

Looking back at 2024

We have so much to share from another packed year! Pulling together stands out both as a theme for 2024 and a call to action for times ahead, so join us in celebrating our successes, and the people who make our wonderful community.

Welcoming new people

We continued to run activities for the whole community, from youth club to food pantry, and community celebrations like Lunar New Year. We loved welcoming many new people into our widening community – from meeting people that recently arrived in the UK, to new parents.

With division and prejudice at play in the wider world, WSF was a testament to the power of community coming together and finding the benefits and joy in connecting people from different backgrounds.

Our service delivery increased by **25%** from 2023 - providing **2595** hours of activities and services over the year, an average of **50** hours per week.



In the context of challenges in the community sector locally and more broadly, along with the on-going cost of living crisis, we are acutely aware of the importance of our services for the local community and our role in responding to increasing demand.

We adapted by expanding our food and community re-use and re-distribution services. We started providing fuel and data vouchers, and smartphones. We strengthened our role in signposting and referrals to other Newham services - helping people build a network of vital resources.

We are increasingly becoming a hub for community re-use - we distributed 139 free bags of school uniforms, 560 bags of clothing, toys and household items and saved local people over £20,000 through our food pantry – supporting the cost of living and reducing landfill waste.

Partnerships

We cannot do what we do alone — a quick glance at our Thank You page shows all the organisations who play a part in what we do. Our partners supported us over 2024 to build our capacity and expand community provision. This has taken many different shapes, from receiving surplus food from businesses, to looking at long-term planning for the area with stakeholders through the Silvertown Social Infrastructure Forum.

Adapting together

We had a challenging few months at the end of 2024, navigating changes as we rapidly adjusted our operations at Royal Wharf Community Dock. We want to say a huge thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers, and everyone in the local community who pulled together in recognition of our services. We're excited to grow our impact even more over 2025, building on the successes and lessons of the past.





About us

West Silvertown Foundation (WSF) has been working at the heart of the community for the past 29 years. Proudly community-led since 1995, we've partnered with our neighbours to navigate the changes and challenges we face, to support our most vulnerable residents and to break down barriers in the community. We manage Britannia Village Hall and run a children and families programme at Royal Wharf Community Dock. From these two thriving hubs we offer a wide and growing programme of community activities and services for everyone. Our aim is to build a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community for all.

Helen Fernandes

Chief Executive Officer West Silvertown Foundation





Thank you!

Thank you to our team

We want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who was part of our journey over 2024. Whether you are a trustee, staff member, volunteer, project attendee, funder or partner, we are grateful for the role you have played. WSF wouldn't be what it is without the brilliant team of people making things happen here!

Thank you to our partners and Funders

Partnership is central to what we do at WSF – we know we are a part of a bigger picture working for good in our community, so thanks to all our partners, the support you have given us, and the roles that you play:

Art in the Docks, Ascension Community Trust, Aspers, Ballymore, Beckton & Royal Docks Children's Centre, Bonny Downs Community Association, Britannia Village General **Management Company, Britannia Education** Trust, Caramel Rock, City Bridge Foundation, Community Food Enterprise, Creative Kids After **School Club, Discovery Story Centre, Docklands** Light Railway, East End Community Foundation, Eastside Community Heritage, ESOL exchange, Exit Foundation, Feeding Britain, Felix Project, Fight for Peace, Good Things Foundation, Greater London Authority, Groundwork, HACT, Hived, Irons Supporting Foodbanks, Jack Petchey Foundation, **London Borough of Newham, London City Airport** Community Fund, Mary Ward Centre, Maz Designs, Mencap, Museum of London Docklands, the National Lottery Community Fund, Newham Food Alliance, Oasis Academy Silvertown, Oasis Community Partnerships, Royal Docks Community Church, Royal Docks Team, Royal Docks Trust, the Silvertown Partnership, St John's Centre, Stratford East, Tesco, Sustainable Lighting Solutions, Tiny Town Daycare, VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme, Vibrant Minds After School Club. Warburtons. **West Ham United Foundation and Youth Hostel** Association.

