



An Open Hand

Scottish Charity Number: SC054530

Annual Report & Financial Statements for the
seven months ended 31 March 2026

Contents

Our Charity Details	2
Introduction	4
Our Work	7
Our First Seven Months	11
Our Impact	14
Our Future Plans	23
Acknowledgements	24
Would you help continue our work?	26
Our Structure, Governance and Management	27
Our Finances	29
Independent Examiner's Report	35

Our Charity Details

Name	An Open Hand SCIO
Charity Number	SC054530
Address	Greenbank Parish Church, Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6ES
Email	enquiries@anopenhand.org.uk
Website	www.anopenhand.org.uk

Our Trustees

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report:

Catherine Bogie – Chair
Anne Ratter – Secretary
Stephen Hadden – Treasurer
Rosemarie Crawford – GDPR officer
Rona Ferguson – Trustee
Hazel Macaulay – Trustee

Independent Examiner

Liam Donnachie – MA (Hons) Adv Dip MA

Introduction

An Open Hand is a Christian outreach ministry established in response to a need among some families for support in providing birthday gifts for their children. Its name is taken from Deuteronomy 15:11 which guides Christians to "open wide your hand" – to be generous and open handed towards those in need within our community.

We aim to provide parents, experiencing financial hardship, with birthday presents they have personally chosen for their child, opening the door to joyful birthday celebrations. We strive to shine God's light and hope into children's birthdays, helping create positive memories for the whole family.

We began as a small project in 2021, a partnership between Greenbank Parish Church and Edinburgh City Mission. Since then, we have provided hundreds of parents in Edinburgh with birthday gifts they have chosen for their children, along with books, games and stationery for the whole family to share together. We are based in Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh, and are entirely volunteer run.

We became a registered SCIO on 2nd September 2025. This is our first Trustee Report covering the first seven months of being a charity.



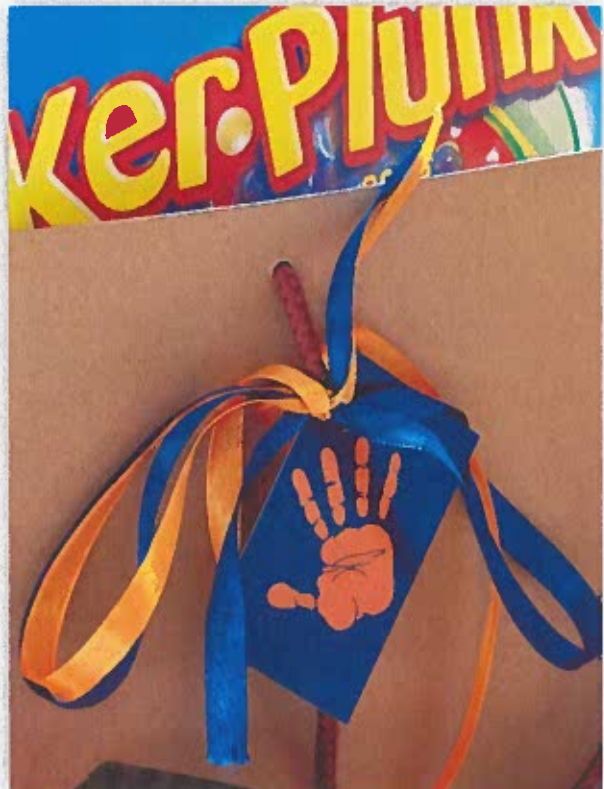
How it all started....

The seed for An Open Hand was planted one morning in a foodbank in Edinburgh. While a young mother was collecting food for her family, she quietly shared that it was her youngest daughter's third birthday that day. With no money to buy a gift, the family felt unable to mention or celebrate it at all. They had asked the child's nursery not to mark the day, or sing happy birthday so that she didn't find out. She went on to say the hardest part was hearing her daughter ask again and again when it was going to be her turn to have a birthday, just like her friends.

A birthday is a time to create positive, happy memories and help strengthen family bonds. Buying presents for a birthday can put a strain on many families, can move them into debt, or is not possible and the child goes without a birthday present.

When a child feels their family is celebrating their birthday, they feel special and significant. It is a time when families can show how much they love and care for someone.

An Open Hand aims to provide parents with birthday presents they have personally chosen for their child, opening the door to joyful birthday celebrations.



