanied with a specially designed card handwritten by one of our amazing volunteers.

The Mums, Grandmothers and female carers we help, often don't have the usual support network to make sure that they are recognised on Mother's Day.

"Children are too young to give Mum a gift, Dad suffers with poor mental health which impacts his ability to show appreciation for his wife and the family struggle with financial difficulties. All of these factors mean that Mum would not have received a gift."

Referral partner

Receiving a small gift on this significant day means so much more than the gift itself.

"One Mum broke down in tears, she gave me a big hug. She said that she is having a really hard time at the moment and the gift she received gave her the motivation to carry on." Referral partner

It should never be underestimated what this gesture means to the children too. If they're old enough to understand, they cherish the chance to express their gratitude in this way and are so excited to be able to do this on their Mum's special day.

"Mums were so pleased to receive the gifts and told us of the excitement from the children keeping the gift a secret until the Sunday, and that the children could barely contain themselves."

Referral partner

This year we were hearing more than ever how difficult and compounded these struggles were, so it was more important than ever that we got it right. We asked the local community to support the campaign via our campaign wish list, appeal page or by filling a **Little Orange Bag** with pampering treats and dropping it off at one of our local collection points.

We passed these onto the Mums referred to us, usually as an added extra to the regular items being requested on their behalf. The community rose to the challenge once again and **we were able to meet every**

single request. This campaign really resonates with our supporters - they want to help and really appreciate the difference that this tangible level of support can make. We're also fortunate that lots of our partners get involved - donating, acting as collection points and selling cards. **Lexis Nexis Risk Solutions** deserve a special mention after generously donating towards the campaign.



This year's beautiful Mother's Day card designed by competition winner Ava from Merstham Park School.



A round of applause to Joe and his friends at Reigate St Mary's who sold cards in the playground to raise funds.

A shout out to our local collection points - The Belfry Shopping Centre, Gerrards, Ralph James Estate Agents, Walter & Mair Estate Agents and The Personal Agent.



Thanks to our friends at Beauty Banks and The Hygiene Banks for their generous deliveries.



The Brownie's motto is 'Lend A Hand' and the 1st Meadvale Brownies and Guides, and the 5th Reigate Guides certainly did just that, as between them they filled over 50 bags with donated goodies.



It goes without saying that there's many Dads who are battling with similar circumstances.

We never let Father's Day pass without stocking up on male toiletry gift sets and distributing them in the weeks leading up to this special day.

RUN REIGATE GO TEAM STORK!



On Sunday 18 September, Priory Park was full of energy and cheer.

It was **Run Reigate's ninth year**, and the atmosphere and weather did not disappoint. Neither does the warm welcome we receive year-on-year at this fantastic community event. From our orange **Team Stork runners** to the volunteers who helped on our stall, and to the enthusiastic members of the public who were eager to find out more about our cause. We are proud of all our runners, who pour their hearts and souls into training and fundraising.

Sam and Jackie never disappoint with their **creative orange and turquoise costumes** – they've been fairies, superheroes and everything in between. As we eagerly awaited news of what this year's costume reveal would be, we heard the news that Jackie was finishing treatment for a cancer diagnosis. Determined that she wasn't going to let her partner in crime go it alone, she was more determined than ever to make the **10K race** once again. This time her orange wig was serving an additional purpose but that didn't stop her looking fabulous. Due to sheer determination and having Sam by her side, Jackie pushed through and finished with the biggest smile and loudest cheer. We are so proud of both Sam and Jackie for smashing it, and thankful to them for **raising over £1,000** as they did.



"Your hardest times often lead to your greatest moments in life. Keep going, tough situations build the strongest people."
SAM

Another inspiration is **Edward**, one of our regular volunteers. **Edward has Asperger's Syndrome** and is not a frequent runner. Being in big crowds is something he generally shies away from, but after experiencing firsthand the work we do, he wanted to do more to help. He entered himself into the **5K** and the rest is history. We all appreciated what a big challenge it was for him, but he rose to it, and **we were so proud when he crossed the finish line.**

The **Celtic Contractors** deserve a shout out for making it a family affair – yet again. With one of the younger members of their crew, Saoirse, flying around the course dressed as a stork.

