

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	The Porch
Name of the project TFN funded:	Stepping Forward Project
Date Funded by TFN:	18-May-17
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>TFN Oxford helped to fund a homeless job club at The Porch day centre. This project, called Stepping Forward Project, aims to provide skills and confidence to homeless and vulnerably housed people, including those with complex needs. Finding work or volunteering opportunities through the job club in total enabled 8 vulnerable people (7 male, 1 female) to improve their social skills and engage with the wider community.</p> <p>We recruited a job coach in September 2017, working 2 days per week to manage the Stepping Forward project. The job coach provided vocational skills training to help homeless and vulnerably housed people find jobs, as well as professional and emotional development. This included emotional support and activities covering CV writing, job search, interview preparation, and supervision for those volunteering in our kitchen. The project is co-funded by the European Social Fund, allowing the job coach to continue until the end of 2018.</p> <p>Examples of project results included two members finding employment (at M&S store and on a building site) and a member volunteering with Refresh Cafe in Oxford after we had helped him get on a cookery course. Other results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.E. volunteered in the kitchen at the centre. He was supported with supervision and professional development and went on to do a Food and Hygiene course. • M.K-C. was helped with CV writing and interview activities. He attended the Oxford Job Fair and made contact with two hotels, applying for positions in both. He was also supported with regaining mental stability as result of long term homelessness. • J.P. was booked on a JCP fork lift training course to increase employability chances. • S.A. applied for provisional driving licence to pursue her wish to work as delivery driver. • L.P. was trained on a Food and Hygiene course
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	29.60%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	8

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How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	12
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	We also applied to Oxford Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). We received £10,309 to co-fund the Job Coach role for 14 months.
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	We added a new staff member (the job coach)
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	Bruce (not his real name) grew up as an only child in a single parent family. When his mother passed away and he separated from his wife he suffered a nervous breakdown. He lost both his job and home, and became homeless. His mental health also deteriorated. Bruce was referred to The Porch homeless day centre. During the day he would come for the meals served at the centre. He subsequently signed up to the Stepping Forward project where the job coach worked to encourage Bruce to talk about his feelings and emotions. Bruce was also supported to volunteer at the kitchen, in the process improving his wellbeing and interaction with staff and members. The job coach helped Bruce with online job research and CV writing. Bruce applied and got an interview for a job at M&S local store. The job coach helped him practice his interview skills such as nonverbal communication and remaining positive. Bruce was successful with his interview and is now employed and renting a room a shared home. He continues to visit The Porch for a meal and tea.