



GLENTORAN SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

GSP 2023 IMPACT REPORT



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

GLENTORAN SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

CHARITY NUMBER: NI 101477




Messages of Support	i
Our Mission	1
Our Partners	2
Annual Reporting & Impact	3
Educational Workshops	4
Highlights	7
Hello Neighbour	8
Grow & Share	...
Pop-In & Play	9
Terraces Not TV	...
Meals on Wheels	10
Understanding Masculinity	...
CFSC Level 1 & OCN Equality, Diversity, & Inclusion	11
Community Football Tournaments	12
Easter Festival	13
W5 Big Data in Sports Camp	14
Graffiti Art Project	15
Connecting Communities Through Art	16
Into the <i>Sport</i> Industry	17
Into the <i>Tech</i> Industry	...
Glentoran Cup	18
Celebration Event	...
East Side Arts Festival	19
Glentoran Christmas Party	20
Glentoran Christmas Appeal & Cash For Kids NI	...
Testimonials	22
Case Studies	25
Show your support	27

GLENTORAN SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

CONTENTS PAGE



MESSAGES OF SUPPORT



I am honoured to commend the exemplary work of the Glentoran Social Partnership, the charitable arm of Glentoran Football Club, who provide services, support and invaluable opportunities to our diverse local community. As an East Belfast representative, I know our community thrives when good people invest in the well-being and progress of our neighbours.

Through its innovative and inclusive initiatives, the Glentoran Social Partnership has consistently demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for local people. Their partnerships with both local and international charitable organisations have broadened the horizons for many, ensuring that help and support reaches those who need it most.

The development of a new Oval Stadium and Community Hub in the heart of East Belfast only amplifies the possibilities; promising even greater contributions to the social and economic fabric of our community.

The Glentoran Social Partnership is a perfect example of how sports organisations can play a pivotal role in social development, making a lasting positive impact on society. Please read this report with encouragement and pride. Le Jeu Avant Tout

The Rt. Hon Gavin Robinson – Leader – Democratic Unionist Party





MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

I have read this report with very great interest, it is a very comprehensive report which gives, an insight into the all encompassing nature of the work that is carried out by all those involved.

Just under 5000 people have been directly impacted in a positive way, by their engagement with the Glentoran Social Partnership, through Community Football Events, Community Workshops, Educational Workshops and Community Celebration Events, not to mention the 2000 Meals on Wheels delivered.

My admiration for the efforts of everyone involved is boundless. I would urge everyone to read the report for themselves. I wish everyone involved continued success and congratulations on a very very successful year.

Alderman Sonia Copeland, chair of the East Belfast Area Working Group of Belfast City Council



MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

As Chairperson of Glentoran Social Partnership, I am delighted to present this Impact Report which highlights the activities carried out by the charitable arm of the club in 2023. This work is carried out in support of the community of East Belfast and further afield. We recognise that Glentoran is more than just a football club and therefore have an obligation and a desire to help out as many individuals and groups as possible, using our position as a longstanding institution in the east of the city.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who volunteered and helped out with all this work. It would also be remiss of me not to recognise the significant support provided to the club by our local political representatives from all parties and particular that of the East Belfast Area Working Group at Belfast City Council. Their ongoing support of our work is also a great encouragement as we seek to create an impact on the lives of many less fortunate in the local area and further afield.

We have a committed volunteer base who work with an active group of organisations and individuals within the local area, all supported by an engaged and experienced board of Trustees. Should anyone like to hear more about the work of the charity or opportunities to volunteer in our ongoing work, we are always looking for others to join us, so please email socialpartnership@glentoran.com for further information. We would be delighted for you to come on this journey with us.