West Silvertown Foundation's social impact reaches beyond Silvertown to the wider Royal Docks as it rapidly transforms through regeneration. WSF generously shares its extensive experience of supporting changing communities with the services they need, and evolves with our changing place. Their influence means they can convene and interact with different local stakeholders to work on joint solutions to local issues.

Malak Nasr - Community Partnerships Coordinator, Newham Food Alliance





■ The wonderful team at WSF continue to impress, inspire and offer a genuine impetus on how to walk alongside young people, families and communities. WSF are an authentic, transformative and quality example of professionalism, process and practice.

Stu Thomson - Head of Grants & Community Engagement, East End Community Foundation

**The Silvertown Partnership is proud to work with West Silvertown Foundation, an organisation that empowers the local community. We're committed to creating spaces that foster connection and provide opportunities for existing and future residents, and WSF's insights are supporting us to ensure that these spaces will genuinely serve the people who call, and will call, Silvertown home.

Zen Mumtaz - Socio-Economic Development Manager, Silvertown Partnership

WSF remain one of our key allies in the Royal Docks. Helen and her team deliver essential services for local residents and are in many ways the foundations of the Silvertown community.

Matt Davies - Head of Economic Development, Royal Docks Team

OUR IMPACT IN 2024

76 volunteers gave **2260** hours of their time to serve our community

1740 people came to our regular activities over 2024

We mentored **116** young people aged 9-16

415 children came to our under 5s activities, as well as their parents and carers!

139 free bags of uniform were given out through our uniform bank, supporting families with the cost of living and stopping clothes going to landfill

We employed **32** people, with over 50% of our staff walking to work. And we're a London Living Wage employer!



20 organisations hired our spaces for activities from Gymnastics to Madrassah - and we hosted 102 one-off hires for parties, events and meetings

Approximately **560** bags of clothing, toys and household items were redistributed through our bring and swap events

We helped 150 refugees and new arrivals settle into West Silvertown life in different ways

Our food pantry saved local people over £20,000

146 people took part in our welcome project, learning ESOL and sharing life together with trips and social opportunities



In a typical week, our centres were visited **2048** times, from kids attending afterschool club to church groups on Sundays

Adults

2024 brought many new faces to our centres, and we are happy to have met so many people who make our community the wonderful and diverse place it is. From our thriving table tennis club, to our lively food pantry and well-established Welcome Project, we have a variety of projects that adults can get involved in. We'd love for you to join us in 2025! Here's a quick summary of what we've been up to.



Welcome Project

Our welcome project is open to anybody who has moved to the UK, with ESOL classes and lots of opportunities to get involved in the wider community. Over 2024, we had 5 ESOL classes per week, each with a free creche. 129 students took part over the year.

The project was about a lot more than just learning English.

Students went on monthly trips around London, visiting sights such as The Sky Garden, Borough Market and a tour of the Houses of Parliament. This gave them a chance to explore the city and build confidence travelling. We also had monthly bring and share lunches for the students, with people bringing food from their cultures.



I really enjoy the English class. They are engaging, interactive and fun and I look forward to the class every week. Thank you for making learning so enjoyable

ESOL student

"The classes have helped me a lot in speaking more with confidence"

ESOL student



Pantry

Our food pantry started in July 2023, and grew significantly over 2024. By the end of the year, 92 households were attending the pantry regularly. Members pay £2-£4 per week to get up to £25 worth of shopping. Different to a food bank, members can choose what to buy as they go round the shop.

The pantry couldn't function without donations from food distribution partners, Community Food Enterprise, The Felix Project and the Newham Food Alliance and our brilliant team of volunteers, who in total give 30 hours per week to the project. With most of the volunteers being members , the weekly running of the pantry is shaped and moulded by first hand user experience and we have regular open meetings with all members to make key decisions about how the pantry runs.



Community Impact

The results from a survey organised by Feeding Britain highlights the importance of our pantry service. Since coming to pantry:

- 79% of respondents said they have eaten more fresh fruit and vegetables
- 76% of respondents have cooked more meals at home
- 85% of respondents said their wellbeing has improved

Social Groups

We had a variety of free, fun activities for adults to get involved in over 2024. Our table tennis group continued to be popular, with 3 sessions per week for adults to learn, get active and let their competitive side out! We also continued with salsa classes, pasta making and board games as evening social activities.

