



Thousand 4 £1000 Annual Report 2023

A heartfelt thankyou

Thousand 4 £1000 is a community made up of many different humans, working together to inform and support each other. Each one is needed, and all are equally important. Our project is built on many contributions.

Our trustees and volunteers

Three trustees were re-elected and a new one was elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 2023 and the other three remained in post. All of our trustees are active volunteers in the charity:

Jacob Berkson
Anne Feltham
Sally Griffin
Paul Humpoetz
Jenny Priestman
Susanne Schuster
Sue Williams

All the work of the charity is carried out by volunteers, who organise events, produce publicity material, visit residents, negotiate with estate agents, keep accounts, advocate with service providers, move furniture, answer emails, deliver gifts, participate in networks, and much more.

Our partners and funders

We work with many different organisations in the city. Our key partnership is with Sussex Refugee and Migrant Self Support Group, who run the weekly Jollof Café. This unique space is run by and for refugees and migrants. It is the place where most of our residents first meet our volunteers and become part of our community.

We would also like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their generosity and collaboration during this year:

Carol Houghton
Sarah Townsend
LOSRAS
The Robin Hood pub
Chris Randall
Donation from Cottesmore School for Jollof Cafe
Rose Hill Arts
Much Loved
Keith Iordache
Edward Richardson
Molly West
Mrs Baker
Chapel Royal
Clare Jones
Maya Bowles Sounds of Solidarity
Michael Berkson
Mrs & Mr Baker
JoAnn McCartney
Stella Goddard
David Attwood

Our hosts and landlords

Many of the people we support are housed by generous hosts who have agreed to share space in their homes. We rent four properties from private landlords; two of these are straightforward commercial arrangements, one is a collaboration with Brighton & Hove Community Land Trust and one is a long-term partnership with a supportive couple who have been good friends to the project.

We are always looking for new hosts and landlords. We are good tenants, we look after our properties, support our residents and guarantee the rent will be paid on time. Please do get in touch if you think you might be able to help.

Our regular donors

None of our work would be possible without the regular income we receive from hundreds of local people, contributing a few pounds each month to make space for all.

The following donors have been supporting O to enable her to continue her nursing degree. We would like to thank them for their generosity:

A Eagle
A & M Rosenberg
M Oppenheimer
D Oppenheimer
BUDDING FOUNDATION



Everybody was a big human

2023 was a year of beautiful community gatherings. We were working hard to turn the idea of bringing a community of people together to welcome strangers hand on heart and conquer hostility with love into a large, beautiful and concrete reality.



Photo: Bestfoot Music

In April, T4K had its own live music event with quite the line up. We danced our socks off to funky indie pop and lively Brazilian sounds, and raised £1000 for our refugee housing project.



In July we were back with our first ceilidh since 2019. It was uplifting and heart-warming, the true essence of fun, love and silly dancing, you cannot ask for more than that. There were lots of new faces along with old ones. The ceilidh raised £2016, most of which was spent on rent for our resident AS.

The first of these was the biggest and best Refugee Valentines to date, organised by T4K's sister organisation the Sussex Refugee and Migrant Self Support Group with a grant from Brighton & Hove Council. It was an event of pure joy. As with anything in which the indefatigable T4K volunteer Luqman Onikosi is involved, we had an event involving people from all ages, all backgrounds and all corners of this home called earth. We danced and smiled. We tasted something of the world that is yet to come when we realise that diversity is the fundamental human good and we stop trying to prevent people from pursuing their own futures.

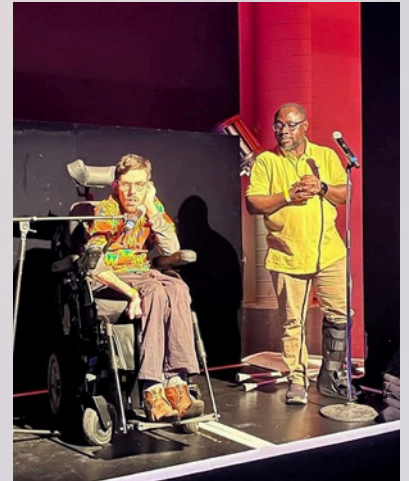


Photo: Bestfoot Music



In addition to the weekly Jollof Café, the Sussex Refugee and Migrant Self Support Group also ran three successful evening versions of the café.

We will welcome you hand on heart

2023 was also a year when we were hard at work keeping people housed. One of the best things about being involved with T4K is the chance to see people we have helped take their next steps towards independence and thriving.

Security and new horizons

A came to Brighton in 2021, after many years of homelessness and temporary accommodation in this country and Scotland. In his late 50s, he has significant health problems, affecting his heart, eyes, and mobility.