Colin Jess, Chairman of Glentoran Social Partnership



OUR MISSION

- Advance physical fitness and mental health and well-being for young people by providing opportunities for coaching/mentoring and access to facilities.
- Promote equality, diversity, and inclusion ensuring religious and racial harmony
- Support the community with other charitable purposes such as community events, food support, and education & training pathways

5TH ELEMENT
ASHFIELD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
ASHFIELD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
BYMT (BRITISH YOUTH MUSICAL THEATRE)
CONNSWATER COMMUNITY CENTRE
CONNSWATER HOMES
CTL COURIERS
DIVERSE YOUTH
EASTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL
EDUCATION AUTHORITY
FIBRUS
FOUR STAR PIZZA
HAPANI
IFA FOUNDATION
JORDAN'S WISH
MSCNI
NATIONAL LOTTERY
PARKGATE RESIDENTS
PSNI
RIO FERDINAND FOUNDATION
STELLA MARIS
STREET SOCCER NI
THE LARDER
TREAT STREET
ULSTER WILDLIFE
W5 LIFE
WALKWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
YOUTH INITIATIVES (EAST BELFAST)
EAST BELFAST ENTERPRISE
KERR CONSULTING LTD

OUR PARTNERS:

We believe working closely with local partners and stakeholders allows for better use of resources and a more streamlined approach to community work. By collaborating closely with local partners and stakeholders, we strive to maximize resources and create a cohesive, impactful approach to our community work. Together, we are building a healthier, more inclusive, and vibrant community for all.

- In 2023 GSP expanded its network within the technology sector, focusing on the introduction of digital skills and related career pathways.
- Teaming up with Ulster Wildlife provided an inspiring look at nature while introducing topics like healthy nutrition, water conservation, and plant diversity.
- 1000+ attendees at free community days at The Oval, King George V Playing Fields, & Mersey Street Primary School
- Teaming up with the Rio Ferdinand Foundation, Choice Housing, & the Education Authority allowed for an exciting art programme for a cross-community group of teenage boys utilizing the Oval walls as a canvas. Through this programme the group came to know the Oval as a safe space.



ANNUAL REPORTING:

Community Football events – 723 young people between the ages of 7 and 18yrs took part in football related activities.

- Community Football Tournaments
- Glentoran Cup
- KickOff@3
- Pop-In & Play

Community Programmes & Workshops – 472 people attended programmes created specifically for the community.

- East Side Arts Festival
- Grow & Share
- Hello Neighbour
- Terraces Not TV
- Glentoran Monday Club (Men's Shed)

Meals on Wheels - 2000 meals were delivered to the community

Educational Workshops & Training – 217 young people attended accredited/professional workshops and trainings.

- Big Data in Sport
- Big Data in Sport Exhibition
- CFSC Level 1 & Equality, Diversity, & Inclusion Level 1
- Graffiti Art Project
- Into the Sport Industry
- Into the Tech Industry
- Connecting Communities Through Art

[For more, please see next page]

Community Celebration Events – 540 participants took part in seasonal celebration events over the year. Also **275 children** received toys at Christmas.

- Christmas Parties
- Cross-border Celebration
- Easter Festival

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Glentoran Football Club Elite Scholarship Programme :

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport, (founded in 2019)

A programme for students who want to progress in further / higher education and/or work in the Sport and Exercise Science sector. Equivalent to three

A Levels.

