

5th November 2022

Charity Newsletter 2022

Dear friends and supporters

2022 has been a very eventful year for The Dan Eley Foundation, despite some now resolved health issues for me personally. Now I can update you with a newsletter summarising our activities over the year.

In March 2022, we carried out our 6th spring benefit concert in conjunction with the Godalming College music department. Once again, music students put on a fine performance and the event was a great success, especially considering a two-year absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The event raised £2,000 and the proceeds will go to help students from low-income families access extra-curricular music activities at one of the local schools in Godalming. The event was hosted by St John's Church in Farncombe for the first time, we are very grateful to them for allowing us to use their church as a venue for a concert.

In July, we ran our 3rd charity pop-up-shop in Godalming High Street for five weeks. It was a great success and turned out to be our most successful fundraiser to date, raising an incredible £18,000 to support young people in Waverley. We are extremely thankful to **Debbie and Margaret Jago**, who organized the shop, provided all the stock, and arranged the staff rota. Additionally, we are thankful to Waverley Borough Council for letting us use one of their premises on a pro-bono basis, and to the dozens of volunteers who helped man the shop.

On a local level, since the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020, we have given **over £20,000** in financial assistance to two schools in Godalming. This support has been used to help purchase items such as:



New kindergarten play area at a local school

white boards, a kindergarten playground extension, extra-curricular music tutorials, and sponsoring teachers to undertake the Thrive mental health initiative to support students.

Since 2016, we have been providing targeted financial support for specific pupils through local schools. This support has enabled them to access extracurricular activities that further their educational and personal development, for example: equipment and inscription fees for DofE exhibitions, extra-curricular musical activities, 1-1 academic tutorials, vocational training, as well as purchasing reconditioned bikes for student

transport. We have supported over 100 students through this scheme, and we intend to continue such support in the months to come. Aside from this we have just donated **£3,000** to a youth centre recently opened in Godalming, to be spent on equipment procurement.

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Also in March this year, we started our 24th & 25th accountancy courses with our partner charity in Colombia, FEDUT, with a total intake of 42 students. This programme recently concluded in October, and we are pleased to report that **20 students ended up taking up gainful employment** in local companies.

Due to the increasing level of poverty locally in the UK, the economic downturn, and recent hikes in the cost of living, after 10 years of working together with in alliance with FEDUT, we have decided to discontinue our work in Colombia, at least for the time being, and focus our efforts now on helping individuals in the UK.

Of course, there is some sadness to bring to a halt such a fruitful working alliance and successful body of work, but we do not rule out the possibility of working with FEDUT again in the future. In such case it would most likely would be with a reduced contribution, and on a part-funding basis. In the meantime, we have been able to execute a successful exit strategy, leaving FEDUT in the hands of another UK NGO, who will give them the guidance and support to construct a sustainable operating model. DEF and FEDUT remain on good terms and Jorge and I (the respective CEOs of each charity) are still good friends. We wish FEDUT all the best, and as previously mentioned, do not discount the possibility of working together again someday.

To briefly summarise our work over the last 10 years: we trained just under **800 young people** from deprived urban backgrounds in the city of Cali in Colombia, around half of the course graduates went on to obtain gainful employment as semi-professional accountants in firms in the city. Follow-up studies carried out during the last 10 years showed that many of the FEDUT accountancy programme graduates went on to be promoted several times. Each promotion increased their earning capacity, better enabling them to support themselves and their families during a difficult cost of living crisis in a country already struggling with high levels of poverty. Other graduates went on to further their education at university.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of our donors, supporters, and volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for enabling us to have such a meaningful impact on so many people's lives. We now look forward to continuing our work to support disadvantaged young people in our local county of Surrey in the UK.

I would like to conclude by saying that we recognise there are many challenges facing people and that we are living through difficult times and multiple crises. We are aware of the limited impact that we, as a charity, can have on just a few people's lives. However, if my experience of adversity has taught me anything it is that even if the future seems bleak, giving up must never be an option. Remaining positive and productive are the fundamental starting blocks for bringing about a more positive future, both in our own lives and those around us.

Best wishes and warm regards to you all

