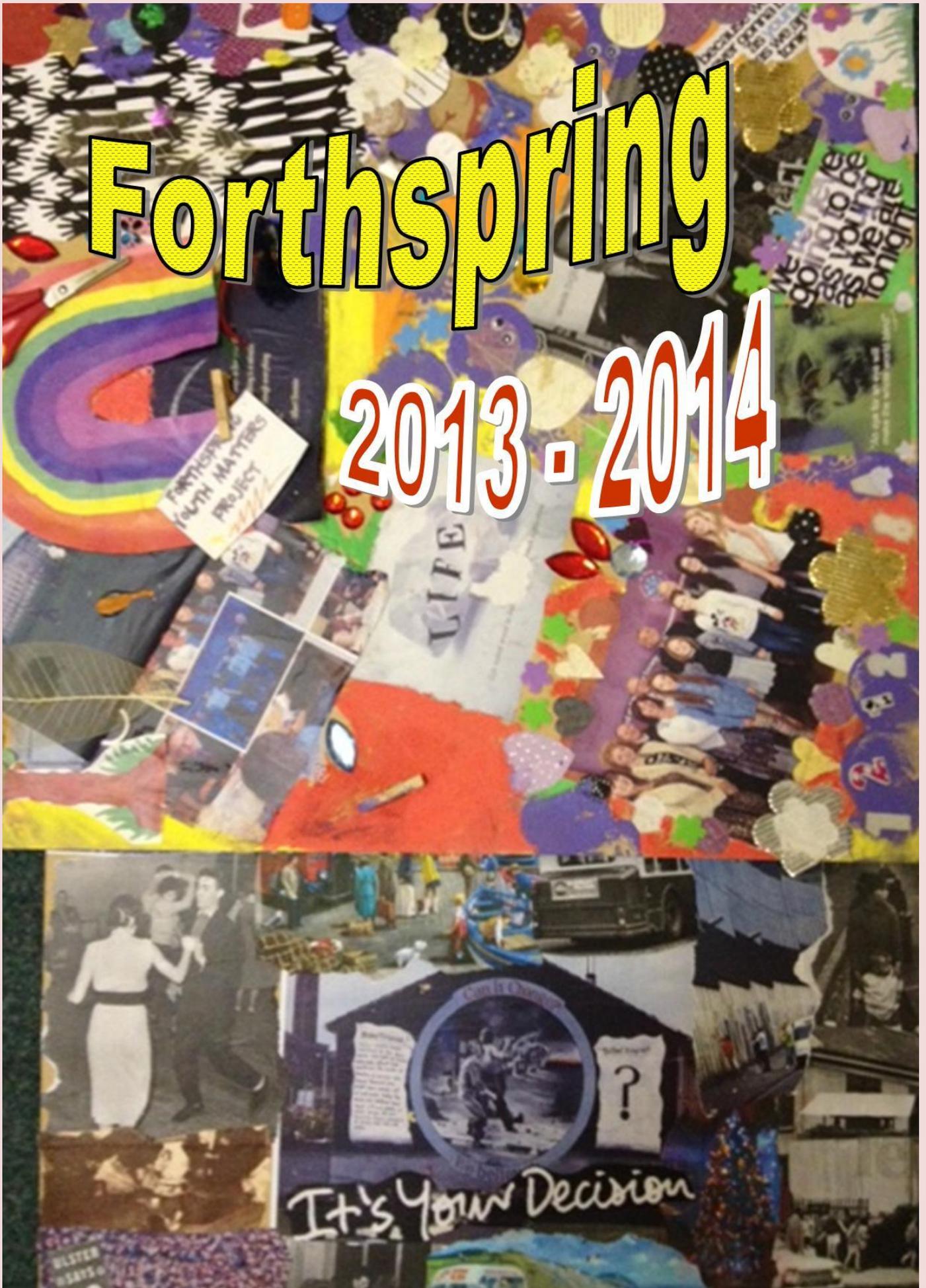


# Forthspring

## 2013 - 2014





## **What does Forthspring mean to you?**

For all of us Forthspring means different things, for the children who attend Springers or Youth Matters Project starting out in life Forthspring offers an opportunity to make friends and form relationships and gain new experiences. Is this different for the people who attend the weekly dancing, take part in the Five Decades Project or gain new experiences through Art workshops?

Forthspring offers a wide range of opportunities for the young members and the older members of the community as well as opportunities to work together.