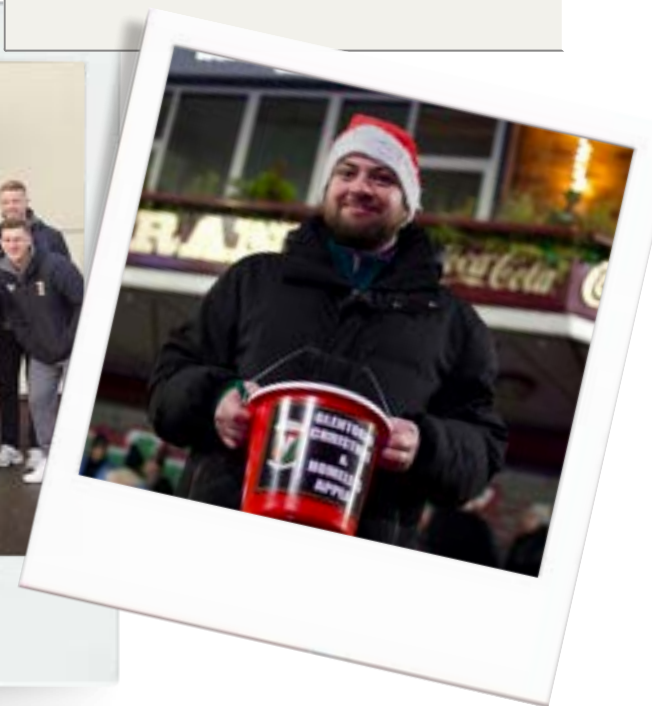
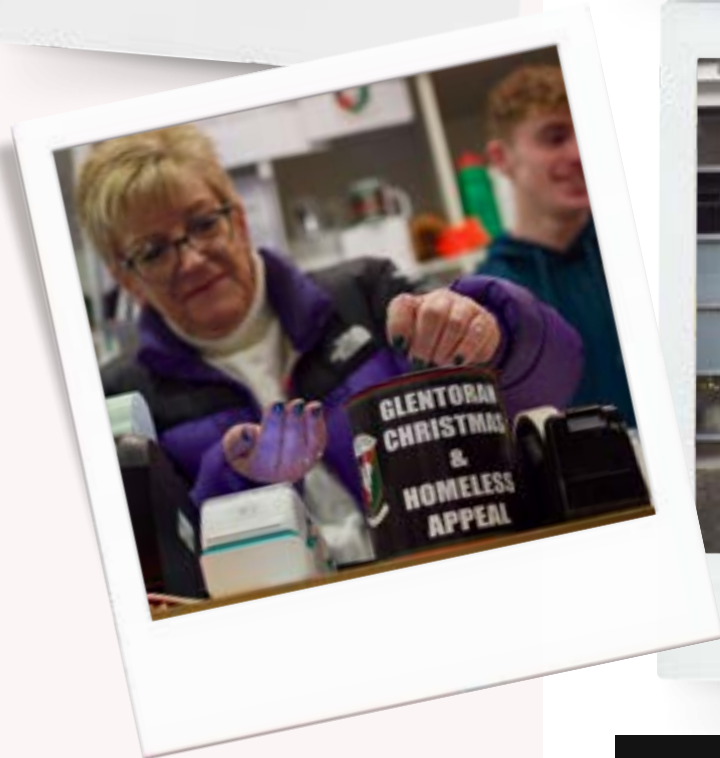
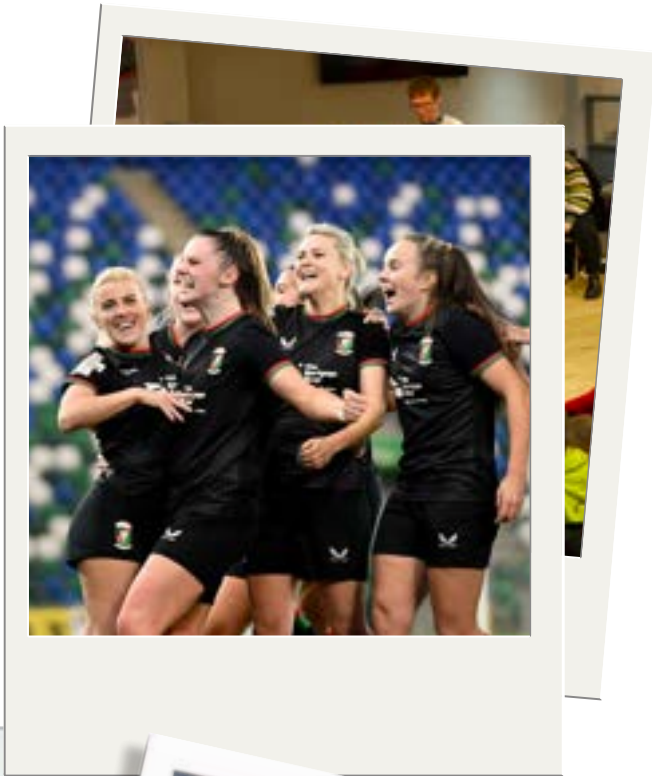
- Enhanced curriculum for Sixth Form students.
- 76 full-time scholars (an increase from 14 students in 2019)
- September 2023 - **Glentoran Football Club Girls Elite Scholarship** Programme launched.