In fact, there were lots of **little Stork runners** in their orange caps, as a bunch of year 2 pupils from the same class at a local primary school decided to run for Stripey.

There was also a **family effort from the Joneses**. Chris, who was running the half marathon, was spurred on because being a referral partner, she has a good appreciation for how vital these funds are. There was no keeping up with the Joneses!

Well done to our **corporate partners - Osborne and WTW** – for having Team Stork entries and mustering up support for their colleagues.

We are grateful to the **50 runners (22 adults and 28 kids)** who took part in the Half Marathon, 10K, 5K and kids' race - **raising an amazing net £6,890.**



NEW CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS



Forming and nurturing partnerships is an important part of our work. It's a mutually beneficial relationship which we love to watch grow. They are a great way for us to work together to raise awareness, and some valuable funds. It's an unwritten assumption that once a group or organisation partners with us, they've earned themselves a lifelong membership to Team Stork, because once they see what a difference they can make, we're never far from their minds when further opportunities arise.



WALTON HEATH GOLF CLUB

In 2023, we gained a new partnership when we were picked as the **Captain's charity** for **Walton Heath Golf Club**. We've increasingly been supporting more families and organisations in this area in line with our mission to reach other parts of Surrey that need our help, and where this kind of support is lacking. Recently elected Captains Lorna and Jonathan had heard about our work so we were thrilled when they wanted to help in whatever way they could.

In June, it was **Captain's Day**, a very special day in the club calendar. It also happened to be the same week as **Stripes4Stripy** so it was stripes all round. The sun shone whilst they hosted over 200 of their members and one Stripy Stork mascot, for a day of fun on the courses, followed by prize giving and a supper. They even had some orange and blue stripy socks specially made, which they sold on the day!



They set themselves an ambitious target to raise **£30,000 in 2023**, which was kickstarted by club member Sam who put his energy and enthusiasm into **raising over £5,000 in sponsorship** by running the **Richmond Half Marathon** in April.

In August the club played host to one of the most high-profile and prestigious events on the international tour – the **AIG Women's Open**. Whilst the crowds gathered on the course many of the Members chose to enjoy the clubhouse hospitality. They ran a **'hit it to win it' putting competition** to raise money for us, as well as a raffle and auction.



Building company Overbury were organising their **annual Big Quiz and Raffle** in February and asking for nominations. Thanks to **Celtic Contractors** who put us forward, we were selected as one of the ten charity beneficiaries. The event set a new bar for local fundraising events – **500 people attended, 900 raffle tickets sold and a grand total of £100,766** was raised on the night! **We were delighted to be awarded an amazing £16,150 from the proceeds.**

THEY LOVE THEIR NEW WARDROBE



We always try to personalise our response to specific requests. When we received a referral from Gaynor, a Safeguarding Midwife at Royal Surrey County Hospital, with a note that the eldest teenager in the family, who identifies as non-binary, desperately needed some new clothes, we set to work.

Our volunteers began sorting through the unisex clothing we had in stock to make just the right clothes pack for this young person. We aim to be as gender-inclusive as possible, and we often receive gender-neutral clothing requests. Thanks to the donations we receive, we usually have a good stock of clothes that could be appreciated by people of any gender, but we especially appreciate it when our referral partners communicate exactly what the young person would and wouldn't like to wear, so we can meet their needs as closely as possible. We're also grateful for the input we receive from our teenage volunteers who are well-placed to advise on clothing preferences for their generation and help us put clothing packs together.

