

**venturetrust**



**Reflections**  
ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-14

## This year we said we would:

### **Transform lives across Scotland**

Almost 1,000 people benefited from our support this year and we continue to experience high levels of demand. By engaging in our development programmes, individuals have overcome complex and chaotic life circumstances by developing strategies to improve self-belief and motivation; to maintain positive personal relationships; and to move towards training, education or employment. Over the year, we delivered hundreds of one-to-one and small group development sessions to help people grow in confidence, to discover their strengths and to explore new ways of thinking; enabling them to see themselves and their potential differently.

### **Enhance employability support**

By working in partnership with business, we are able to offer a greater range of employability support. Relationships with Barclays Wealth for example, focused on helping individuals prepare CVs, develop interview skills, get work experience and break down stereotypes amongst both employers and participants.

### **Grow our UK partnerships**

We were delighted to deliver two programmes for young people experiencing homelessness delivered from our centre in Applecross. Working closely with partners from Housing Associations from across England and with support from the Joseph Rank Trust and Dulverton Trust, we helped individuals in their transition towards independent living. We also made considerable progress in nurturing our partnerships with charities, such as SSAFA, supporting ex-service personnel struggling with the challenges of returning to civilian life.

### **Showcase success**

We were delighted to be a recognised for our work by reaching Charity of the Year finalist in the SCVO Scottish Charity Awards in June and also to win the National Initiatives Awards for our female-only Next Steps programme at the Scottish Community Safety Network Awards. Features in the Scotsman newspaper coupled with articles in sector publications have raised the profile of the issues facing our participants, and the impact of our programmes.

During the year, we launched a new film bringing to life the voices of the people we support. Their stories of transformational experiences are compelling; making the case for sustained support and dedication rather than targeting quick wins. We also hosted a celebration of our programme in Malawi signifying the handover to local partners as part of the long term sustainability of the development work with young men in Kachere Reformatory Centre.

### **Become more self-sufficient**

This year we worked towards significantly reducing our operating costs for office and meeting spaces. As a result, in 2014 we will also be able to offer new learning space for participants and support one-to-ones and groupwork activities. We also are grateful for new support from voluntary fundraisers undertaking a range of outdoor challenges and in receiving donations from the Institute of Directors annual dinner in December. Finally, we successfully completed our first trading year at Hartfield House Affiliate Youth Hostel generating new interest in Venture Trust and our work.

# 334

Number of people entering jobs, training or volunteering

# 1,023

Number of people we supported in the UK

# 37

Number of wilderness journeys



## Looking ahead, in 2013-14 we aim to:

### **Reach more people**

We have always delivered innovative programmes focused on personal and social development. We will continue to offer sustained support and development for participants to acquire the confidence, motivation and core life skills to make positive changes in their lives. We will introduce new wilderness journeys as a catalyst for change to engage people most in need across Scotland.

### **Help women caught up in offending**

We aim to expand our programmes for women from across Scotland in the criminal justice system. By offering mentoring and peer support the programme focuses on building positive relationships, accessing services and moving away from the destructive cycles of offending. We also will continue to provide wilderness-based personal development programmes as part of the Shine Women's Mentoring Service partnership supported by the Scottish Government's Reducing Reoffending Change Fund.

### **Develop our employability support**

We will build on our provision in communities by delivering regular one-to-one and groupwork sessions for participants to further their development and realise their potential. By being able to present themselves with confidence, we aim to enable our participants to make positive progress and access opportunities to move on to training, education or work. We will deliver a greater range of accredited awards and vocational opportunities whereby participants can acquire new skills, gain relevant experience and demonstrate a commitment to development.

### **Enhance our partnerships with business**

We will be proactive in working with businesses from a range of sectors, with an emphasis on rural skills and jobs in the outdoors, to co-produce programmes which are mutually beneficial. We will collaborate to create volunteering, placement and job opportunities and to promote the benefits for organisations and their employees in sharing their knowledge and experience by mentoring and supporting our participants. We will also launch our first adventure tourism trainee programme as part of Venture Mòr.