This programme extends beyond football. Scholars have pursued various pathways, including studying in the USA, pursuing Engineering degrees at Queen's University Belfast, pursuing Creative Media Studies at Ulster University, and Liverpool John Moores University, and Sport Studies at Loughborough University. Some have even become teachers,

To date, the programme has seen 84 scholars successfully complete the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport, with an impressive 95% achieving the equivalent of 3 A Levels at A*-C grades.







HIGHLIGHTS:

The Glentoran Cup

Football For All tournament with teams from Dublin, Southampton, and Liverpool as well as local Belfast teams providing opportunity to compete for all abilities.

Graffiti Art Project

Eight week Graffiti art project utilising the Oval walls as a community canvas with a focus on developing art techniques to help manage stress and anxiety.

Connecting Communities Through Art

GSP took part in the Connecting Communities Through Art Project bringing together communities from across East Belfast to create a mural that represents ALL of East Belfast.

Into the Sports Industry Event

Careers event introducing various roles within a professional football club. Glentoran FC staff and volunteers provided insight into their job and their unique pathway into the role.



1 HELLO NEIGHBOUR

FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING ISOLATION AND FOOD POVERTY AMONGST PENSIONERS AND YOUNG FAMILIES, THIS DROP-IN SESSION PROVIDES A WARM SAFE SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER FOR ACTIVITIES, A LIGHT LUNCH, OR JUST A CUP OF TEA AND A CHAT.

Tuesdays at The Larder, supported by Treat Street

DEMOGRAPHIC: Local community



2 GROW & SHARE

A COMMUNITY SESSION PROVIDING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH NATURE AND LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY EATING HABITS AS WELL SUSTAINABLE GARDENING. INTERGENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THIS PROGRAMME.

Fridays at Mersey Street Community Garden. In partnership with Connswater & Ulster Wildlife; supported by Treat Street & The Larder

DEMOGRAPHIC: 8 Kids and pensioners



3 POP IN & PLAY

ARGUABLY GSP'S MOST POPULAR COMMUNITY PROGRAMME, POP-IN & PLAY PROVIDES 7 - 14 YEAR OLDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE GAME THEY LOVE IN A SAFE SPACE. ENGAGEMENT WITH GLENTORAN FC AMBASSADORS ENSURE CONSISTANT ATTENDANCE. THE SESSION RUNS ONCE PER WEEK FOLLOWED BY PIZZA.

Monday's at Connswater Community Centre, supported by Four Star Pizza and Glentoran FC.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 25+ kids, 9 - 12years



4 TERRACES NOT TV

MATCH DAY TICKET SCHEME TO SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS THAT WORK WITH UNDER-SERVED POPULATIONS ACROSS NI.

In partnership with Glentoran Football Club.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 400 tickets to the local community



5 MEALS ON WHEELS

GSP VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE FOOD SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES, VULNERABLE ADULTS, AND PENSIONERS TWICE MONTHLY DEPENDING ON DONATIONS.

Delivered by Milkbar staff and volunteers and supported by the GFC community.

DEMOGRAPHIC:

2000 meals delivered to vulnerable families & adults



6 UNDERSTANDING MASCULINITY

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS ADDRESSING EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING IN MEN SUPPORTED BY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.

