

It didn't take me long to figure out who I would nominate for the MRA 2023 Social Impact Fund. Emmaus Glasgow hold a very special place in my heart, and I knew what an impact such a sum of money, plus Executive Coaching support could make to some of the most vulnerable people in Glasgow.

Emmaus Glasgow is a homelessness charity with a difference. They do not only give a bed for the night; they offer a home, meaningful work and a sense of belonging. Emmaus Glasgow support more than 850 people who have experienced homelessness, providing them with a home for as long as they need and meaningful work and training in social enterprises. People are given the opportunity to take stock of their lives, deal with personal issues, and re-establish relationships with loved ones.

Whilst the above sounds enough reason to receive a nomination, I hold very close connections to Emmaus Glasgow due to my big brother Barry. Over 6 years ago, Emmaus Glasgow became my brother's refuge and sense of comfort. Barry went through a period of uncertainty, dealing with struggles in life where he found himself very vulnerable, and Emmaus Glasgow became a much-needed safety net and support network. They helped him enormously in a number of ways; through their Social enterprise projects he worked with and the companions he stayed with, he rediscovered a sense of purpose and became part of a community where he was accepted and appreciated. For a while, Emmaus Glasgow were able to support and help Barry more than I could. As hard as that is to admit, that was the reality.

Barry began to live independently again after a while, however unfortunately in March 2020, it all became too difficult, depression took over and the struggles he faced led him to ending his life.

Losing him to suicide destroyed a part of us all individually and collectively as a family, and never did I think there was a possibility to heal some of this. The MRA Social Impact Fund opportunity has given us some sense of peace for Barry that I never would have imagined. To do this in Barry's name, to give back to Emmaus Glasgow and the people of Glasgow as a thank you, I know would make my brother so incredibly proud. To secure such a significant amount of funding to ensure a vehicle could freely go back on the road to deliver these essential services and help so many more vulnerable people in his name is something that we wouldn't have even dreamed of.

Now Emmaus Glasgow have a new vehicle meeting ULEZ regulations, they are able to get back into the City Centre, meaning regular soup kitchens, meeting other essential outreach services, free food collections and more! This will allow contact with many individuals who are in need, whether it is for regular meals, connecting with other services, or having a bed/ becoming a companion within the Emmaus Glasgow Community.

Giving people back a sense of belonging and purpose is something we all deserve.

On behalf of my mother, the whole family, including Barry of course, a massive thank you. This is a gift that will keep on giving and we are forever grateful to all of the Emmaus Glasgow team, Richard Allwood and MRA Executive Coaching - a group of amazing and inspiring people that

genuinely care, who are committed to making positive differences to some of the most vulnerable people of our society.

Sarah Atta, 2023