### **Demonstrate impact**

By continuing to evidence the impact of our work and celebrate the achievements of the people we support, we aim to demonstrate the long term benefits for individuals, their families and communities. To help us achieve more, we will launch new outdoor fundraising challenges to grow donations and broaden our supporter base. We plan to enhance our sustainability by investing in our passionate and skilled staff team; ensuring our systems and operations are effective and by working in partnership to deliver transformational impact for the people who are either in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system, or who face multiple obstacles to more positive futures.

**Find out more about our plans for the year ahead at [www.venturetrust.org.uk/ambition](http://www.venturetrust.org.uk/ambition)**



“The remote and stunning wilderness of Applecross and the powerful impact as ‘a chance for change’ for individuals coupled with Venture Trust’s wider contribution to the community of Applecross has impressed LandAid and our partners. This is effective and excellent work, which we are proud to support.”

LandAid

## Chair’s remarks

The Board of Trustees of Venture Trust are proud of the organisation, which despite a challenging economic landscape, has continued to witness those participating in the programme achieving success in relation to their personal journey. That achievement would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of both our staff team and our supporters and partners.

I am very grateful to the dedication of our highly skilled staff team whose work with individuals both directly and indirectly, encourages positive change, contributing to safer communities. They also help develop an understanding and appreciation of wilderness contributing in a small way to the development of more sustainable environments. My thanks go to all our supporters and partners for their commitment and enthusiasm. With your support we have been able to achieve so much.

Looking ahead to the future we are launching our strategy and ambition to 2020. We have a commitment to transforming lives of people to help them to realise their potential. The strategy demonstrates our continuing commitment to innovation and evaluation. We recognise the added value that comes from working in partnership where appropriate and building links with supporters. That, coupled with organisational resilience and adaptability, means we will be well placed to navigate the inevitable challenges.

## Trustees’ statement

These summarised financial statements incorporate all the operations of Venture Trust and are intended to give the reader an assessment of the overall financial position but are not the statutory accounts. This information is taken from the audited financial accounts, upon which the auditors’ opinion was unqualified. The full report and accounts were approved by the trustees on 28 November 2014 and have been submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, the Registrar of Companies, and the Charity Commission. A copy is freely available from Venture Trust’s website, on request from the Venture Trust office, or on the Charity Commission’s website.

Signed on behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mairi E. Brackenridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

**Mairi Brackenridge**, Chair of the Board of Trustees

**For more information please visit**  
[www.ventretrust.org.uk/finance](http://www.ventretrust.org.uk/finance)



## Fundraising and Finance

### What we've raised

- Our income in 2013-14 was £2,312,067.
- The majority of our income comes from grants, with 35% of our income (2013: 42%) from statutory bodies, 45% (2013: 50%) grants from trusts and foundations and 12% (2013:6%) grants from the National Lottery.
- Looking ahead, we will continue working towards attracting a wider network of supporters and voluntary donations, providing greater stability and diversity of funds.

### What we've spent it on

- We spent £1,042,357 on our outreach and community activities plus a further £1,469,878 on the delivery of personal development journeys in the wilderness. We also spent £93,429 to deliver (and exit) our Malawi programme.
- We also further reduced our costs seeking to demonstrate value for money in delivering our programmes and as part of our long term strategy to streamline our occupancy and communication costs.

# 21,204

Tents pitched

# 880

Kilometres paddled  
along Scotland's  
rivers and coasts

# 720

Development sessions  
with participants out  
in the wilderness

“The work you do is something I feel very strongly about and I feel is an area of society that is often overlooked - often because the sorts of young people you are dealing with are misunderstood - and it can be a long slow process to break down barriers and see change.”

Individual donor

“The young people who went on expedition came back different people. Because of all the support given by the Venture Trust staff, not only did they succeed, they flourished. I cannot put into words their enthusiasm, happiness and excitement when describing their time with Venture Trust. Each of them gained a real sense of achievement from the experience.”