We're pleased to report that this pack really hit the spot! When the clothes were handed over, Mum described how it had felt like Christmas. Her teenager was so pleased with the clothes that nearly all of them are being repeatedly worn and any items which don't quite match their taste are being passed onto their gender-neutral friends. **Mum sent her thanks: "I was overwhelmed by the choice and styles that you were able to provide. You got it so right in terms of fluid style."** Getting it right was particularly important for this teenager, especially considering the recent difficulties the family had been facing. Their Grandad had passed away, and the family had been forced to downsize to a flat when their rented house had become unaffordable due to rent increases. Because of this unplanned move, they had to rehome their family pets. These factors were having an impact on the mental health of everyone in the family, so we included some age-appropriate self-care packs to give everyone a pick-me-up. These were equally well-received.

Gaynor later got in touch with us to ask about making another referral for this teenager. She told us: "They loved the clothes and haven't stopped alternating between the different outfits. In fact, they've asked if it's possible to place another order for the next size up because they liked them so much. At first they didn't know what to expect, but now they do, they can't wait."



We're grateful for all the clothing donations we receive – those that fall into a more obvious gender category and those that don't. We know that families appreciate both, and we're here to give them a choice, something we know can be stripped away when experiencing poverty. This choice becomes more and more important for children as they get older, and for teenagers especially, the clothes they wear helps them to express their identity. As an organisation that supports children right up to the age of 16, we're committed to offering teenagers access to the right clothing for them - something they can feel confident and comfortable wearing, so they can be themselves.

ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

HOLISTIC CARE



Supporting local organisations that provide care in the community is something we are particularly well-placed to do, because we always have a wide range of items available spanning all age groups, from babies to age 18. **St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley, West Sussex**, is one such organisation we have worked with over the years. In addition to providing end-of-life care for those who need it, they also holistically support their loved ones, looking out for their welfare and helping to make their lives easier.

One of families they were caring for had school-aged children, and with the new school year about to begin, this was the furthest thing from anyone's mind as they dealt with their imminent loss. By providing everything the children needed to be school-ready from day one, it took away any associated stress and allowed the family more precious time together. We also included some activity books and crafts to keep them occupied during visiting times at the hospice.



Stripes 4 Stripey

£4,927 WAS RAISED!

On Thursday 22nd June we celebrated Stripes4Stripey Day. This annual event is a highlight in the Stripey Stork calendar, where we ask our supporters to wear stripes and donate. This year, we focussed on raising money and collecting items for our newly launched **School Days Appeal**. The challenge was on!

Before the warehouse doors had even opened for the day, social media was being flooded with the most colourful photos of our supporters in all manner of stripes. It wasn't just wardrobes that received a stripey makeover, but some culinary delights too. Corporate partners **Puzzler** and **Osborne** held a stripey cake sale, which blended in with their stripey fashion wear. **Willis Towers Watson** also got involved in the action, by digging out their stripey clothes and collecting new school stationery items.

Speaking of schools, **Carrington School** and **Reigate Grammar School** couldn't have been more into it, as pupils enjoyed a stripey non-uniform day in exchange for donations. Stripey Stork is all about the children, so our hearts melted when we saw **YMCA Merstham Pre-School** and **Banstead Prep School** in a sea of stripes.

Back at the warehouse, there wasn't a non-stripey outfit anywhere. Special guest **Deputy Mayor James Baker** was in good company as he joined us for a tour of the warehouse. The **Mayor and Mayoress of Reigate Cllr. Eddy Humphreys** wasn't going to let a little thing like being on holiday get in the way of Stripes4Stripey as he shared their stripey holiday snap.

Our friends at **Unison Choir** held a stripey rehearsal and collection. **Merstham Cricket Club** are always great supporters of ours, this time by encouraging stripey sportswear and a collection at their ladies' training night.

As the day ended, there was excitement still in the air as we had the **Reigate Manor** Stripes4Stripey quiz and curry night to look forward to. Another favourite social event which is always well attended by our supporters and partners, with this year the **Furzeffield School** team were crowned the overall winners. Reigate Manor always put on a great event for us, and their quiz master Chris always makes the event one to remember. The event was a huge success, adding **£1,600** to our running total.

The money raised and donations collected were a great boost to our School Days Appeal, which was really starting to gain momentum in the build up to the new academic year.



