

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Students and Refugees Together

#4WCJZHPCB submitted on 5 May 2021

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

This is a request to The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust for a grant of £3,000 towards delivering the Cultural Kitchen project at Students and Refugees Together (START), to help us to promote community cohesion, reduce racial inequality and improve the lives of refugees who have been forcibly relocated to Plymouth in Devon.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

An unprecedented rise in the number of globally displaced people (over 55 million) is reflected in a net rise in immigration in the UK, and Plymouth continues to be one of 86 towns and cities currently used to accommodate asylum seekers.

START works with refugees in Plymouth who have been forcibly dispersed through the immigration process and have been granted leave to remain in the UK. We work specifically to provide refugees who are transitioning from the asylum system with specialist post-refugee status support.

START is a modest charity; a small paid team provides continuity and support and the charitable activities are delivered mainly by volunteers drawn from the refugee communities and students on placement from higher education establishments locally and other countries. The projects, services and activities provided by START encourage refugees to become involved with the at all levels. Volunteers include people from diverse backgrounds including those who have themselves sought asylum.

The charity offers:

- holistic support on a one-to-one 'casework' basis
- assistance and advocacy for refugees to help them settle within new communities or to move to new locations
- a community activity programme for refugees in order to promote friendships, reduce social isolation, promote healthy living and create volunteering opportunities
- education to students on placement, providing learning experiences that contribute to their personal and professional development

People granted permission to remain have just 28 days to find accommodation and a source of income. Refugees arriving at START have often lost home and family, experienced huge challenges through the immigration process and as a result many experience poor mental health. At all stages of their journeys, refugees experience hardship, destitution, poverty and racism. Housed in some of the poorest wards, refugees find it difficult to access mainstream services, and for those who lack language skills and are faced with multiple issues of disadvantage, the building of community networks is essential.

The Cultural Kitchen (the subject of this grant application) is a vibrant and popular activity which happens once a fortnight at a venue in the city. Volunteers prepare healthy and nutritious meals for the beneficiaries to share; menus are influenced by the nationality of the volunteers and are enjoyed by everyone in a friendly, sociable environment. Useful information and advice is available for participants and there are play activities for the children, arts and crafts, drama and table tennis. Individuals from a diverse range of countries have the opportunity to engage with others and improve their spoken English skills. The Cultural Kitchen offers a focal point, a community network and safe place for both newly

arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those who are already established in Plymouth.

Prior to Covid-19 approximately 70 attendees and volunteers came together every two weeks at the Cultural Kitchen, and in 2019-20 18 Cultural Kitchens served 1,670 meals to an average of 93 people per session. Once restrictions are lifted we are proposing to resume the Cultural Kitchen sessions in order to offer opportunities for increased participation and volunteering.

The last Cultural Kitchen satisfaction survey showed that 98% of participants were very happy with this project; they felt less isolated and identified Plymouth as a good place to live. By increasing the number of beneficiaries who are able to access the Cultural Kitchen we aim to promote greater interaction between diverse communities, skills sharing and community learning, and encourage newly arrived refugees to settle, to feel welcome and have fun.

"I like Cultural Kitchen because it is a fun place and the people can meet a few people and make friends, and they make nice food."

Refugee, 2020

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

E - Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

1.3e Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

Settling in a new environment is always difficult, especially when the majority of transitioning refugees have low level English skills and a lack of understanding of unfamiliar requirements; in the current environment there are a myriad of additional and unexpected challenges. We anticipate that more than 200 refugees and their families will require our support over the next 6 months.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

It continues to be START's ongoing strategy to diversify income streams and build financial stability through maintaining a working reserve equivalent to six months of running costs. Our fundraising strategy produces gratifying results and as a result we were in the fortunate position of having a small surplus in 2020-21. Grant applications are in preparation to identified sources in order to attract external funding for both revenue and project costs in 2021-22 and beyond.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

START monitors service delivery through systematic data collection relating to engagement and satisfaction, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, gathered through informal interviews and consultation, and through the compilation of case studies. Additionally, periodic surveys are augmented by research students' work into wellbeing and resilience. START's monitoring and evaluation model is replicable and our research and resultant learning in this field is disseminated with partner organisations in the sector.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Staff costs	£8,400	(Inc. PAYE, NI & Pensions)
Training	£375	
Volunteer costs	£750	Travel and subsistence

Food and materials	£3,000	
Equipment	£2,500	Maintenance and replacement of kitchen equipment
Room hire	£5,500	
Evaluation and publicity	£400	
Contribution to overheads @ 15%	£3,135	
TOTALS	£24,060	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
The Persula Foundation grant	£2,000	£2,000	Grant awarded to support core costs of which a proportion will be allocated to the Cultural Kitchen project
Garfield Weston Foundation grant	£10,000	£10,000	Grant awarded to support core costs of which a proportion will be allocated to the Cultural Kitchen project
	£0	£0	
TOTALS	£12,000	£12,000	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£3,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

Yes

2.4b Please provide the date of the previous application

4th December 2017 towards the START Walking project

2.4c Was this previous application successful?

Yes

2.4d How much did you receive?

£750

2.4e When did you receive the grant?

28th February 2018

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£324,000

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Students and Refugees Together (START)

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3.1 Your name

Isaac Kelly

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07841370590

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Administrator and member of START management team

3.4 Your email address

IKelly@startsw.co.uk

3.5 Organisation name

Students and Refugees Together

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

Students and Refugees Together (START)

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

START works with refugees in Plymouth who have been dispersed through the immigration process and have been granted leave to remain in the UK. We facilitate their transition from people in need to self-reliant contributors to their local communities, working with them on a one-to-one casework basis, or through inclusive group projects and community activities, such as the Cultural Kitchen, Women's Creative Group, START Walking group, the START allotment and the START Job Club.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Unit 4 HQ Building, Union Street

3.9 UK telephone number

01752255200

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1108113

3.11 Year established

2005

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.startsw.co.uk>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/StartPlymouth/>

Twitter - @StartPlymouth

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Previous application to The Edith M Ellis Trust