Referring partner



## Our supporters

- Continued long-term support from Inspiring Scotland and the Scottish Government has been critical in enabling us to develop and deliver increasingly effective programmes and results.
- We have received vital support from Trusts and Foundations including Comic Relief, The Souter Charitable Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, The Volant Charitable Trust, The RS McDonald Charitable Trust, The Henry Smith Charity, The Gannochy Trust, The Rank Foundation, The Robertson Trust, Porticus UK, Joseph Rank Trust, BBC Children In Need and many others.
- We are grateful to the Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery for our work in Glasgow and Inverclyde and most recently the Lottery's Coastal Communities Fund to help us grow our social enterprise in Applecross, Wester Ross.
- Thank you to statutory partners including Local Authorities, Edinburgh & Midlothian Pipeline and Highland LEADER.
- We were delighted that more companies chose to support us this year, and special thanks go to Barclays Wealth, Network Rail and to Sainsbury's Quartermile, Edinburgh, for their donations, events, and in-kind support.
- Sincere thanks to every single one of our individual supporters - you are vital to the work we do. Thanks also to groups including Edinburgh's Gilbert and Sullivan Society and the GLITS choir for fantastic fundraising efforts.

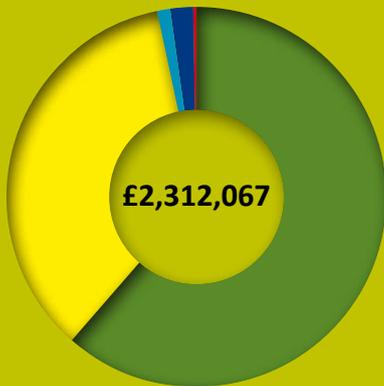
## Our overall financial position

Net outgoing resources for the year amounted to £321,481 (2013: £46,286). However this includes a deficit of £102,586 (2013: £48,857) relating to depreciation on capital purchases in previous years. Excluding this capital fund, net outgoing resources on revenue funds for the year amounted to £218,895 (2013: incoming resources of £2,571). Unrestricted reserves reduced to £66,061.

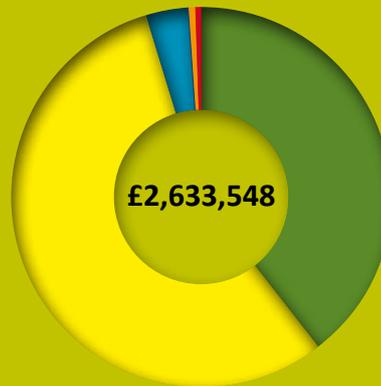


**Thanks to all our supporters, past and present, who help us offer individuals 'a chance for change'. We couldn't do it without you.**

## INCOME 2014



## EXPENDITURE 2014



“This course changed my opinion on a lot of things, and showed me that courage and confidence can be found where you think there is none. It taught me never to give up, and to push myself to the absolute limit!”

Participant

## Financial figures

Income	2014	2013
Trufts, foundations & lottery	£1,420,739	£1,456,645
Statutory grants	£819,633	£1,405,370
Donations	£26,667	£19,603
Training & events	£43,867	£20,040
Interest	£1,161	£3,015
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,312,067</b>	<b>£2,904,673</b>

Expenditure	2014	2013
Outreach & community support	£1,042,357	£1,296,068
Wilderness journeys	£1,469,878	£1,510,554
Moving On: Malawi	£93,429	£118,713
Coastal Communities	£1,337	-
Fundraising	£16,231	£15,336
Governance	£10,316	£10,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,633,548</b>	<b>£2,950,959</b>



Support our participants' journey,  
and help more people take 'a chance for change'.  
Visit [www.venturetrust.org.uk/support](http://www.venturetrust.org.uk/support)

**venturetrust**

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The Venture Trust is a registered charity in Scotland (Number SC038932) and in England & Wales (Number 285891)