IN-KIND PRODUCT DONATIONS WORTH £228,296!



We are always grateful when companies choose to donate products and trust us to reach the families who need them. New items enhance our seasonal campaigns and make lovely additions to the pre-loved items we distribute all round. Parents are often pleasantly surprised when they receive new items or extra treats.



We're fortunate to receive support from Sal's Shoes in so many ways, as they continue to pass on items that they know we'll put to good use. One generous donation came through their sister charity, **Clemmie's Clothes**, which were given a bulk supply of beautiful organic baby and children's clothes from Frugi. For Black Friday, **Frugi** pledged to donate an item to charity for every item sold at a discounted price. It's always a real treat to include Frugi's range in our clothing packs.

We are grateful to **BookTrust** for their ongoing support in generously donating new books throughout the year. These contributions bring joy to the children who receive them as they immerse themselves in stories about adventure, fantasy and the big wide world. We've thoroughly enjoyed developing this new partnership with **Hey Girl**. For every period product purchased, they match it with a donation to community organisations like ours. This year, we've been fortunate to receive environmentally friendly period products from them, thanks to their **buy one, donate one** model. Their modern and vibrant products have been fantastic to use in our teen care packs.



We are eternally grateful to **Tropic Skincare** and **Beauty Banks** for the lovely products they send our way. It was a real treat when Beauty Banks sent boxes full of beautiful toiletry gift sets, which were used as part of our **A Gift For Mum** campaign.



The quantity and continuity of items we receive from our local **Hygiene Banks**, namely Oxted, Hurst Green & Edenbridge and Godstone & Bletchingley, continues to make such a difference. They pass on hygiene products, such as nappies, toothpaste and toiletries, kindly donated to them. Keeping our toiletry shelves well-stocked means we can respond quickly to emergency situations with larger orders, like when 255 adults and children arrived overnight at Gatwick, fleeing Sudan. Everyone deserves to feel clean, which, in turn, has a positive effect on self-esteem and mental health.

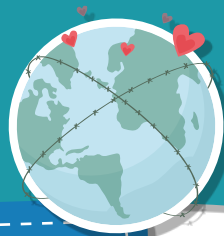
Sharing is Caring

Thanks to **Gatwick Airport** for thinking of us when they had a huge haul of abandoned buggies. Once they'd had the usual checks, they were ready to be wheeled out of our warehouse into someone's home.



We've also been developing our relationship with other baby banks in the southeast region and local food banks, with support being reciprocated by them when they have bulk stock in excess. Special thanks to **Epsom & Ewell**, **Elmbridge**, and **Stamwell** food banks, **Jigsaw Woking** and **Baby Bank Windsor**.

RESPONDING TO URGENT NEED – REFUGEE SUPPORT



We work with health and voluntary sector partners supporting families seeking refuge or asylum, by providing emergency supplies such as clothes and hygiene packs, as well as addressing urgent needs for babies and those due to give birth.

In April, we received an urgent call from one of these partners, **Alliance for Better Care**, to help them support **255 adults and children who had arrived at Gatwick overnight**, fleeing the war had just broken out in Sudan. Most had arrived with nothing, not even a change of clothes, so it was important to provide essentials immediately.

“They arrived at Gatwick from Sudan with just the clothes they were wearing. Some of the children didn’t have shoes, and there were at least three pregnant women.”
Referral Partner

In just a few hours our **volunteers had assembled bulk supplies of nappies, toiletries, clean clothes, underwear and shoes. Maternity packs** were also put together for the pregnant women, and **bottles and blankets** were provided for the small babies in the group. Additionally, they gathered **lots of small toys, activity sets, games and stationery to occupy the little ones**, which they were delighted with after hours of boredom sitting in arrivals.

Thanks to a well-stocked warehouse, we were able to respond quickly and effectively to this emergency request. This **immediate help** provided some **short-term comfort**, but we would continue to work with the health teams in the weeks and months that followed as they learned more about the families and identified their longer-term needs.



