

# Partner with Emmaus Glasgow

*A guide for organisations keen to make a positive impact*



**emmaus**  
**Glasgow**

working together to end homelessness

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## **Thank you for considering a partnership with Emmaus Glasgow**

*A message from Richard Allwood, our Community Director*



Many people think of homelessness as the consequence of bad choices made by the people it affects. However, the true causes of the homelessness crisis in the UK today reach far wider.

For many of the people supported by Emmaus Glasgow, the tipping point that led to them becoming homeless was the breakdown of relationships, leaving them with nowhere to go and little support. Other factors included losing their job, the cost of living, struggling with mental health issues or experiencing problems with drugs or alcohol. None of these factors should be the reason that someone is denied the right to a safe and stable home.

When we misunderstand the causes homelessness, we fail to provide sustainable solutions to help the men and women it affects. For many, loss of self-esteem and deteriorating mental health are the most damaging consequences of homelessness. Being on your own with no support can be soul destroying, leaving you feeling worthless. Homelessness provision often provides people with help at the point of crisis, giving a hot meal or a bed for the night, but leaves them no long-term support.

This is where Emmaus is different. We don't just provide a bed for the night, we offer a home for as long as someone needs it, tailored support and meaningful work opportunities in our Emmaus community and social enterprise. This model can benefit hugely from an external organisation's support. A partnership with Emmaus Glasgow can help you with employee engagement and help towards your social responsibilities but importantly, it can help to change the lives of people who have experienced homelessness.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about the vital work that Emmaus Glasgow provides to help vulnerable men and women within the city. By working to create a mutual partnership with Emmaus, you and your colleagues can be part of this important work.

Yours sincerely,

Richard

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# Contents

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How Emmaus works	page 4
Why Emmaus is needed	page 6
Our community approach	page 7
Social enterprise	page 8
Charity partnership ideas	page 10
Capital projects	page 11
What Emmaus partners say	page 12
Learn more	page 13
Contact	page 14



If viewing this document as a PDF, you can click on sections when you see this icon to find out more information.

## Our mission

To work together to overcome homelessness and social exclusion while using our voice to achieve social change.

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# How Emmaus works

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Emmaus supports people who have experienced homelessness and social exclusion.



## **A home for as long as you need it**

In an Emmaus community everyone has their own furnished bedroom. It is their space for as long as they need it. Basic toiletries are provided and meals are prepared in the communal kitchens. Living and dining areas are shared spaces where people can relax and socialise together.



## **Meaningful work in a community setting**

People supported by Emmaus spend time working in our social enterprises. For many, taking part in meaningful work gives them a focus and routine each day.

The opportunity to become an active part of a community, and make a contribution to it, plays an important role in restoring their self-esteem.



## **A sense of belonging**

Emmaus communities offer the companionship, support and sense of belonging that many people who have experienced homelessness may have lost. They provide a safe, caring and understanding place in which to settle and rebuild their lives.

Living in a community provides the opportunity to re-establish relationships with family and friends and get support to overcome issues such as addiction and mental health.





## SROI

A social return on investment (SROI) study carried out by social and economic company Just Economics demonstrates the impact of Emmaus's work, both for individuals and for society. The research forecasts that each year, Emmaus communities generate £11 in social, environmental and economic return for every £1 invested.

The report concludes that Emmaus communities successfully provide a place for people in vulnerable housing situations to rebuild their lives by offering them meaningful work opportunities and support. The most significant benefits relate to substantial improvements in residents' physical and mental health, including reductions in substance misuse. Other important outcomes include gaining work experience, skills and training; reductions in offending and re-building relationships with family and friends.

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# Why Emmaus is needed

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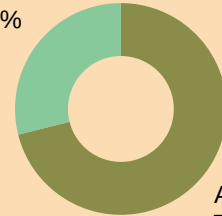


**53,549**  
**people are homeless**  
**in Scotland**

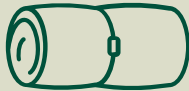
33,619 people in Scotland were assessed as homeless in 2023/24. The number of adults increased by 2% compared to the previous year, while the number of children decreased by 7%.