Our Annual Report's front cover this year is a photograph of two art boards that have been created at one of our intergenerational events. The young people from Youth Matters Project and the not so young people participated in a workshop and created boards that highlight the past but also look to the future.

Friendships, relationships and new experiences are just a few things that can be found in Forthspring but there is so much more.

## Chairperson's Report

Established in 1997 Forthspring remains a catalyst in the community which seeks to engage and empower all those who live within the local Springfield and Woodvale communities. It remains steadfast in promoting its vision of a diverse and peaceful community where all people can live with dignity, hope and respect. Forthspring continues to offer many opportunities where together people can begin to understand their differences and mutual trust can grow. From small children to those of more mature years, there are opportunities for social engagement, learning new skills and empowerment. The project has always had a strong Christian ethos underpinning its values and we are delighted that members from all traditions work well together both in the projects and on the Board. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the members of the Board who take time to encourage, support and work with the team on the ground.

Sited on the peace line, Forthspring works in a community where there are particular tensions and difficulties, yet once again it has been successful in engaging across these existing community divides and it must be commended that members from both communities participate in all the projects. This is no accident and the Board wishes to commend the whole team for their efforts in reaching out and achieving their aims. Particular thanks must go to our director, Maura Moore. In spite of a difficult year health wise Maura, continues to give strong strategic leadership and direction. Financial recession and pressure on funders have reduced funding opportunities yet Maura remains successful in gaining funding for our continued wide range of projects. She is ably assisted by our Financial Administrator Mandy Johnston and together they have maintained a sound financial base for the organisation.

Maura would be the first to congratulate her team. They are dedicated workers who are skilled in their own field and have a strong commitment not only to the ethos of the project but to the people in the community. Without these people nothing could happen. We on the Board wish to express our thanks to each of them and for the good work they are doing. We want to encourage them for their commitment, dedication and hard work. It would be wrong to highlight any project over another but from art, to storytelling, gardening to dancing, youth work to senior citizens Forthspring provides something for everyone in a safe and welcoming environment. It continues to be a model for good practice especially in interface communities. If you have not yet participated why not "taste and see".

I commend this report.

Rev Margaret Ferguson  
Chairperson

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

***Shared Future or Shared Out?*** That was the question we posed in 2013-2014 to political representatives and to various lobbying forums we attended.

Forthspring has existed since 1997 on one of the most contested interfaces in Belfast. During that time there have been a number of government policies to address the division within our society; A Shared Future, Cohesion Sharing and Integration and in May 2013 Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) was launched.

Whilst the policy is certainly welcome it does come with some disappointment to an organisation such as Forthspring. TBUC is built on the premise that we have two unconnected communities and ignores the work of organisations such as Forthspring who are committed on an ongoing basis to building relationships and conflict transformation at a local level.

Forthspring has been and will continue to call for political representatives to send out a clear message of endorsement in support of sharing and recognition of those who are currently engaged in this activity. Our message for the coming year is that if politicians want a shared future then there needs to be recognition and support for sharing!

The coming year will be challenging as we face the withdrawal of Peace funding and future changes within the Councils will be critical. What we need is less emphasis on a strategy that shares out resources on the basis of the two communities. Instead, Forthspring appeals for a strategy that endorses sharing over segregation and supports political and administrative boundaries that in turn will promote sharing and shared facilities to encourage interaction and relationship building. Resources need to be committed to organisations and current programmes that already exist to encourage communities to come together.

The Youth Matters project, funded by BIG Lottery Fund through their Reaching Out Empowering Young People Programme, continues to be successful and has exceeded its targets and achievements for the second year running. During the second year a number of partnerships have been developed with other agencies and this has increased the range of programmes and activities that we have been able to offer. Congratulations to all those young people who achieved qualifications through the project, as well as through the Millennium Volunteer awards. Springer's child care project continues to provide quality childcare to local families. Over the past year a strong relationship has developed between the staff, trainees and volunteers that work between Springers and Youth Matters and this strengthens our work with the age group 4-25.

The Five Decades project, a Peace 111 Project through CRC and the SEUPB, held a successful exhibition at Belfast City Hall during January and February 2014. The project has now collected the stories of over 150 participants and there is still scope for many more. We look forward to the publication which will be launched in June 2014 in Stormont. The success of the project highlights the need for people to share their stories of the conflict in a safe and welcoming environment and the benefits and contribution that storytelling can offer to address the legacy of the conflict.