“We were overwhelmed by the speed at which the items were put together. I emailed a request through at 10am and by 2pm four Stripey Stork representatives were helping my colleague and I fill our two cars to the brim. What an amazing service!”
Referral Partner



 Alliance for Better Care

“Stripey Stork have been amazingly supportive with all our refugee clients. They even provided us with Eid celebration gifts which made the families so happy to know that their faith is respected by the local community and agencies.”
Referral partner



“The young person I work with has no family in the UK, she is a young refugee and a first-time mum at 18 years old. You provided her with so many beautiful, donated item which gave her more confidence in moving forward.” Emma Asquith, Surrey County Council

“A breastfeeding Mum had been separated from her baby and husband in Calais. A breastpump was urgently needed to relieve her discomfort, with the hope that she would be able to resume breastfeeding once reunited. The time between the request being made and the pump being used was three hours!”
Lena Abdu, Alliance for Better Care

This immediate help provided some **short-term comfort**, but we would continue to work with the health teams in the weeks and months that followed as they learned more about the families and identified their **longer-term needs**.

CASE STUDY: BABY BOXES FOR SURREY FAMILIES SEEKING SANCTUARY



In recent years, we have witnessed an increasing number of families seeking sanctuary or refuge in Surrey. Some of these families are imminently expecting a baby. When the baby is born, and a cot or Moses basket is not an option due to the lack of a permanent place to stay, it can be difficult for families to access a safe place to sleep. We teamed up with **Surrey Heartlands Local Maternity & Neonatal System** to provide a solution.

Surrey Heartlands funded 250 baby boxes, which we then filled with **donated preloved and new items** for babies, such as **clothes, towels, toiletries and nappies**. The baby boxes themselves provide a sturdy place to sleep, and we include bedding and a brand-new mattress.

“These baby boxes will provide a brilliant boost to our families who have the highest needs as we help them to navigate the early days of settling their new baby. We want those who have very little, to know that the NHS and our local partners are here for them. The baby boxes bring an important safety element to families too. They help parents to provide an area for safe sleep for their newborn baby which is one of the key factors in reducing sudden infant deaths.”

Mary Clare Chapman, Surrey Heartland’s Inclusion Midwife

The baby boxes, **a Scandinavian concept for over 80 years**, adhere to **British Safety Standards** and have been distributed to four Surrey Maternity Units and Neonatal Units. They are also offered

to referral partners working with families who may not yet have been into hospital.

“Three baby boxes were carefully prepared and given for the pregnant Mums in my group. Two of them were for twins and the volunteers even made sure that their boxes contained similar items. The families were overwhelmed with gratitude.” Referral partner

A SPOTLIGHT ON ONE OF OUR DONATION FAIRIES

Kate just keeps those items coming! She’s known at her children’s school and locally as the go-to person for collecting donations. With lightning speed, she ensures they reach us, get sorted and has even been known to clean the occasional buggy. **Kate organises school collections** and keeps updated on our **wish list** to ensure we only receive needed items. She truly is an extension of our Donations team.

But her contributions don’t stop there. With a wide network, she’s had boxes of **surplus toiletries** and other useful items sent our way. We also find her popping up on **local Facebook groups**, selling unwanted items **in exchange for monetary donations** to Stripy Stork. With a constant ear to the ground and a heart full of generosity, we consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have her on Team Stork.



SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

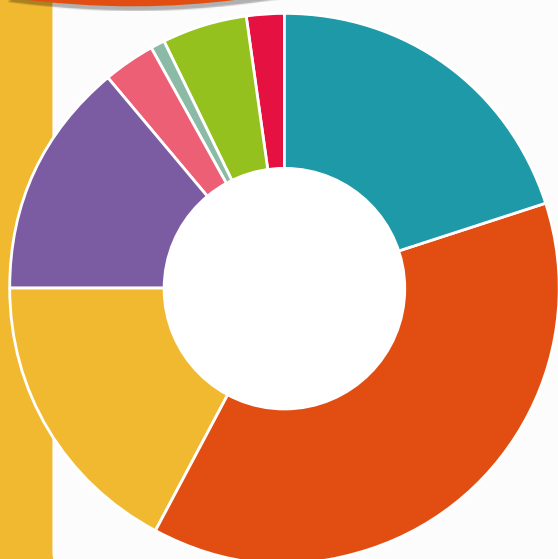
1ST SEPTEMBER 2022-31ST AUGUST 2023



Stripy Stork's total income for the year ending 31st August 2023 was **£1,502,720** and total expenditure was **£1,370,493**. **£1,306,245** of our expenditure was on charitable activities, **£62,248** on raising charitable funds.

WOW! We have given back new & donated items worth **£1,024,567** to the community

Stripy Stork Cash Income 2022/23



20% Individual Donors
— £ VALUE **£127,543**

38% Trusts & Foundations
— £ VALUE **£243,383**

17% Corporates
— £ VALUE **£111,647**

14% Local Council
— £ VALUE **£89,861**

3% Gift Aid
— £ VALUE **£23,186**

1% Legacies
— £ VALUE **£10,000**

5% Community Organisations
— £ VALUE **£29,807**

2% Other
— £ VALUE **£10,573**

In addition to the cash income above, items that were distributed to beneficiaries valued at **£849,087** and services donated were **£7,606** over the year.

Stripy Stork Expenditure 2022/23

75% items distributed to beneficiaries (donated and purchased)

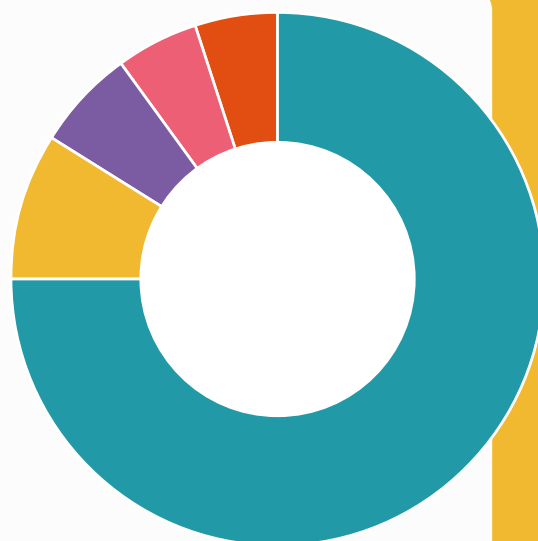
9% staff costs on charitable expenditure, volunteers, consultants, freelance

6% office costs: includes accommodation, insurance, consumables, sundry costs, delivery costs, IT development

5% governance, support costs and depreciation (including staff costs)

5% costs of raising funds (including staff, accommodation, office, governance, support costs and depreciation allocated to this)

Our unrestricted reserves at the end of the year are **£166,980** which is broadly in line with our reserves policy to hold **£172,500**.



The above information was extracted from the full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements which comply with current statutory requirements, the governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities

preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. For further information, the full financial statements together with the Trustees' and Auditor's reports should be consulted. Copies are available from The Charity Commission or info@stripystork.org.uk.

THANK YOU

Stripey Stork wishes to pass its sincere thanks to the following individuals, businesses and funding sources that have supported us this year.