Our Vision

We strive to shine God's light and hope into children's birthdays, helping create positive memories, gift by gift, family by family.

Our Mission

To provide parents in financial hardship with a present for each of their children's birthdays along with books, games and stationery for each family to enjoy together.

Our Purposes

- To 'open wide our hands' and give generously and freely in our community.
- To offer parents the opportunity to give their child a birthday gift they know they will love, without the financial burden that it brings.
- To offer children the opportunity to celebrate each birthday and receive a gift personal to them. We hope this helps them feel special and loved within their family.
- To enable families to create positive family memories of birthdays.
- To brighten family time together through the additional games, books and stationery provided.

Our Work

Referral agencies across Edinburgh can apply to An Open Hand on behalf of families who are eligible. An Open Hand will then call the family before the birthday to find out exactly what they would like to give their child.

On the day arranged, the gift is delivered directly to the family's home while the children are out at school. Wrapping paper, a birthday card and an extra package for the whole family (see next page) are also included. This way, parents can wrap, prepare and give the presents themselves on the birthday. All siblings are included on one application form so that each child in a family receives a gift on their birthday.

An Open Hand has no paid staff and the day to day work is done by five volunteers. In addition to this, six members of Greenbank Parish Church very kindly make themselves available to help with deliveries when the need arises.



What is included in a delivery?

The birthday present

- chosen by the child's parent
- approx. £35 in value
- plus a birthday card, wrapping paper and sellotape

A bag for each family to share containing:

- a book for each child in the family
- a family game
- bubbles for each child
- drawing paper
- colouring pencils, writing pencils, a sharpener, rubber and pencil case
- a mug with tea, coffee and hot chocolate for the parent
- an optional 'Try Praying' booklet



Who do we deliver to?

Families who are facing financial hardship because of job loss or benefit delays/interruptions and have no other means (e.g. savings) of helping their child celebrate their birthday.

Families who have no recourse to public funds .

Families facing unexpected bills/costs/debt repayments around the time of their child's birthday which prevent them from buying their child a present.

Who makes applications?

We are currently in contact with 44 different charities, churches and organisations in Edinburgh including:

Barnardos	Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre
Bethany Christian Trust	Homelink Family Support
Christians Against Poverty	Homestart Edinburgh
Community Help and Advice Initiative	Kindred Edinburgh
Children First	Kinship Carers
Circle	Low Income Families Together
Citadel Youth Centre	Link Living
Cyrenians	One Parent Family Scotland
Dad's Rock	Pilton Community Health Partnership
Dean and Cauvin Young People's Trust	Prestonfield Primary School
Edinburgh City Mission	Richmond's Hope
Edinburgh Council	Safe Families
Edinburgh Food Project	Sparkle Sisters
Families Outside	Spartans Community Foundation
Ferrywell Youth Project	Stepping Stones North Edinburgh
	Woman's Aid Edinburgh