He was referred to us by Refugee Radio, and we were able to house him, with another man, in a flat in which he feels secure and "happy" for the first time. They formed a solid friendship, and this has involved mutual support and respect for the past 18 months.

A's flatmate has commented on the transformation he has seen in A, who had experienced threats and violence in the past, and was uncertain at first about sharing. Now he has established a better sleeping pattern, rediscovered a sense of humour, and is aware of a newfound sense of (relative) well being. He is able to keep appointments without being reminded and escorted; and has developed the confidence to visit friends in London, and participate in conversations and social events at times.

He acquired refugee status last year, and this has enhanced his sense of these benefits, and broadened his horizons.

Support and friendship

A young woman from North Africa who was cruelly, and illegally, sacked from her job as a circus performance artist when she rebuffed advances from her employer. Left jobless, penniless and homeless, she was befriended by a fellow countryman, who had met T4K, was being supported by us and introduced her to us. Although not an asylum seeker (she had a work permit) we couldn't leave her on the streets and paid for her to stay for a few nights in a hostel and then in a spare room in one of our flats while we tried to help her find her feet and decide what to do with her complicated life. Some very warm and generous people offered her a room in their house-share, which was a wonderful safe and supportive haven for her. Eventually she had to decide what to do (finding work as a circus artist is not easy and that is all her work visa permits her to do) and has chosen to try her luck and stay in Brighton where she has made friends and is hoping to make a permanent home here.



From Casablanca with love – a young Moroccan man's tale

How did you first come into contact with Thousand4£1000?

Ibrahim: A support worker put me in touch with them and I first met Jenny and Sue in a café in Hove.

Where were you sleeping at the time?

Ibrahim: I'd been sleeping on the beach – it was terrible. I got beaten up one night and lost all my front teeth. Then a friend let me sleep in his car in his garden.

Were Jenny and Sue able to help?

Ibrahim: Yes, Thousand4£1000 paid for me to stay in a hostel in Regency Square that night and I was there for about 2 weeks, then in another hostel for a few more weeks and then Jacob let me stay on his sofa, while they tried to find a host family for me.

Did they find a host family?

Ibrahim: Yes, they contacted a hosting charity and found a really nice couple. I was very nervous at first, but Helen and Nigel* were so kind and welcoming. They were like my parents – I felt so at home. In the week first I cooked for them: Moroccan couscous – they'd never had it before and loved it! While I was there, I helped around the house and in the garden, doing jobs for them – I really enjoyed it. Also, Thousand4£1000 helped me find a dentist and I got my teeth fixed, which made me very happy. They also gave me a weekly allowance as I had no income at all. Then at a wonderful Refugee Valentine event, organised by the Jollof café, I met a beautiful young Moroccan woman, fell in love and now we are married!

**Names have been changed*

Journey from fear to independence through appropriate housing

At the start of 2023, T4k had recently allocated a room in its generously-donated basement flat (see last year's AR) to a distressed and sick young woman. She had fled her family and country under pressure of violence and forced marriage, fallen into the hands of ruthless exploiters in the UK, and then suffered a life-threatening deterioration in health due to overwork and stress. After a short period of stability in the flat, it became clear to us that her health was nevertheless deteriorating further. She moved into a spare room with a T4k volunteer, so that her health and care needs could be monitored more closely.



Her life required organisation and support on three levels: health, with the establishment of a clear treatment plan; accommodation, as she wanted to live an independent life; and status, as she had only recently, with help from T4k, understood that she had the right to claim asylum.

T4k focuses primarily on accommodation for destitute migrants. Whilst helping her make progress in both her health and social care needs, and in her passage to full legal status, we sought a suitable small flat where she could live independently but be near to the support she needed. In October, we found a delightful family of landlords who were happy to provide her with a ground-floor flat at a reasonable rental price. With the help of the Local Authority, we set about finding a solution for her, combining the right balance of independence and personal care and support. Staff at the RSCH have recognised her courage and resilience in the face of life-threatening illness and have worked cohesively to offer her a hopeful long-term pathway to leading a "normal" life. The specialist ward's patients' association has also made a donation for her and staff at her GP surgery are always helpful and attentive. This "joined-up care" has enabled our resident to feel more confident about her life, both present and future.



Our resident's flat was unfurnished. As funds were short, she understood that all furniture and fittings would have to be second-hand: donations from T4k supporters or charity-shop purchases. She has taken pride in making a beautiful home with very little money - see the photos of her creative approach to decorating a bare space!

Our resident has dreams of a settled and independent future in the UK: she is an excellent cook and would love to run her own restaurant in our city. The huge progress which she has made reflects the effective multi-agency working which has enabled T4k to house and support her through a tough, but ultimately successful, year.