Our monthly women's meet up was run by and for local women with women teaching their skills to other participants. The group did all kinds of things from fitness to crochet. Women from a variety of backgrounds joined in with

these, and we loved seeing friendships form and skills being shared beyond the meet ups. 24 different women joined in with this throughout the year.

We continued to manage Britannia Village Community Garden, with 16 allotment style plots for community members, and a weekly group for people to come and garden together.

Meet Martha and Jorge





"Some people say I give my time. I don't feel like that, they give their time to me."

Martha and Jorge are from Ecuador, and have been in London for around 25 years. Their friend told them about WSF, and in 2024 they started volunteering at our Food Pantry. Martha retired, and was spending a lot of time at home feeling low. Now, she says "this has given me a sparkle!" Jorge adds "everybody is kind and helps me".

Every week, Martha and Jorge work with the other volunteers to receive and sort pantry deliveries, and to support community members with their shops. They are members of the food pantry too, so attend regular member meetings to steer decisions about how the pantry works day to day.

They say that being members of the Food Pantry has helped financially, and they now have money for things they didn't before. Martha is a keen artist, and has used the money she saved at Pantry to pay for a course to improve her painting.

As well as improved finances and wellbeing, Martha says "even my health has improved now. Because I'm very busy, I feel like I can do everything. I don't have limits in myself".

Martha and Jorge are uncertain how long they will be able to stay in the area due to their housing situation, but they are determined to stay local and continue to be involved – "volunteering has changed a lot for me, and when I do something I want to be 100% in that place".

Our 2024 Timeline



Lunar New Year celebration

100 people celebrate with songs, crafts and storytelling



WSF celebration event

We thank our partners, funders and volunteers for all they have have done for WSF over year



Easter celebration

120 people come together for crafts, games and an Easter Egg Hunt

JAN >> FEB >> MAR >>



DEC

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NOV

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OCT



Carols event

with performances from Britannia Village Primary School, Oasis Academy Silvertown, Royal Docks Community Church and Royal Wharf Primary School



Diwali event

170 people celebrate Diwali with Bollyfit, Dandiya dancing, yoga and food



Halloween event

100 people mark Halloween with fancy dress, face painting and a spooky trail



Eid celebration

140 people join us with food, bouncy castles, henna and more



Summer scheme planning begins

61 local young people applied to work or volunteer on our summer scheme – with **34** successfully getting places



Our pantry turns 1!

Growing from 7 member households in week 1 to 60 member households in week 52

APR >> MAY >> JUL



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AUG / JUL



Trip to Houses of Parliament

Our welcome project meet James Asser, our local MP



Margate

170 people go to the beach together

Summer fun day

175 people celebrate the Summer together with performances and fun activities



Summer scheme

we have over **100 children** at our mainstream summer scheme every day, and **10** at our SEND summer scheme

Children and Families

Our Children and Families project supported almost 1000 individuals over 2024, with activities from parent coffee morning to stay and play for under 1s. The project aims to help children and their parents/carers to make new friends, feel more at home in West Silvertown and find out about more support available to them.



Families with Under-5s

In a typical week, we had 8 sessions over 6 days for under 5s and their families. Sessions included several toddler stay and play sessions, allowing families to get out of the house and have space for the children to play in our large halls, with ride on toys, soft play and space to roam, whilst parents could talk and make new friends. Each session ended with a singing time, with some parents introducing new songs from their cultures.

Thanks to funding from Newham Council, we were able to introduce discussion themes for carers in some of our weekly sessions, so carers could discuss topics from sleeping to feeding. Our under 1s stay and play group saw 177 different babies come with their adults to play and meet new people,

and we loved seeing friendships grow as parents swapped numbers and met up outside of sessions. And thanks to Beckton and Royal Docks Children's Centre for providing focused sessions for under 5s in our spaces: Music and Movement, and Singalong and Stories!

"The team is absolutely fantastic they are friendly and welcoming. It's a very supportive environment especially for new Mums."