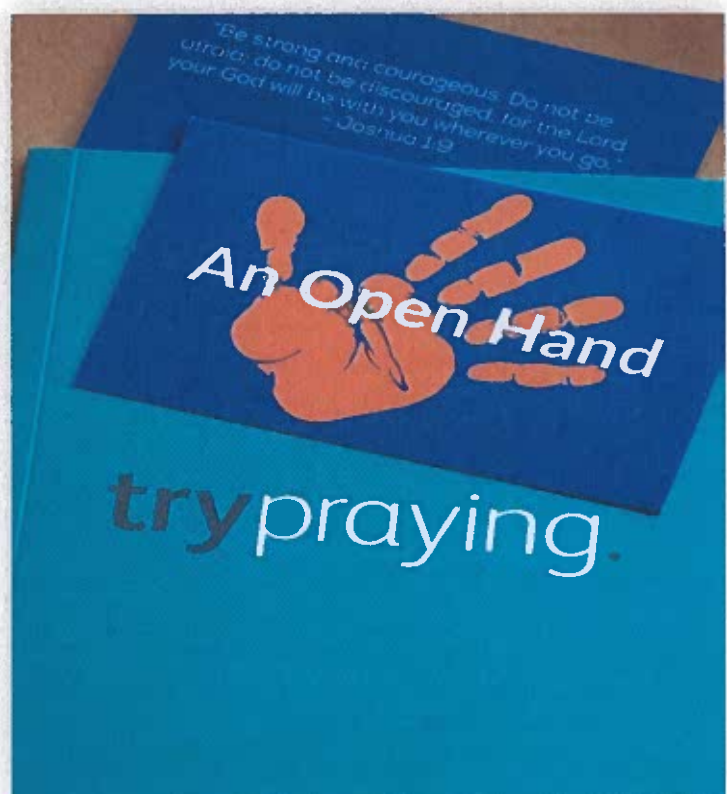
An Open Hand as a Christian Ministry

As a Christian outreach ministry we find deep joy in our faith. Providing birthday gifts to families, for their child's birthday, is a practical way to live out Jesus' teaching of serving and caring for others, particularly those in need, and of love and compassion.

By providing the birthday gifts, and enabling celebration of each child, we hope each child feels valued, remembered and cared for and gives their parents a feeling of support, dignity and being thought of.

Try Praying

Each family we deliver to is offered a TryPraying book. It is entirely optional if the parent wishes to take it or not. We have been greatly encouraged that almost all parents have been curious about it and interested to receive it. It is a very simple and non-intrusive way of sharing hope with others.



Our First Seven Months!

Since we began in 2021, 384 children have received birthday presents chosen especially by their parents, 60 of these in the last six months!

In the same time, 699 siblings have received books, games and stationery to share together as a family. 124 in the last six months.



Getting Started as a Charity

As a result of applying to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation the amount of administrative tasks significantly increased for our project.

We have worked diligently to familiarise ourselves with all the legal requirements needed to become a charity in Scotland and also to put these in place. This list of jobs has included writing and agreeing a Constitution, appointing trustees, having the necessary insurance in place, registering with the Information Commissioner's Office and liaising with HMRC to set up Gift Aid. We have written and implemented a General Data Protection Regulation Policy and provided training in it to our volunteers.

In addition to the legal requirements we have built a website, created comprehensive volunteer and trustee induction packs, updated our stationery, set up social media accounts, and organised a fund raising event! We have enjoyed putting everything in place to make An Open Hand a fully-fledged charity. At the same time as developing this administrative and governance structure we have continued to process applications and helped to support families in financial hardship in Edinburgh to open the door to joyful birthday celebrations.

It has been a busy but fulfilling time for all of our team.

Developing our charity

We became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 2 September 2025. At the same time as setting our charity on a firm footing administratively we have continued to improve our core service of supporting families in need across Edinburgh. The core team makes calls to parents, buys gifts and delivers them in time for birthday celebrations. Recently we have recruited another volunteer to this team. Enlarging our team has meant that during busy periods and holidays we are still able to meet the needs in the communities we serve.

We continually review the contents of the bags we prepare for families. Since September 2025 we have added a small gift of a mug with tea, coffee and hot chocolate for each parent, so that something is included for each member of the family.

We are also looking to update the contents of our bags for teenagers. Our local Scout Troop and Explorer Scouts took time to learn about our charity and completed questionnaires for us. This has helped us to better understand what young people in this age group might appreciate. We have added a variety of water bottles, fidget toys, sports socks and cosy socks to our teenage bags!

Measuring the impact of our work is an important part of continuing to develop and grow. We have streamlined and formalised our efforts to obtain feedback from the families and referrers who use An Open Hand. We have designed a simple and short google form for parents to complete once the birthday has passed. Similarly we seek feedback from referrers annually, and also informally, when we have an opportunity to meet.



Our Impact

As a small charity, we measure our impact to ensure that our service is truly making a difference and that our resources are reaching those who need them most. As well as recording data, we seek feedback from parents, referring organisations and our volunteers. Parents are asked for feedback after their child's birthday. Each family we reach has its own set of circumstances and our impact will be felt in different ways. The measurable data is presented first and then followed by direct quotes from parents. We have organised these quotes into themes to show the breadth of the impact that giving birthday gifts can make.

Referring organisations were sent feedback questionnaires in February 2026. Each referrer was given the opportunity to share their thoughts as well as answer our questions. The Impact Data has also been categorised into themes and is in the form of direct quotes. Referrers were confident they would like to use the service again.

Volunteers were sent feedback questionnaires in February 2026. The measurable data is presented first and then the narrative feedback follows in the form of direct quotes.