Scottish Government, 2024

Children  
28.9%



Adults  
71.1%



**1,500**  
**people slept rough**  
**before seeking help**

Applications from persons who had slept rough immediately prior to presentation grew to 1,500 during 2022/23, 15% up on 2021/22

Homeless Monitor Scotland, 2024



**1 in 9**

One in nine renters say they are finding it "very difficult" to afford housing.

YouGov survey, 2024



**244**  
**estimated deaths**

An estimated 244 people died while homeless in Scotland in 2022.

National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2022

While the cost of living crisis may be abating, a new YouGov study found that many are still struggling with their housing costs.



If viewing this document as a PDF, click each of the boxes above to find out more about the different research.

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# Our community approach

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For many people, losing their self-esteem can be the most damaging part of experiencing homelessness. Being on your own and with no support can be soul-destroying and leave people feeling isolated and worthless. Finding a way out of that situation isn't easy. Often the only options available are temporary fixes, offering a bed for the night but little to occupy your days.

Emmaus Glasgow is different. We provide a home for as long as someone needs it in a community setting. This gives people the opportunity to take stock of their lives, deal with any issues they might have, and often re-establish relationships with loved ones. 'Companion' is how we refer to those who live in our Emmaus community. Along with the help provided by dedicated support workers, it is often the peer-to-peer support and being part of a supportive community that is of greatest benefit to our companions.



Madina joined Emmaus Glasgow at the start of 2020, settled in well and made a positive contribution. Within a year she had secured her own flat and successfully moved-on from our community.



## Madina's story

"Before coming to Emmaus I was working full-time but sofa surfing for three years. Due to circumstances out of my control, I couldn't get any help with housing. My support worker told me about Emmaus and suggested that it was the best option for me. Her final words were; 'Emmaus is what you make it' and that line has stuck with me throughout.

"I've always done things by myself and in the past when things got hard, I've pushed people away. When I came to Emmaus, knowing that the support team is there, was a big helping hand. You just have to be open and accept the help that is genuine. Everybody comes with different stories but being here is a real opportunity to lay aside your past and focus on you."



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# Social enterprise

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*A large proportion of our charity's income is generated via our social enterprise.*

Our social enterprise is an integral part of community life and helps us to generate the majority of our income. Companions help to run all aspects of our social enterprise, giving them the opportunity to develop and gain new skills. Contributing to the community they are living in also helps develop confidence and rebuild self-esteem.

The main social enterprise activity for Emmaus Glasgow is collecting donations of furniture and household goods and selling them in our charity shops. Some items are refurbished or, in the case of electrical items, PAT tested for safety. We offer collection, delivery and house clearance services across Glasgow which are run by our companions.



*Our charity shops are good for people and the planet.*

We stock a wide range of affordable furniture, electricals, home wares, clothes, books, bric-a-brac and vintage items. Our shops are a useful resource for communities in Glasgow but also play an important role in helping to reduce household waste.

As well as reusing goods, Emmaus Glasgow also recycles. In two years to 2024, we have recycled 29 metric tonnes of metal. In seven months in 2024, we recycled 8.8MT of wood waste and in four months in 2024 we recycled 4.38MT of cardboard and paper.



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## Our charity shops

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One easy way you can support Emmaus Glasgow is by encouraging your employees and contacts to shop and donate items at our charity shops.



### Hamiltonhill charity shop

101 Ellesmere Street,  
Hamiltonhill, Glasgow,  
G22 5QT



### Partick charity shop

576-580 Dumbarton Road,  
Partick, Glasgow,  
G11 6RH



### Online shop & eBay

Purchase items in support of  
Emmaus Glasgow 24/7 from  
our online shop and charity  
eBay store.



Kirsty became homeless at 16, sleeping rough and then moving to supported housing. Since joining us she has become a valued member of our community.

## Kirsty's story

My role is in the Hamiltonhill store on the main site and every day is different, though I am always serving customers and making sure they get the best service. Emmaus has also given me the opportunity to further my skills and I have completed training courses in food health & safety, business, retail, customer service and even a barista course.

"Quite honestly, I really don't know where I would be without Emmaus, it has saved me in so many ways, helped me learn and made me... well, me. It has allowed me to grow and become a better person."