1st Meadvale Brownies & Guides
5th Reigate Guides
ACC Aviation
AIG
AKM Hair
Amazon Smile
Apple Tree Nursery
Arnold Clark Community Fund
Ashford House Consultancy Ltd
Baby Bank Windsor
Baby Basics Guildford
Bailhache Linton
Banstead Preparatory School
BBC Radio 5
BBC Radio Surrey
Beaumont Care Home
Beauty Banks
Belfry Shopping Centre, Redhill
Benefact Group's Movement for Good Campaign
BookTrust
British Airways Better World Community Fund
Bugaboo
Café Chai
Cardo (formerly Osborne)
Carrington School
Cash for Kids
Cavendish Lodge Nursery
Caytons Law
Celtic Contractors
Charities Aid Foundation
Charlotte Hawkins
Chinthurst School Tadworth
Christ is King Church, Salfords
Clarion Housing
Cllr Mrs Jill Bray
Cllr Rebecca Paul - SCC Members Allowance
Cllr Victor Lewanski - SCC Members Allowance
Comfy Quilts
Community Foundation for Surrey
Crowdfunder
Croydon Millenary Chapter 7745
Croydon Whitgift Rotary Club
Crumbs Brewing
Daniel Hall
Dayspace
Deputy Mayor of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (2022), Cllr Rosemary Absolam
Deputy Mayor of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (2023), Cllr James Baker
Downsend Pre-Prep School
Dunottar School
East Grinstead Mums
East Surrey College
easyfundraising
Eco Earlswood, Rachel Wood
Elmbridge Food Bank
Epsom & Ewell Food Bank
Epsom Downs Family Centre
Esure
Extra Mile, Hampton
Fairtrade Reigate
Federation of Earlswood Schools
Fidelity International
First Community Health & Care
Fletcher George
For Common Good
Friends of Hatchlands School
Frugi
Furnistore
Furzfield Community Primary School
Future Proof
GACT
Gamely Games

Garnett Keeler
Generation Redhill
Gerrards Fashion, Reigate
Gibsons Games
Give A Car
Give As You Live
GLF Schools
Godstone Church
Grant Thornton International
Greensand House Care Home
Hartsfield Manor
Haul + Store
Hayley's Darts League
Hazelwood School
Healys LLP
Heathrow Community Rangers
Hendy Foundation
Hey Girls
Holmesdale Community Infant School
Home-Start East Surrey
Horley Flower Club
Horley Food Bank
Horley Lions
Horley Tangent
HPS
HSBC
Hyundai Capital UK
I Choose Freedom
ICG Foundation
IGF
Infinity - Space to Grow
InKind Direct
Jenny Tribe, Body Shop at Home Consultant
Jigsaw, Woking
John Lewis Partnership
Joseph Levy Foundation
Jurlique
Karl Hyder 'Man With A Van'
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
LG Logistics
Lime Tree Primary School
Love Reigate
Loveworks
Lower Green Community Centre, Esher
Mam UK Ltd
Marks & Spencer
Mayor of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (2022), Cllr Frank Kelly
Mayor of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (2023), Cllr Eddy Humphreys
Mercer
Merstham Cricket Club
Merstham Park School
Merstham Primary School & Nursery
Micklefield School
Miss Jessica Stock
Miwk, Reigate
Mole Valley Family Centre
Monty's Bakehouse
Morr & Co
Mr John Smith
Mr Richard Feist
Mrs Caron Epps
Mrs Claire Feist
Mrs Emily & Jo Kennett
Mrs Jane & Catherine Babbage
Mrs Joan Hodge
Mrs Kate Archer
Mrs Rowena Adams
Ms Fiona Radford
Ms Hazel Mitchell
Ms Jane Harcourt
Ms Sue Leppard

My Roarie
Natural Baby Shower
Neighbourly
Nestle
New Look
New Malden Rotary
Next
Nicola B Designs
nTrust
Nutfield WI
Octavius Infrastructure
Octopus
OH Creative
Ohme
Omny
Opus Tech
Out & About Magazine
Out 'n' About Buggies
Overbury
Paula Edwards
Penguin Random House
Penny Kirk
Persimmon Community Foundation
Peter Harrison Foundation
Pfizer UK
Pink Boutique
Powertutors
Purina
Puzzler
Ralph James Estate Agents
Raven Housing Trust
Red Oak Family Centre
Redhill Baptist Church
Redhill Business Guild
Redhill Methodist Church
Redhill Redstone Rotary Club
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Reigate & Redhill Round Table no 119
Reigate Beaumont Care Home
Reigate Bridge Club
Reigate Duct Manufacturing
Reigate Grammar School
Reigate Manor
Reigate Methodist Church
Reigate Parish Church Primary School
Reigate School
Reigate St Mary's Preparatory & Choir School
Rotary Club of Reigate
Rowan Prep School
Royal Alexandra & Albert School
Run Series
Sal's Shoes
Sandcross School
Sarah Christie
Scheidt Bachmann
Screwfix Foundation
SES Water
Sevenhill Group
Shanly Foundation
Share The Load, Emma Newburn
Shona Gow Designs
Signature at Reigate Grange
Skipton Building Society, Reigate
Sony
Southern Co-op (London Road, Reigate store)
Southern Co-op More Inclusive
Neighbourhoods Local Funding
Southern Co-op Neighbourly Community Fund
Squires Garden Centre, Reigate
SSP Foundation
St Faith's Trust
St John's Primary School
Stacey Solomon
Stanwell Events
Stanwell Food Bank