Impact Data from Parents

100% of parents

- were happy with the birthday gift they chose / we helped choose for their child
- found the bag of books, games, paper and bubbles useful and fun
- thought it was worthwhile to be given books
- were happy to receive the mug
- felt supported by our service
- would use our service again

'It was so thoughtful that group games and activities were provided for my other child to also enjoy'

Feedback on the package for the family to share together

'I think this was an incredibly kind touch, not something that was expected at all and a very welcomed item'

Feedback on the mug given to parents

Opening the door to birthday celebrations

"We are currently going through a difficult time and it meant so much that I could make my child's birthday special. We haven't really celebrated birthdays much in the past. My daughter said 'this is the best day ever'."

"They provided things which I may not have been able to give my son. It was an incredibly kind gift and I am forever grateful."

"You provided all the things you need for a birthday which you can easily forget. It was a joy to see him so happy with the gifts and I didn't have that worry of gifts."

"An Open Hand made the celebration possible. Without An Open Hand, the boys wouldn't have had a birthday celebration and thankfully we would have been able to get away with it as they aren't old enough to know their birthdays. We would just not have told them it's their birthday."

"Made a 9 year old boy very happy having a fun night with the magic box."

Relieving money worries

"Really helped as I was struggling and I managed to get the dolls she wanted that I wouldn't have managed to get myself."

"With the cost of living increasing with everything it was a massive help."

"Everything was very appreciated with the cost of everything going up."

Supporting parents

"I was so touched by the thoughtfulness of An Open Hand. As a single mum you sometimes feel too proud to ask for help. But right now I do need the help so thank you from us both. Your charity does a great job."

"I really appreciate it and your help with the delivery. You are amazing in what you do."

"The service was absolutely amazing. Lovely way to help people. Nothing I would change. Thank you so much."

Helping children develop interests and join in with their peer group

"He was so very happy with his gift! He loves rocks and found so much to add to his collection from the gift you guys provided!"

"The service takes a financial burden off mum, the child receives a gift on their birthday like their peers regardless of mum's financial situation."

Feedback on our service

"I think the women who deliver the presents are diamonds so lovely and polite and you can tell they enjoy what they do."

"The ladies were very lovely and will get the gifts to you in plenty of time. I think the service is very helpful to families or single parents like myself."

"Amazing communication. They have been in communication with me throughout. Brilliant service."

Impact Data from Referrers

Relieving money worries

"Very appreciative of the gift otherwise their child might not have got a gift due to financial strains."

"I think it is a great service to help parents and carers impacted by cost of living and living in poverty to get help with their kid's birthday gifts and add a little bit more. Thank you!"

Supporting parents

"As part of the brief work and involvement of different services in a person's life, it's such a positive addition that makes a difference in their confidence and mental

"It made a difference to the child but to the mum as well. After the loss of her husband and being unemployed for a year it was a moment of light for both of them."

"An Open Hand is an amazing service and I am so grateful for all the families they have supported and I have had so many happy children over the past few years and carers who have felt less pressure in trying to find extra funds to make the child's birthday special."

Supporting referrers

"Yes, as we don't have a budget so we always look for support from other organisations and I feel I would not have been able to support these families. I also think birthdays are a big deal for children so being able to support families with this was so lovely and to hear how much they appreciate this was lovely."

"I think the service works really well and is very easy to refer to. The communication with the carer is great too."

"One family said having this gift was a big weight lifted off his shoulders and was so grateful."

"Being able to offer more to our clients thanks to An Open Hand."

"It has been good to know we have somewhere to go to, to get gifts for our families that need the support."

Feedback on our service

"Thank you for being kind and non-judgmental, mums appreciate the support without the judgement."

"Everyone I have applied for has been delighted."

"Lovely and friendly."

"Lovely service and families really do appreciate the extra effort that charities put into them."

"Excellent service. Great communication. Families really appreciate the help."



Impact Data from Volunteers

100% of volunteers:

- were satisfied with their volunteer experience
- felt valued as a team member and supported
- would recommend volunteering for An Open Hand
- feel they received adequate training and preparation
- felt the workload was manageable
- felt their volunteer work with An Open Hand made a meaningful impact

"I am so pleased that we are relieving parental anxiety about celebrating birthdays and empowering parents to choose a gift for their child. Also in knowing that a child will have the opportunity to celebrate their special day with a gift they love. I hope that when we deliver the bags from An Open Hand that we have made a real difference to a parent/family that day & beyond."

