

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Earthworks St Albans
Date of TFN event which you pitched at?	13/09/2019
Name of the project TFN funded:	Earthworks On Wheels
Were you able to undertake your project as you outlined in the application?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>TFN funding enabled Earthworks to begin our innovative Earthworks on Wheels pilot, which has now been running for 11 months. As a result of our attendance at the TFN pitching event Earthworks received pro-bono support from Dr Richard Piper, former Director of Impact Transformation at Mencap and current CEO of Alcohol Change UK. With Richard's help, we developed a structured impact and outcomes framework. As a result, since August 2019, we used the framework to record targeted feedback from Earthworks on Wheels project beneficiaries, the Earthworkers themselves, and their parents and carers.</p> <p>The high-level outcomes for Earthworks on Wheels are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased independence (of both older people and Earthworkers) • Employability of Earthworkers • Increased skills and abilities of Earthworkers • Value and recognition of people with learning disabilities • Inclusion <p>Our data collection shows that self-esteem, confidence and gardening skills have all been improved as a result of their participation in Earthworks on Wheels.</p> <p>Earthworkers say: "It's nice to do something different outside Earthworks" "I hope he [the homeowner] likes it!" "It's been really good!"</p> <p>Service recipients Feedback collected from service recipients has been universally positive and strongly evidences that receipt of the Earthworks on Wheels service has made them feel better able to live in their home independently, feel happier about their garden, and feel less isolated.</p> <p>Service recipients say: "You don't know what this means for my mental health. This [garden] has been worrying me for so long." "The team worked hard for four hours and made a huge difference. Several of my neighbours have commented on the neat and tidy appearance that my garden now offers. In addition, it was a joy to entertain them as guests: they were polite, good-humoured and sensible" "I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your kind help. Thank you all and thank you to the charity."</p> <p>Plans for the future We have ambitious plans for the future of Earthworks on Wheels, including employing a full-time member of staff to deliver the project,</p>

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	<p>securing further grant funding and initiating partnerships.</p> <p>The learning that the TFN funded pilot facilitated has proven invaluable in the development of this unique initiative. Looking forward, it will be crucial to inform large scale bid applications and in ensuring the future success of Earthworks on Wheels.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	91.45%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	53
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	159
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
If yes, how much were you able to raise and from whom?	N/A
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, can you provide details on the support you received.	<p>The Funding Network event gave Earthworks the opportunity to engage with local charity Small Acts of Kindness, which serves isolated older people who often need additional help in their gardens. This introduction initiated the exploration of a possible partnership between our organisations when Earthworks on Wheels launches from a pilot into a fulltime project.</p> <p>We have also approached Small Acts of Kindness to partner with us for our new flagship event the St Albans Polar Bear Plunge.</p>
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?	<p>In April 2019, Earthworks recruited a Fundraising Development Manager who has since developed a fundraising strategy to diversify funding.</p> <p>In a successful revamp of our AGM, we now welcome visitors and supporters to this lively June event where we champion Earthworks, celebrate achievements and generate community support.</p> <p>Earthworks is now receiving free strategic advice and mentoring through Hertfordshire Community Foundation's Building Effectiveness Program, and is receiving training and development as part of their trustee development programme Better Boards.</p>
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	<p>The TFN process requires a lot of resource staff input which was initially daunting for a small charity when measured against the potential monetary gain. This could be off-putting to future charities. However, we found the benefits went far beyond financial gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was a tremendous learning experience developing the pitch and

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	<p>'selling' both Earthworks and our project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our involvement in the event directly enabled us to develop a framework for outcome monitoring and impact measurement – a vital tool for the charity which will be invaluable long-term. • The event offered a great opportunity to showcase what the charity does to influential local people and businesses, increasing our profile and adding value to our brand.
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>Life Skills: Jack Jack was thrilled to play a key role in helping Earthworks to successfully raise funds at the event. Presenting at The Funding Network has instilled Jack with a confidence, pride and self-worth which has deeply affected others areas of his life. Since gaining this confidence, Jack has undertaken further fundraising challenges including sponsored walks and most recently a skydive to raise thousands of pounds for Earthworks.</p> <p>Social inclusion: Rachel During a garden clearance, the owner remained outside with us for most of the day. Initially, he only communicated with staff members and spoke to Earthworkers in a loud manner. When Rachel saw that he was upset and embarrassed about the condition of his garden, she told him, "Don't worry we, are here to help you." By the end of the day, he was talking to everyone as equals, offering encouragement and praise – and cups of tea.</p> <p>Confidence: John (not his real name) John began a regular placement with Earthworks in spring 2019. This new weekly routine marks the start of a new chapter in his adult life. When staff first offered him the opportunity to go out for the day with the Earthworks on Wheels project, he was very hesitant. John explained, "I was worried about my taxi, it was a different routine. It was also my first day in the taxi." But with reassurance, John decided to join the team, and in the work-like environment of the project, he flourished. John had learnt how to cut back a hedgerow at Earthworks and was proud to demonstrate and chat about this skill with the garden owner. "I enjoyed that I felt very able to cut down hedgerows! It made me feel more confident to go and help more people in the community." Following his first day out with Earthworks on Wheels, John reflected upon how it made him feel and what he believed the project offers him and his peers: "It was really good practice for going out in the real world. It boosts confidence of Earthworkers and gets them ready for work." "It's a good project because you can help people, I felt really good about it."</p> <p>Quality of life: Margret Before an Earthworks on Wheels visit, Margret's overgrown garden was unusable. Now she enjoys using the garden regularly, even sitting outside to eat meals in good weather. Margret says, "I've been out in the garden today and I am so pleased with myself. I couldn't even go out before, it was too overgrown." She now hangs her washing out to dry on the line which has empowered her to be more organised inside the house too. "They cut the grass and pulled the weeds out but it was more than that, it's given me my garden back."</p>