

News Release
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SCOTTISH AID AGENCY SEEKS RE-ELECTION AFTER LAUNCHING £2 “CHILDREN’S MANIFESTO”

**Glasgow The Caring City asks for public backing to allow it to
continue working with kids in crisis at home and abroad**

A leading Scottish aid agency which helps kids in crisis has launched a new “manifesto” it hopes will result in a fresh funding boost to enable it to continue its work.

Glasgow The Caring City, a provider of humanitarian relief both at home and abroad since 1999, says it requires fresh support if it is to be “re-elected” for the next five years.

The charity’s project manager Ross Galbraith unveiled his five-point manifesto in Glasgow city centre today and stated that 250 pledges of just £2 a month would be enough to make a huge and positive difference.

Glasgow The Caring City’s £2 manifesto, backed by comedian and Capital FM Breakfast Show Host Des Clarke, is to support:

- Vulnerable children in Scotland.
- Children in poverty across the world.
- Local communities.
- Awareness of environmental issues.
- A new generation of community leaders.

Galbraith said: “This is a fun way of conveying a serious and important message. We have launched this manifesto on behalf of the children we support simply because children are the most important people in our local and global society.

“It helps to highlight Glasgow The Caring City’s track record over 12 years in supporting vulnerable, children who live in crisis both in Scotland and throughout the developing world.

“Today we know that we need just 250 supporters to pledge as little as £2 per month to allow us to sustain the health, education and security of those very children we currently provide care for. So this manifesto asks the people of Scotland – do you want to be part of that team?”

The campaign has been backed by comedian and Capital FM Breakfast Show Host Des Clarke.

Among the projects Glasgow The Caring City currently manages are: Give a Kid a Goal, a football-inspired citizenship and cultural awareness scheme for 3,000 Scottish schoolchildren; and Matthew's Farm, an agricultural training school in Southern Sudan, which supports 600 young farmers – many of whom are former child soldiers, refugees and returning villagers. (More details at foot).

Last year the charity led the West Coast of Scotland's response to the Earthquake which ripped through Haiti and earlier this year it launched Scotland4Japan to help in the aftermath of the Japanese Earthquake.

For more info visit www.glasgowthecaringcity.com

Ends

Issued by The BIG Partnership on behalf of Glasgow The Caring City

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Notes to editors

Glasgow The Caring City was set up in 1999 as a response to the growing refugee crisis in Glasgow, from the Balkan's conflict. Since then the charity has been involved with humanitarian crises in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bosnia and Malawi. The organisation also manages a number of initiatives across Scotland, mainly aimed at motivating children to learn about their local community, environmental issues and the developing world. In 2010 the charity led the west coast of Scotland's response to the Haitian Earthquake disaster and earlier this year it launched Scotland4Japan to help in the aftermath of the Japanese Earthquake.

Glasgow the Caring City Case Studies

Local Scottish charity, Glasgow the Caring City, has been working hard over the last year to improve the health and wellbeing of children both in Scotland and abroad.

Their efforts have enabled Scotland to punch above its weight in humanitarian aid through its Give a Kid a Goal initiative, which has broadened the perspective of many school and college students across Scotland, its ongoing relief efforts in Haiti and its 'Matthew's Farm' project, which has brought much needed agricultural support to war-torn Sudan.

Give a Kid a Goal is a nationwide empowerment programme, set up by Glasgow the Caring City, to support young people through citizenship, environment and cultural awareness modules. Running across the whole of Scotland and covering over 3,000 students per year, the programme is designed to create a new generation of young leaders by motivating them to achieve a goal specifically aimed at tackling child poverty, disability and bullying problems across Scottish and Third World societies. Give a Kid a Goal compliments the Curriculum for Excellence from nursery to higher education levels and has recently expanded to include youth networks such as the Boys brigade. Since its establishment in 2009, the programme has successfully rewarded over 5,000 graduates.

In January 2010, local charity Glasgow the Caring City led Scotland's emergency response to the disaster in Haiti. Within twelve weeks of the Haitian earthquake, this small Scottish charity coordinated the procurement, shipping and distribution of over £8 million worth of aid material, including over 2,000,000 hygiene packs. In addition to this immediate relief work, Glasgow the Caring City joined forces with several global charities to construct a new learning centre for Cite Soleil, enabling over 2,000 Haitian children to lead normal lives by gaining valuable education.

In war torn Southern Sudan, Glasgow the Caring City is providing agricultural training to communities badly affected by 20 years of civil conflict. Matthew's Farm, established in 2008, supports 600 young farmers – many of whom are former child soldiers, refugees and returning villagers. The programme provides dedicated training at a purpose built agricultural college. Positive outcomes include 600 new smallholder farms, a co-operative food and seek bank, literacy and numeracy for the extended community and a functioning market economy. By 2012 the project will be entirely self-sufficient and will train over 300 farmers per annum.