"I enjoy the work and I like my fellow volunteers enormously! I thoroughly enjoy being a part of An Open Hand."

"Feeling part of the team providing such meaningful support to families as they mark the celebration of their child's birthday."

Our Future Plans

We are very excited about the year to come!

As well as continuing to deliver birthday gifts to families around Edinburgh we hope to improve and develop the following:

- Relationships with current referrers and broaden our referral network
- Our supporter and referrer communication
- Our impact measurement
- Our fundraising
- Relationships with local schools
- The gifts for teenagers in our family package
- Our book gifting strategy
- Our social media presence (Facebook/Instagram)



Acknowledgements

We cannot overstate how much the support of the **Greenbank Parish Church** family has meant for An Open Hand. The whole team at Greenbank have supported, and continue to support, the quest to make An Open Hand an effective and helpful charity. This has included everything from building storage cupboards to donating wrapping paper, providing space for trustee meetings and reviewing risk assessments! The congregation are hugely generous with their donations of money, mobile phones, wrapping paper and time. The vast wealth of experience in the congregation has been generously shared. The minister and congregation regularly give encouragement and prayers which are treasured.

We also extend immense gratitude to **Edinburgh City Mission** who were instrumental in supporting and nurturing the idea of An Open Hand from the very beginning. Sarah Johnson, Duncan Cuthill and Fiona Russell, in particular, helped shape the initial idea into a functional project and into partnership with Greenbank Church. Edinburgh City Mission have provided considerable and caring encouragement and prayer, along with insight and experience in advising us how to move forwards. We are very thankful for this.

Our work would not be possible but for the great generosity of our **donors**, many of whom give monthly or annually to support the operation of An Open Hand. This support is so appreciated so that we can keep going out to buy presents for children who otherwise would not have.

Thank you also to our fantastic **referrers** who take the time to identify families who might benefit from our service and send in application forms. We wouldn't be able to reach the families we deliver to without this help and we are so grateful to you all.

Toys Galore Morningside and **The Edinburgh Bookshop** have fully supported us since we started as a small project. Thank you so much to these local businesses who have committed to supporting work which benefits children and families. We are also very grateful to the **Scottish Book Trust** who kindly donate beautiful books for our younger children.

Finally, deep thanks are extended to the **volunteers** of An Open Hand. Our charity is entirely volunteer run and would not operate without their service each week. All aspects of the charity are covered by volunteers giving their time and energy ensuring each delivery is carried out smoothly and the charity is run carefully and effectively.



Would you help continue our work?

It is wonderful having the support of all our donors, to help as many families as we can in our city. We welcome, and are thankful for, donations of any value.

If it is helpful to understand what we spend on each birthday, the following may help. A full birthday package costs around £50 which includes the chosen gift (valuing around £35), books for each sibling, a family board game, drawing paper and stationery and bubbles for each child.

One in five children in Edinburgh are living in poverty, rising to one in three in some areas. For these families, poverty means not being able to provide the essentials. A birthday present becomes an added financial stress, or is simply not possible, and the children go without a gift.

You can help change that. Your donation gives a child the joy of being celebrated on their birthday, and makes sure no child wakes up on their birthday to find it set aside.

How might it feel for a child to wake up on their birthday with no present, no celebration – just another ordinary day? No sense of ‘this is my special day’. How might this feel for the parent? Can we fill this gap? Can we provide the gift so families feel they can celebrate?

Help us shine light on birthdays!

If you would like to donate to An Open Hand please go to

<https://anopenhand.org.uk/donate/>

If you would like to receive updates from our ‘monthly message’ newsletter please email

enquiries@anopenhand.org.uk

Our Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document

An Open Hand is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC054530). It was registered on September 2, 2025, having previously been an unincorporated association. An Open Hand operates under a constitution which states our purpose, structure and how we will operate. This constitution is reviewed annually in January by the trustees to ensure that An Open Hand continues to adhere to all that is stated within it.

The assets of the unincorporated association were transferred to the SCIO on September 2, 2025. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are members of the charity.

Charitable purposes

An Open Hand's charitable purpose is the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, with a particular focus on families in Edinburgh and the immediate surrounds who are in severe financial hardship.