- Attendee of our baby stay and play group

Families with Primary School Children

Our after-school kids games sessions were buzzing with activity. As Royal Wharf Primary School gates opened for children to leave at the end of the day, our doors opened too, and children could come straight in. The 5-7s enjoyed tabletop games, colouring, marble runs, train sets and group games like red light green light. Our older group for 8-11s grew over 2024, and their favourites were table tennis, badminton, twister and playstation.

We also held lots of celebrations throughout the year – from a Lunar New Year celebration with storytelling and songs, to working with Royal Docks Community Church on our DIY nativity, where the children created and performed a nativity in an afternoon – including sets and costumes! Some other

highlights were our Easter egg hunt through Royal Wharf, and some very impressive costumes at our family Halloween party.

They have made us feel like part of a community... It's amazing to have fun and free activities right on our door step; especially with 3 children as it can get quite expensive taking them to soft plays and other activities where you have to pay per person for entry."

- parent attending our children and families project

Children with Special Needs

We had a weekly after-school SEND stay and play session, for children with SEND, their siblings and their carers. Children enjoyed playing on the soft play, in the sensory tent and having space to roam around, whilst parents could share openly with each other. 44 different people joined in with this over the year

We love the SEND sessions. It's great to have a safe space where everyone is so understanding and helpful."

- parent



Sharing life

Our weekly coffee morning for parents evolved into a bring and share breakfast group – where people would bring food and drink to share, with freshly baked brownies, Indian sweets and Afghan breakfast on the menu.

Our uniform bank saw it's busiest year ever, with 139 bags of uniform finding new homes, and our half termly bring and swap events became so popular that they outgrew our small hall. Families brought old toys, books, clothes and household

Our routine is built around the activities this team organises and can't say enough how much it has helped my child's growth.

– Attendee of our baby stay and play group

items, and went away with high quality pre-loved items. An estimated 560 bags of items rehomed over the year.

WSF is an amazing community centre and offers so many free family activities right on our doorstep. The under 5/baby activities kept me going during maternity leave, providing me with some routine, opportunity to talk to other mums and support from the lovely staff. Now that the kids are in school, they enjoy the after-school games club and the seasonal family events.

Attendee of our baby stay and play group

Community Impact



We spoke to some of the parents and carers attending our children and families project to ask what difference it had made to them. Here's what they said:

- 84% made new friends
- 78% said their relationship with their children had improved
- 82% said they felt less isolated
- 73% said their mental health had improved

Meet Nasima



"I know if I need any kind of help, they will help me"

Nasima has three children, ranging from 0 to 8 years. She saw a poster about WSF when she was dropping her son to school three years ago. She remembers a staff member welcoming her, and she's kept on coming back ever since. Now Nasima comes to our parent coffee mornings and is a member of our pantry. She also comes to our family SEND play session, and her children come to our after-school kids activities.

Nasima says our activities have helped her in many ways. "With three kids, one with special needs, I need time to myself, and it's helping me so much. Pantry is helping me financially, and the family sessions help my mental health – they give me a chance to relax."

Nasima's boys look forward to the clubs and events. They ask what's happening at the centre every day. They enjoy the community events too. Last year they joined us for our community Iftar and Eid events – "It was my first time experiencing a community Iftar and it was so nice".

Without our activities, Nasima says she would be stuck indoors. "It's not easy to go somewhere by bus." Whenever she's walking past, she pops in to say hi, and she feels she can speak to our team about her life – "I know definitely if I need help, these community people will help me."

Youth Project

WSF's origins are in youth work and our programme has gone from strength to strength, reaching even more young people from different backgrounds, and bringing the community together.

We worked with 321 young people aged 10-19 over 2024 which is 18% more than last year. The programme includes streams of Youth Leadership, Youth Club, Summer Scheme and Mentoring. We've seen a clear impact on young people's lives, from improved behaviour in school after mentoring, to previous attendees of youth club now working for WSF as qualified youth workers.



Youth Club



Our ever-popular evening Youth Club is a cornerstone of the programme. Taking place twice per week, it has evolved into a hub of creativity where young people take the lead. This year Roller Skating and DJ-ing have taken off, both spearheaded by young leaders in the community. This has resulted in some young people showcasing their new-found DJing skills at the roller skating sessions and taking up skating as a hobby outside of sessions.