The Cross Interface Community Planning Project, supported by Belfast City Council through Peace III funding completed its community plan and it was launched in September 2013. 1400 households in the area received a summary of the document. In December 2013 an external review was undertaken which highlighted that local involvement and an intergenerational approach were some of the key strengths of the project. I would like to thank the statutory agencies and the University of Ulster for supporting the project and for their continuing support after the funding completed.

Through support from various small funders we have been able to continue with our gardening project, arts workshops, seniors clubs, and health and well-being projects. These projects continue to be successful and well supported by the local community.

During the year large scale community events were held including the annual summer festival, two summer schemes, roundtable interactive events, gardening fairs, art exhibitions and much more.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors thank you to everyone who participated in all the programmes and to all our supporters and funders who enable us to continue our valuable work. I would invite you to read the rest of this report and to also visit the website for further information and additional documents, you can also follow one of the many Facebook pages.

From myself a big thank you to a supportive staff team and to Board members for their hard work over the past year.

**Maura Moore**  
**Director**

Forthspring Youth Matters Project celebrated our second year of the 5 year Big Lottery Funded Project. We have had an extremely busy 12 months providing Youth Club activities, detached work and a wide range of programmes to young people aged 8-25. During the 12 months the youth staff team have worked in collaboration with a number of organisations to provide community events for children and young people

Achievements this year have included:

- Engagement of 668 young people through centre based provision and detached youth work
- 70 young people participated in Citizenship Programmes
- 6 young people completed OCN Level 2 in Youth Work
- 3 young people competed Certificate in Youth Work Studies at UUJ
- 38 young people completed accredited training
- Youth Committee representing young people from both sides of the interface
- Youth Committee raised £600 for two charities through events
- Cross Community Summer Programme supported by Belfast City Council
- It's All about me programme supported by DPSCP
- 80 people attended an Intergenerational event for International Women's Day supported by NIHE
- 10 young people mentored by youth workers as part of YEP programme
- 8 young people took part in Community Planning Project
- 10 young people participated in Exchange Programme in Dublin
- 10 young people participated in discussions with MLA's about life on an interface.
- 15 young people assisted the Minister for Health to Launch the Fire Work Safety Campaign.

Richard Dougherty  
Youth Manager

## 5 Decades

It was a busy year for the 5 Decades project. Working to explore the differing experiences and memories of the 'Troubles' with the goal of creating a shared, but not agreed, account of the conflict and its impact on local people and communities, the project engaged with groups on both sides of the Springfield Road interface.

Small groups of people from the same community background came together to share their experiences and memories, roughly structured around the 5 decades from the 1960's onwards. Where people feel comfortable they had the opportunity to share their stories and hear the stories of others in a number of cross community and intergenerational events. The project has now worked with over 140 people.

In January and February 2014 an exhibition was held in Belfast City Hall. The exhibition was a combination of over 50 stories and images, structured around the 5 decades, from the 1960's onwards. The exhibition moved from the City Hall to Fortspring and was visited by school groups who viewed the exhibit and met with project participants who shared their memories of living through the conflict in a question and answer sessions.

The project sets out simply to gather stories in a safe and supportive environment. The project worker works along with 5 other experienced facilitators to do this. As the project has developed it has become clear that it has been welcomed as an opportunity for local people to share the everyday experiences of living through an extraordinarily difficult period. The stories reflect experiences of loss, hurt, pain and suffering alongside resilience, strong community spirit and humour.



The current phase of the project will end in September 2014 with the completion of Peace III funding though it is intended to maintain the project as a key area of work within Fortspring. Before it completes the current phase the project will launch a publication containing all the stories gathered. 5 Decades wishes to thank all the individuals and groups who have supported the project to date. Further information and a link to the stories is available at <http://www.forthspring.org/5-decades-project.html>

## SPRINGERS PLAY PROGRAMME



The children attending Springers are from both communities; attending St. Clare's and Springfield Primary Schools. This year we also welcomed children from the Blackmountain primary school. Springer's continues to offer full time care over the Halloween, Christmas, Easter and summer holidays along with corresponding themed celebrations and parties.