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# Charity partnership ideas

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Here are some suggestions for how your organisation can work with us but we're open to new ideas too.



## Companion opportunities

Provide training, mentoring, work experience or job opportunities to our companions.



## Product donation

Donate items for use in our community or for us to sell in our shops.



## Team volunteer day

Team up to make a big impact at our community or charity shops.



## Team collection day

Organise a day to collect items from employees to donate to our charity.



## Pro-bono volunteering

Give time and expertise to help with specific charity operations, development and management.



## Fundraising challenge

Organise a team fundraising challenge to raise money for our charity.



## Corporate donation

Make a one-off donation to support specific projects or ongoing companion development.



## Payroll giving

Encourage your employees to donate each month through payroll giving.

## Partnership benefits

- + Make a measurable impact at a Glasgow homelessness charity.
- + Directly help formerly homeless people.
- + Improve your employee satisfaction, team-working and retention rate.
- + Achieve outcomes which contribute towards your CSR objectives.
- + Gain positive publicity in media and online.
- + An opportunity to engage your customers, suppliers and partners.
- + Potential tax relief for qualifying charitable donations



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# Capital projects

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Our social enterprise and charity shops sustain our community and the support we offer to companions. That is our charity's main focus and where the majority of our funds are directed.

If and when we need to maintain and improve Emmaus Glasgow's physical assets, we have to seek additional support, funding and partnerships.

We are constantly looking for help with our capital projects. Our residential community building is in need of a significant update we would also like to fix and install more energy efficiency measures. We need to update our fleet of vans and also purchase a minibus for our companions to use for team outings. Any help you can offer to support our capital projects would be greatly appreciated.

## What Emmaus partners say



Christopher Page, Senior Partner  
Charles Russell Speechlys

“We are delighted to be working with Emmaus UK and contributing to the great work that they do providing a home and meaningful work for those who have fallen on hard times. We are working with Emmaus to identify any legal needs that we can help cover with pro bono support, as well as finding innovative ways to support them through fundraising and volunteering opportunities.”

Mark Dilley, Chief Financial Officer,  
Tilia Homes

"It's been a pleasure working with Emmaus UK and having the opportunity to find out more just how much the organisation does for so many across the country. We're living through challenging economic times making it more important than ever to give back to those less fortunate and in need."



Chris and Nick Pickthall, CEO and COO,  
CPL Aromas

“We are honoured to support the incredible work that Emmaus UK does in striving to end homelessness. At CPL Aromas, we share this ambition and are committed to making a positive impact in our communities.”



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## Learn more

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*A partnership with Emmaus Glasgow will have a positive local impact but your support could also have a national or international reach.*

Emmaus Glasgow is an independent charity that is part of a national federation and international Emmaus movement. The roots of Emmaus stretch back to Paris in 1945 but since then, 410 Emmaus groups have been established in 41 different countries around the world.

One of the most important parts of the Emmaus ethos is solidarity. This means working to help someone less fortunate than yourself. Here at Emmaus Glasgow, our solidarity activities range from outreach within the city - helping people who are sleeping rough - to supporting groups in need in Gambia.



Former Army Sergeant Craig became homeless after a relationship breakdown, financial hardship and struggles with his mental health.

### Craig's story

"Living on the streets was an experience I don't want to repeat. I would sit on street corners begging throughout the day and then spend the nights in my sleeping bag, or if I was lucky enough to find one, a tent. Although I was only sleeping on the streets for six months, I can't tell you how hard it was.

"If it wasn't for Emmaus, I would be under a bridge somewhere or face down in the canal. That's what living on the streets does to you. You feel apart from society. The staff and team have given me the confidence to be an RC (a Responsible Companion) which means that when staff leave the community for the night. Emmaus gave me a purpose, it gave me something to live for."



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# Contact

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To discuss a partnership in more detail or arrange a visit to our community, please get in touch.

T: 0141 353 3903

E: [richardallwood@emmausglasgow.org.uk](mailto:richardallwood@emmausglasgow.org.uk)

[emmausglasgow.org.uk](http://emmausglasgow.org.uk)

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## Our mission

To work together to overcome homelessness and social exclusion while using our voice to achieve social change.

Charity Number: SC029354

Company Number: SC199214

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