Dance sessions with Rhythm Masters continued to be popular, culminating in the young people putting on an amazing show at Tower Hamlets town hall in November, as part of the Black Excellence weekender.

Additionally we ran a variety of trips enabling the young people to have new experiences and discover different places, including an indoor adventure park and trampolining, as well as an outdoor activity weekend where young people tried ziplining and axe throwing!.

Leadership

Youth workers nominated 6 young people to receive the Jack Petchey award, rewarding those who made a positive change in their lives or contributed to the youth club.

We also ran a Youth Changemakers programme, with participants coming together from Youth clubs across Newham and Birmingham. Participants learned about their own strengths and passions and how they can use them to make a positive difference in the world.

"My why is to encourage young people in the West Silvertown Community. I am going to encourage them to go to youth clubs to see what it's all about and also want to make them more confident and I want them to take the path I've gone on."

- Youth leader



Mentoring and development

We expanded our mentoring programme this year by increasing uptake in our partner schools; Oasis Academy Silvertown and Britannia Village Primary School, and by creating a new service in out-of-school settings.

These new community sessions have brought additional impacts to young people who have reported on the multiple benefits of having a weekly check in with a supportive person: building their confidence, gaining support with struggles at school and having space to think about their future.

In a typical week, our team of youth workers spent around 17 hours per week mentoring in local schools. Our volunteer mentoring programme continued too, with 25 local adults from a range of backgrounds and organisations giving their time to mentor young people in year 10, with focus weeks such as CV writing, and problem solving.

"It's always fun talking to Ian. He's got really funny subjects and he's really kind and caring. He even got a dedicated video from a data scientist for me which really shows dedication and I really appreciate it. Thanks so much!"

- Mentee taking part in our programme

Community Impact



- 116 individuals aged 9-16 received mentoring from staff and volunteers.
- 100% of mentees said they would recommend our volunteer mentoring programme to a friend, and 100% of mentors said the same!
- 89% of volunteer mentors said they'd developed new skills through the mentoring programme.

Meet Taylor



"It's boosted my confidence... it's an environment I'm really comfortable in"

Taylor is 16 years old and studying in college. Taylor started coming to our children's activities and our Summer Scheme when she was 9. She now comes to youth sessions twice a week, and has worked on our Summer Scheme as a young leader.

Taylor says she enjoys youth club because it has something for everyone, and people can find a new unexpected hobby, like roller skating, DJing or baking. She's especially enjoyed trips in the last year, and she says she's made life-long friends.

In 2023, Taylor applied to volunteer on our Summer Scheme. It was her first interview, and she was nervous. But she got the role and enjoyed the extra responsibility of being a leader, so in 2024 she applied again – this time for a paid position. "The second time around I was a lot more chilled because I knew what was coming and what to say". She worked in all the different areas of summer scheme, and especially loved working with the kids that were nervous about being there – "as soon as I saw one of them upset, I helped them feel ok"

Summer Scheme

Summer scheme is always a highlight of our year, and this year was no exception. On our mainstream scheme, over 100 children and young people aged 5-14 came daily, with activities from laser tag to hair braiding. Every area of the scheme had it's own focus – from an arts area, to a sports area, to a space specifically for over 11s.

5-7s joined us for the mornings, and when they went home all 8-14s were offered a free, hot, nutritious lunch. We also included families this year with a weekly healthy cooking competition, with our favourite recipe winning a supermarket voucher!



To have free access to a community summer scheme nearby has been brilliant - it gives structure to the week, keeps the kids entertained and gives parents more flexibility to work or do other errands.

- parent

Kids' summer scheme offer benefits like social skill development, independence, and physical activity. Scheme provides a fun, tech-free environment where kids can make friends, learn new skills, and enjoy.

– parent

Young Leaders

34 young people aged 15-21 planned and led the summer scheme activities. They all attended interviews, came to a training day, and made plans for the areas they were leading. The young people did an amazing job at engaging the children, with every area of the scheme bursting with activity.

Our favourite bit of the day was the young leaders' debrief, in which the leaders would do "shout outs" for each other, praising the good things they had noticed others doing in the day. They had so much to say that we often had to stop them so they could get home!