Star Steppers
Summer Day Media
Surplus to Supper
Surrey Choices
Surrey County Council
Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership
Surrey Libraries
Surrey Moves
Surrey Safeguarding Partnership
Sutton & Nonsuch Rotary Club
Tandridge District Council
Tandridge Together Lottery
Tesco, Hookwood
Teva Pharmaceutical Industries
The Arts Society, Reigate
The Barley Mow
The Charles Lewis Foundation
The Community Fund for Reigate and Banstead
The Girl Who Gardens, Renee Canter
The Gould Family
The Hygiene Bank Carshalton & Sutton
The Hygiene Bank Godstone & Bletchingley
The Hygiene Bank Oxted, Hurst Green & Edenbridge
The Light, Redhill
The National Lottery - Community Fund & Awards For All
The Personal Agent
The Pignatelli Foundation
The Plan Group
The residents of Williamson Road, Horley (Christmas lights)
The Soapy Zebra
The Sparber Family
The Whyte Family
The Wisley Foundation
Toddler Sense Sutton Area
Tom Graham Creative
Total Energies
Toy Barnhaus
Toyota UK
Transped Removals
Tropic Skincare
UKG Services
Unison Choir
Vinci UK Foundation
VMware
Voluntary Action Reigate & Banstead
Walter & Mair
Walton Charity
Walton Heath Golf Club
Wendy Percy
Willis Towers Watson
Wimbledon Spiritualist Church
Woodfield School
Woodhatch & Whitebushes Partnership
Network Group
Woodhatch WI
Xpress Group
YMCA Merstham Pre-school
Zapphire School of Dance
Zoetis

Thanks also go to all our regular volunteers who give their time so generously, and to the local families who pass to us the items their families no longer need.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



VOLUNTEER

We are **always looking for volunteers to help.**

You can **volunteer as an individual, with a group of friends, on a work team away day or as part of a community group.**

We welcome regular volunteers, those who can only help on an ad hoc basis, or those who are interested in helping with a particular campaign. **You will be able to make a real difference** and contribute to our ambitious plans by using your existing skills and learning new ones.

STRIPEY'S VIRTUAL CHALLENGE

Set yourself a challenge, at a time and place convenient for you. It may be physical – outdoors, indoors, running, swimming, on your bike, up a mountain – whatever floats your boat!

You may want to get the kids or whole family involved – the more creative and crazier the better, remember you make the rules. There are lots of ways you can help to raise funds for our vital charitable work and on completing the challenge, you will receive an **exclusive Stripey Stork medal.**



SCAN TO DONATE



Is there something you wish to **DONATE**?

✉ DONATE@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Can you **VOLUNTEER** some time to help us?

✉ VOLUNTEER@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Are you a professional who supports local families and wants to **MAKE A REFERRAL**?

✉ REFER@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Are you a local business or community group who would like to **PARTNER WITH US**?

✉ PARTNERSHIPS@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

A **ONE-OFF OR REGULAR DONATION**

★ will enable us to reach even more local families who need our help. ★

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/9010>

Whether it's a one-off payment or a direct debit (monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually) you can afford, we appreciate all contributions, big or small. Anything you can give will help us to support local families who need a helping hand to provide for their children.