Achievements this year have included:

- The Play Co-ordinator continues to be involved in the F.A.S.T training programme (Families and Schools Together) in St. Claire's primary school, funded by Save the Children. This is an 8 week internationally celebrated programme that helps build relationships between families and their local school and community.
- We co-ordinated a very successful Summer Scheme for the local children in 2013, supporting over 35 local families. We were able to offer 14 fun packed off site trips during the summer and many on site activities including our own stall at Forthspring summer Festival. Plans are in place for another exciting summer in 2014.
- The Springer's project has been working closely with the Youth Matters Team and joint programmes have been offered within the community. Additional Christmas, Easter and Halloween parties.
- The project had a successful inspection by Social Services at the end of 2013.
- We continue to offer placements for childcare trainees and for local pupils undertaking work experience.
- Thank you to all our parents for their continued support and for the exceptional feedback submitted to Social services during the inspection process.
- Thank you to St Clare's and Springfield Road primary Schools for their continued support.

**Charlene Harris**  
**Play Coordinator**

## **Forthspring Art Report**

More and more Forthspring has been using various art forms as the medium of choice in exploring pertinent issues affecting our local communities. Art is a wonderful medium to create connections and links over social, religious and cultural distance.

In its many forms, the arts play a huge part in breaking down prevailing barriers of ignorance, intolerance and indifference. The arts have already given many people in our shared community a means to communicate a shared language and work towards shared visions.

We also acknowledge the therapeutic aspect of interaction with a creative project and as such participants are made aware of the connected benefits for their mental, emotional and physical health and brain development. We support people to feel the right brain shift whilst they create and engage everyone in conversations about the neurological changes and health developments occurring for them.

Being creative and engaging in visual arts generates the greatest immediate sense of achievement.

### **Our Projects**

#### **The Community I want: September 2012-October 2013**

##### **Funder: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

An intergenerational project, based around overcoming the prevailing barriers of intolerance and indifference.

The permanently welded shut gates at Workman Avenue, the physical division between the local catholic and protestant communities was used as the symbolic representation of the many other barriers (religious, social and cultural) that our local communities face in organic day to day engagement to meaningful interaction and mutual understanding. As the content of the art work was centred around these barriers we felt that it was necessary that the work be subsequently showcased in and on this area. The invitation to local people to participate in this project provided a context for children and adults from diverse communities to build relationships around a common goal, and to transform barriers into gateways that unite and mobilise communities in the building of 'the community we want'.

#### **Five Decades Project January-March 2014**

##### **Funder:SEUPB**

Older participants worked in support of the Forthspring Five Decades project, creating a 3D model of The Springfield Road in the 70's.

This work was used as a history tool to visually inform and engage younger people from local schools in a multi media exploration of life in this interface area.

#### **These Walls Have Eyes and Ears January- March 2014**

##### **Funder: Clear, The Public Health Agency**

These 'Walls have Eyes and Ears' was a conceptual art installation, with up to 15 older participants who live in the Woodvale/Shankill/Springfield road interface area. The content of the work was based on participant's subjective interactions within their communities in this interface area, giving creative form to the daily organic interactions between family, friends and neighbours; the stories told and the stories heard.

Participants created book type structures and sculptural pieces based on their shared stories.

## **Connecting Belfast January 2014-Ongoing**

**Funder: Lloyd's TSB**

A painterly exploration of iconic Belfast landmarks and buildings. Participants were introduced to various drawing and painting techniques and supported in the development of their own particular styles and interests within each medium. This project also had the added excitement of off- site trips, to better enable participants to search out further subject matter inspiration whilst also gaining a greater appreciation and knowledge about historical Belfast.

Exhibition will take place in July 2014.

## **Hitchhiker's to The Arts this year**

A number of Forthspring participants were also invited to become 'Hitchhiker's to The Arts this year.' This exciting project was a new pilot initiative to enhance engagement with various art forms, funded by Audiences Northern Ireland.

We attended 5 high quality art events, including a play at the Lyric, a film at QFT, a journey on the Late Night Art Bus Tour, music by the Ulster Orchestra and the most wonderful opera experience at The Waterfront.

Collective creativity is one of the most rewarding and energetically positive things a group of people can be involved in. Positive experiences and positive people make for a more positive community. The very act of being creative is physically, emotionally and mentally rewarding. This is a very organic model of good practice for personal development and community relations, built and sustained on positive, creative vibrational energy and artistic flow.

Fiona Lovely  
Arts facilitator

## COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Community Planning Project was funded through Belfast City Councils Peace III Strategic Grants until December 2013. Community Relations Council funded the Project until March 2014. In January 2014 Gerard Rosato the Project Worker moved on to a new post. The Community Planning Group and Youth Planning Group have continued to meet and deliver key actions.