Summer scheme has given me experience. It's taught me how to be in the workplace. I'm happy about that, I was able to write about it in my personal statement.

– Summer Scheme Young Leader

SEND

Whilst our mainstream scheme was happening in Britannia Village, we ran a separate scheme for children with SEND at Royal Wharf. 15 children attended the scheme, and each received 1:1 or 1:2 support. Children had a choice of activities throughout the day, with a sensory room, a ball pool room, soft play, and lots of sensory activities. Participants went to the local park in small groups, and the group went on trips to Mudlarks at Museum of London Docklands, and Discovery Story Centre in Stratford.

Thank you very much for looking after R for the past few weeks. As a single parent with not many affordable childcare options for R, you have no idea what this meant to me. Thank you for making him laugh and caring for him even on the hard days. We will miss you all!

– a local parent with a SEND child

Looking Ahead

We cannot look back at 2024 without a huge thanks to all of the staff, trustees and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to support our community, despite the changes and challenges we've faced. This year Jee Hyeok Lee stepped down as Chair of trustees, but continues to support the organisation as a trustee and I want to thank him for his 4 years of chairing the board. I am excited to have the opportunity to step up as chair and hope that my expertise will help us to continue to make an impact in the lives of the community we serve.

WSF has helped me build a community in a borough that I'm not originally from. I feel really lucky. The team are so wonderful, I've really enjoyed coming to the different community celebrations.

– Participant in our Children and Families Project

2024 was a busy and exciting year for us. We provided mentoring to 116 young people which is nearly 3x as many as in 2023, and volunteers gave 2,260 hours of their time to support our work, over 600 hours more than 2023.

We have also faced challenges. In September we were told that we weren't required to manage Royal Wharf Community Dock after December 2024. This required us to find other locations for some of our activities and to re-organise our staffing. We have continued our Children and Families work in the Community Dock 4 days per week, and have moved other activities to Britannia Village Hall, with some cancelled or had to cancel them due to lack of space.

ESOL students at limehouse marina





We moved forward with our proposed refurbishment of Britannia Village Hall and appointed an architect to carry out some initial design work for us. We are now in the process of securing consent from our landlords and then progressing the design so we can apply for planning permission, which we aim to secure in 2025. The design will improve the space so we can accommodate more activities. The aim of the refurbishment is to provide an updated hall which is set up for the future and can continue to adapt and provide the facilities the community needs.

Newham Council has provided funding towards our youth project since 2020 which has enabled us to provide enrichment activities, trips, development programmes and training for young people, journeying with them as they grow up in our community. We've also built close relationships with partners delivering youth programmes across the borough. But due to financial pressures within the council, we face uncertainty about the future of this funding. We know the vital importance and impact of our youth project and so despite uncertainties are determined to continue this work. Over 2025 we will be working to secure funding for this.

We are the only community organisation in West Silvertown which works with people of all ages and backgrounds. Over the next year we will continue to focus on providing support and opportunities for local people from birth to adulthood. Whether enabling people to make connections, equipping them with skills to live more independently, or providing material support, we are here for everyone. With reduced space and funding in 2025, we will ensure that our work is meeting the most need, and having the greatest possible impact.

Hannah Tulloch

Chair West Silvertown Foundation









Get involved!

If you live in the West Silvertown area and haven't joined our activities yet (or it's been a while since you have) we warmly invite you to get involved.

Most of our activities are free – and those that aren't are designed to be affordable. We aim to offer something for everyone and we're a friendly bunch!

Not sure which activities would be the best fit for you? Why not start by taking a look at our website and following us on social media. We also recommend signing up for our email newsletter on our website so we can keep you in the loop.

We hope to see you very soon!

Support our work

As a local charity, we rely on the generosity of the community to help us keep running our services and make them free and affordable for all.

If you're able to give some of your valuable time to the community, why not consider volunteering with us? To express your interest, contact us at hello@wsfroyaldocks.org and we'll get back to you to tell you more about any current opportunities.

If you're in a position to do so, you can donate money to our work securely on our Localgiving page localgiving.org/wsf

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