Human warmth

These are some examples of the ways in which your donation was used by the Care and Support Group in 2023:

- Rent on three flats which gave 4 people a stable home and in which they've all thrived, their physical and mental health has improved enormously and they have found their place in our community.
- Paying for a few nights in a hostel for 5 homeless migrants who were sleeping rough: in a car park, in a public park or on the beach for example. *People often move to Brighton from other cities as they have friends or connections here and are unaware of how incredibly difficult it is finding even a room in a house.*
- Moving costs for someone moving into their first home having been granted Leave to Remain. *We sometimes need to help with this kind of activity as people on minimum benefits simply do not have the resources to pay for moving costs, nor the family or community contacts that so many of us rely on.*
- Supplying a SIM card so that a young Sudanese man can contact his family in Darfur. *Most asylum seekers have as little as £40 a week to live on, so "extras" are simply unaffordable.*
- Help with rent for a man unable to work due to an accident at work. *Sometimes refugees end up working in very low paid casual jobs with few if any of the "benefits" we rely on in difficult times, and jobs are hard to come by, so they don't dare complain.*
- Weekly subsistence payments of £60 to 9 people with no income. *Usually for people newly arrived waiting for their asylum application to be accepted and with no income whatsoever.*
- Contribution to fuel bills for someone on low income. *When you first move into your own home and are responsible for all the bills, it can be extremely difficult to make ends meet, even if you're working. And if you're new to the British winter, paying fuel bills can be impossible initially.*
- Paying for the internet in 5 Home Office provided houses (for about 30 men in total). *Although people awaiting a decision on their asylum claim are housed, there is no internet connection in any of the houses and we feel that life is absolutely impossible without it - to connect with family and friends as well as with lawyers, doctors and Government agencies.*

The beginning of the year brought relief to the ever wonderful Chipo. It has taken her the best part of 18 years to persuade the Home Office that she is a political activist and in danger back home. Chipo said "Now I am human again. Now I have my dignity back."

“ I want you to know that Thousand 4 £1000 CIO has supported me for a hard time I had ever had in my life. I cannot tell you how proud I am that they let us in, listening without judgment. Despite the depression, I have hope and courage again to live my life. They helped me to get the solicitor, also they have provided me with a home living (private sharing house), and they are my case worker wherever I have a problem or something bothering my mind I always go to see them. I am touched you remember me! ”

Accounts

Income

Donations	63,393
Refunds	1365
Fundraisers	6,506
Gift aid	8,364
Grants	34,713
Rent	17,949
Miscellaneous	550
Total income	132,839

Funds at end of year:

Current Account (Co-Op)	16,022
Current Account (Wave)	13
Paypal	379
Reserves (Wave)	7,500
NACCOM loan fund	881
Total	24,795

Loans (direct)

Repayments	622
Balance outstanding	313

Loans (NACCOM)

Loans made	7,416
Loan fees	500
Repayments	4,036
Balance outstanding	12,776

Expenditure

Rent	59,325
Subsistence	31,732
Utilities	10,868
Travel	355
Legal fees	10,073
Cafe rent	2,080
Education & training	10,450
Household Goods	1,522
Fundraising	376
Publicity	150
Moving expenses	1,590
Insurance	561
Repairs/maintenance	367
Deposits	2,000
Admin	523
Holidays	154
Total expenditure	132,124

Financial management

We recently calculated that we have approximately 450 donors making regular monthly donations, which range in value from £1 to £250 (most being nearer the former than the latter!) So although the original plan behind the name "Thousand for 1000" – 1000 donors each giving us £1 per month – has not yet quite been realised, the donors we do have have proved to be extremely generous, and these 450 donors between them give us some £3,500 per month – the overwhelming majority of these being donations of just a few pounds. This makes our income extraordinarily resilient in the face of austerity forcing some donors to stop giving. Usually we lose a few donors and gain a few every year. So although we do keep a substantial amount in our reserves account to cover unanticipated financial difficulties, we can be more confident of the stability of our income than many other charities that rely on big donations and fundraisers. We do also receive many other "one-off" donations, sometimes in response to a particular fundraising goal, and for all of these wonderful donations we are profoundly grateful, as are the people we support.

Once again, our fundraising and administrative costs in 2023 were kept to around 1% of our overall spending.

We continued to work closely with the Sussex Refugee & Migrant Self Support Group (SRMSSG), with whom we run the weekly Jollof Café. The funds raised for this endeavour in 2022 continued to pay the rent for the hall where the café is based until early 2024, until the SRMSSG's own bank account became operational.

The six loans made to refugees and migrants seeking leave to remain, facilitated by a grant from NACCOM in 2018, continued to be repaid. Of the two direct loans to long-standing beneficiaries, one was paid off during the year and repayments continued on the other one. There is no reason to believe that the outstanding loans will not be repaid.