An Open Hand is specifically a Christian outreach ministry established in response to a need among some families for support in providing birthday gifts for their children. We aim to provide parents experiencing severe hardship, with birthday presents they have personally chosen for their child, opening the door to joyful birthday celebrations.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The board of the charity, which normally meets quarterly, are the charity's trustees. The trustees as at March 31, 2026 were those who were elected on September 02, 2025. One third of all trustees shall retire from office at each AGM and shall be eligible for reappointment at the next board meeting. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of nine trustees. All the current trustees were appointed at that time. Four of the trustees are regular volunteers with the charity carrying out the day to day work. The members of the board have a broad mix of experiences and backgrounds to all add valuable contributions to governing and running the organisation.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to retain four months worth of normal running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure.

Four months expenditure equates to c. £4,000 and reserves are over £13,000 at the year end. An Open Hand was previously an unincorporated association under the umbrella of Edinburgh Greenbank Parish Church of Scotland. At the time of incorporation as a SCIO, £11,379 was transferred from the unincorporated entity.

On an ongoing basis the main source of income are donations from individuals and reclaimed gift-aid relating to these donations. In the seven month period, excluding the initial transfer of funds, receipts exceeded payments by £2,007.

Our Finances

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered on September 2, 2025, having previously been an unincorporated association. The assets of the unincorporated association were transferred to the SCIO on September 02, 2025.

The charity has an income below £250,000 and as such is eligible to prepare its accounts on a Receipts and Payments Basis. The governing document does not require the charity to prepare fully accrued accounts and neither does it require an audit.

The charity's insurance policy includes Trustee Indemnity Insurance for all its trustees.

Our accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner.

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Seven months ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £
Receipts			
Donations	4	19,429	19,429
Sub-total		19,429	19,429
Total		19,429	19,429
Payments			
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	4	4,116	4,116
Legal costs		1,077	1,077
Other		850	850
Subtotal		6,043	6,043
Total		6,043	6,043
Total payments		6,043	6,043
Net receipts / (payments)		13,386	13,386
Surplus / (deficit)		13,386	13,386

Statement of Balances

As at 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £
Cash and bank balances at start of the period	0	0
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	13,386	13,386
Cash and bank balances at end of year	13,386	13,386

An Open Hand – Chair of Trustees

Name – Catherine Bogie

Signature C. Bogie Date 22.06.2026

An Open Hand – Treasurer

Name – Stephen Hadden

Signature S. Hadden Date 22.06.2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the seven months ended 31 March 2026

1. Nature and purpose of funds	All the funds held by the charity are unrestricted and are utilised at the discretion of the trustees solely for the purpose of furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
---------------------------------------	---

2. Trustee remuneration	No remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee
--------------------------------	--

3. Trustee expenses	
During the seven month period, the following trustees received reimbursement of petrol expenses incurred when delivering gifts to families:	
	£
Hazel Macaulay	55
Rona Ferguson	50
Catherine Bogie	30
Anne Ratter	39

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the seven months ended 31 March 2026

4. Analysis of receipts and payments

Donations		
	Unrestricted funds £	Total current period £
Transfer from unincorporated association	11, 379	11, 379
Charitable donations	7, 132	7, 132
Tax recovered from gift aid	918	918
Total	19, 429	19, 429

Payments relating directly to charitable activities		
	Unrestricted funds £	Total current period £
Payments relating to charitable activities	4, 116	4, 116
Total	4, 116	4, 116

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) **for the seven months ended 31 March 2026**

5. Donated facilities and services

The charity benefits from the contribution made by volunteers who give their time and talents willingly for the benefit of An Open Hand. The areas of the charity which rely on the contribution of volunteers are many and varied and all of the activity would be unable to continue if it were not for the commitment shown.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of An Open Hand SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the 7-months ended 31st March 2026 which are set out on pages 30 to 31 and the related notes on pages 32 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

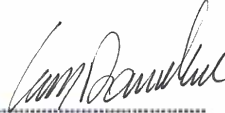
Liam Donnachie MA (Hons) Adv Dip MA

Address: 110 Mill Road, ML1 1LL

23rd June 2026

Independent Examiner

Name - Liam Donnachie

Signature  Date 23/06/2026



"Let all that you do be done in love."

-1 Corinthians 16:14