



SHOCC is a small charity working with trusted partners. We work with managers who have demonstrated need and have clear goals. We will then support a project financially and through tailored advice and encouragement. As a result, our projects illustrate reciprocal philanthropy where we have an ongoing relationship with our partners, treat them with respect and have a two-way, empathetic approach; aiming for projects quickly to become self-sustainable. We have very few administrative costs and 99% of every donated pound goes to our projects.

THE VINEYARD COMMUNITY RICHMOND UPON THAMES UK [SDG 1,4,5]

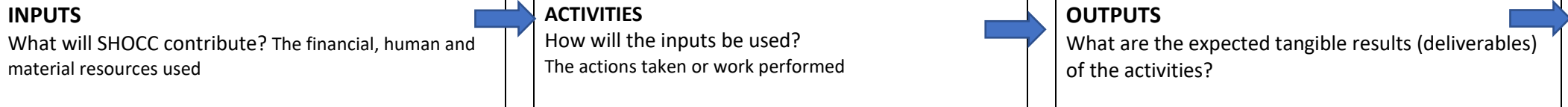
PROJECT STATUS: LIVE

Project brief: In 2023, 20% of the UK’s population lives below the poverty line. In 2017, according to the End Child Poverty Coalition, nearly 6,000 children (15.9%) were living in poverty in Richmond upon Thames. Whilst this is the lowest level of any London borough and is well below the 53.4% for Tower Hamlets, it still remains a challenging figure.

Date of entry: 24.02.2023
Project type: Humanitarian
Years of project: 2020-
Awarded to date: £3,150

Background: The Vineyard Centre in Richmond runs crisis and social inclusion services from The Vineyard Community and six other locations in the borough. Every day, it helps individuals overcome personal crises and reconnect with society. It offers support at the point of crisis and during recovery and has extensive experience resolving issues related to homelessness, addiction, loneliness and mental health. The first Vineyard project was launched in June 1976 by the late wife of Sir Richard Attenborough. It was the vision of Alfred Upstill who was a Probation Officer and Minister of the Vineyard Church. He had a clear goal in mind. To create a place “for the healing of personal loneliness, the development of a sense of community and the breaking down of divisions in the locality, facilitating communications between sources of help and points of need”.

Sadly, Alfred did not see his vision for the Vineyard Project materialise but members of his church continued his work. They asked mental health charity, Richmond Borough Mind, to establish a day centre in the crypt of the church as a memorial to Alfred. In 1977, Penny Wade was appointed as manager and became determined to make Alfred’s dream a reality. She devoted 21 years to The Vineyard Project and together with a team of volunteers helped thousands of local people in distress. Richmond Borough Mind continued to manage the project until it was closed in early 2011 due to budget restraints. Local churches and members of the community formed a new charity called The Vineyard Community. This is the organisation that manages the centre today.



When SHOCC became a charity in 200, it took on another letter 'C' in its name. It did so to reflect its wish to help the disadvantaged in its local area of Richmond upon Thames.
To this end, it has provided financial support for the Vineyard and other local organisations that help the homeless and run food banks.

The funding provided will be unrestricted and the Vineyard can use it in any way it wishes. It is most likely, in times of rising food poverty, to be used to purchase foodstuffs. It will be accompanied by the foodstuffs collected around the university campus.

The funding will go towards reducing food poverty in the local borough.
The university student body will be energised to contribute to the various fund-raising initiatives.

OUTCOMES What short-term changes (1-2 years) are expected from the activities?
Food poverty levels will be managed and, if possible, reduced over time.



IMPACTS What longer-term significant changes (3-5 years) will the beneficiaries experience?
The numbers of families suffering from food poverty will be reduced.

Stories of recipients of help from the Vineyard Community

Mary suffered years of domestic abuse before fleeing her home for the Vineyard. She was so traumatised by her past experiences that she was unable to open the door of the safe house for fear of what might lie within. She was also struggling to walk long distances because of her deteriorating health.

With the help of a partner agency, we placed her in a safe house and established a regime of ongoing support and confidence-building. Now she can walk several miles with ease, is growing in confidence and has moved to her own accommodation.

Kazima is a torture victim and asylum seeker, who came to the UK from Sudan. She was granted asylum accommodation in the borough but statutory benefits would not meet the cost after her asylum status was approved. We supported Kazima for six months while she slept in Ham woods, during which time she had two hospital operations. Kazima needed our extensive advocacy before being housed and helped into part-time employment.

Amanda was a trauma nurse working in London hospitals. She could not prevent her younger daughter from dying of anorexia and the older one then passed away after no longer wishing to live without her sibling. Amanda was so traumatised herself she ended up homeless and alone in Richmond Park sleeping with just a blanket. Over a few years we have helped her through crisis, built her into our volunteering community and then employment first with us and then in reestablished in her nursing.

Mahmoud is a Middle eastern refugee who witnessed his children murdered by Isis. Without language or means to establish his own status he was imprisoned in the UK before being rehoused locally. He remains a valued daily volunteer which helps his depression and is slowly learning English with ESOL and community help.