### Project Achievements to Date have included

- Launch of Community Plan September 2013
- Summary of Community Plan distributed to 1200 homes
- Environmental Fair November 2013
- Consultation event December 2013
- Intergenerational Community Clean Up February 2014
- Community Safety and Welfare Event March 2014
- Planning Residential March 2014
- Community Planning Group meeting on weekly basis focusing on issues and themes relating to the Community Plan
- Monthly Inter-agency meetings held with representation from Belfast City Council Departments, Parks and Leisure, the Cleansing Department, the Dog Warden and Community Relations and Community Safety. Belfast Regeneration Office, NIHE, Department of Justice and Ulster University
- Youth led Community Planning Group working in partnership with Community Planning Group to deliver Actions from Community Plan



**Richard Dougherty**  
**Facilitator**

**Forthspring Inter Community Group**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

			31.12.13	31.12.12
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income	12,201	-	12,201	9,963
Activities for generating funds	26,960	4,059	31,019	34,553
Investment Income	30	-	30	
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
Grants Receivable	-	292,346	292,346	254,091
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	39,191	296,405	335,596	298,607
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Programme and staff costs	21,620	320,967	342,587	323,163
<b>Governance costs</b>	1,846	-	1,846	2,166
<b>Total resources expended</b>	23,466	320,967	344,433	325,329
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>				
	15,725	(24,562)	(8,837)	(26,722)
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	(2,181)	2,181	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>	13,544	(22,381)	(8,837)	(26,722)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	16,519	223,328	239,847	266,569
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>30,063</u>	<u>200,947</u>	<u>231,010</u>	<u>239,847</u>

**Forthspring Inter Community Group**

**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 December 2013**

	31.12.13	31.12.12
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible assets	164,072	185,773
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	31,273	33,137
Cash at bank	<u>37,895</u>	<u>22,977</u>
	69,168	56,114
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	(2,230)	(2,040)
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>66,938</u>	<u>54,074</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
	231,010	239,847
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>231,010</u>	<u>239,847</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted funds	30,063	16,519
Restricted funds	<u>200,947</u>	<u>223,328</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>231,010</u>	<u>239,847</u>

## **STAFF LIST**

Maura Moore – Director  
Richard Dougherty – Youth Manager  
Gerard Rosato – Community Planning (Jan14)  
Aine Flynn – Assistant Play Co-ordinator  
Cheryl Nelson – Scribbons (Sept 13)  
Lisa Barnes – Youth Worker  
Danielle Truesdale – Youth Worker  
Judith Freist – International Volunteer  
Stacey McAleer – Childcare Trainee

Johnston Price – 5 Decades Project  
Mandy Johnston - Finance Administrator  
Charlene Harris – Play Co-ordinator  
Fiona Lovely – Arts Coordinator  
Amy Gribbon – Youth Worker  
Michael McAllister – Youth Worker  
Chantelle Glass - Scribbons  
David Devlin – Youth Worker  
Ruairi OConnor – Administration Trainee

## **MAIN VOLUNTEER TEAM**

Pam Kane  
Danny McGrath  
Jim Stewart  
Elsie Kirkpatrick  
Lara Burt

Ann Dornan  
Patrick Rogan  
Mick O’Sullivan  
Violet Walker  
Lynda McBride

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Rev Richard Johnston  
Barbara Watson  
Sr Gillian Chalk  
Helen Smith  
John Peacock  
Helen McVitty-OHara

Rev Margaret Ferguson  
Sr Bridget McCourt  
Jenny Meegan  
Chris OHalloran  
Ed Petersen

## **FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS 2012/13**

Awards for All  
Belfast City Council  
Big Lottery Fund  
British Council  
Bombardier Aerospace (NI) Foundation  
Community Pharmacy  
Community Relations Council  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
General Board of Global Ministries  
Lloyds TSB Foundation  
Medicare Pharmacy  
St Luke’s United Methodist Church, Orlando  
The Early Years Organisation  
Workers Educational Association  
Youthnet  
PCSP  
Dulux

Arts Council N. I.  
Belfast Regeneration Office  
Challenge Fund  
CLEAR  
Belfast Education and Library Board  
University of Ulster  
Community Foundation BCT  
Eireenne  
YCNI  
Methodist Home Mission Department  
N.I. Housing Executive – Cohesion Team  
WISPA  
Volunteers in Mission  
Youthlink  
Probation Service NI  
Turkington Fund  
Cornerstone

## **ORGANISATION DETAILS**

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[www.forthspring.org](http://www.forthspring.org)