Delivered by Informing Choice NI, and funded by GSP & Rio Ferdinand Foundation.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 45 young men (15-18years)



7 CFSC LEVEL 1 & EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION LEVEL 1

EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RIO FERDINAND FOUNDATION, CHOICE HOUSING, & EDUCATION AUTHORITY

CSLA Level 1

EDI Level 1

10 boys, cross-community

DEMOGRAPHIC: Boys from Inner East Belfast

Held at Ashfield Boys High School



8 COMMUNITY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

- **FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT INCLUDING REFUGEE TEAMS FOLLOWED BY INSPIRATIONAL PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING LOCAL FOOTBALL LEGENDS SHARING THEIR PATHWAY INTO SPORT.**

35 Young People took part in this inclusive community event.

In partnership with Rio Ferdinand Foundation, Choice Housing, and the PSNI Neighbourhood Team.

DEMOGRAPHIC: Boys from Inner East Belfast



- **FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL EAST BELFAST GROUPS, REFUGEE TEAMS, AND HOMELESS COMMUNITY TEAMS.**

In partnership with HAPANI, Rio Ferdinand Foundation, Street Soccer NI, & MSCNI. Hosted by Newforge Sports Complex.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 50 young people.

9 EASTER FESTIVAL

**COMMUNITY FUN DAY WITH
ACTIVITIES, GAMES, MUSIC AND
FOOTBALL SKILLS TRAINING WITH
GLENTORAN FC 1ST TEAM
PLAYERS & STAFF.**

Involving GFC, Connswater Homes, 5th Element,
The Larder, & the PSNI Neighbourhood Team

King George V Playing Field

DEMOGRAPHIC: Local community x 200

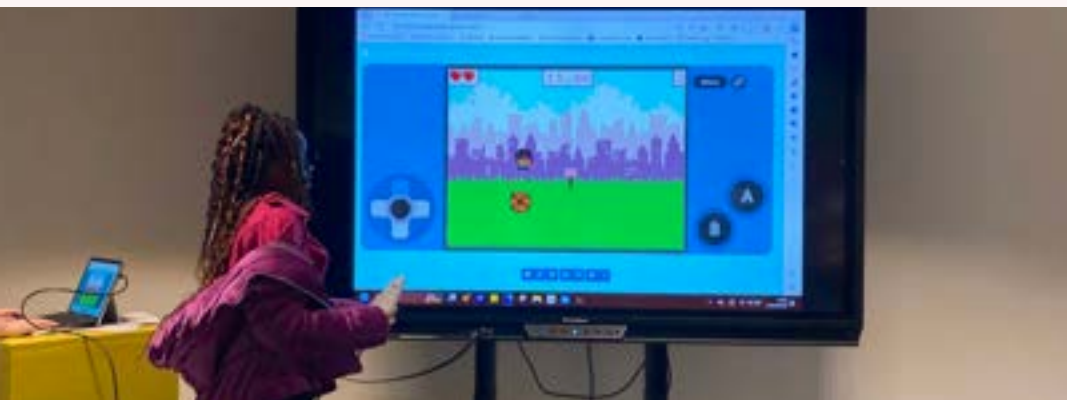


10 BIG DATA IN SPORTS CAMP

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY AND HOW IT IS USED IN SPORT. CAREER PATHWAYS AND JOBS IN THE TECH INDUSTRY WERE ALSO INTRODUCED. HOSTED AT W5'S INTERACTIVE CAMPUS AND LED BY THEIR ENERGETIC AND KNOWLEDGABLE STAFF.

In partnership with W5 Life and Rio Ferdinand Foundation. Supported by Diverse Youth NI.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 24 young people



11 W5 LIFE; BIG DATA IN SPORTS EXHIBITION

DIGITAL SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS FOLLOWED BY BELFAST GIANTS HOCKEY MATCH. PARTICIPANTS TOOK PART IN MINI DIGITAL SKILLS WORKSHOPS EXPOSING THE GROUP TO VARIOUS TECH CONCEPTS.

Held at W5 Life & SSE Arena

In partnership with W5 Life, Ashfield Girls High School, Glentoran Inclusion, & Youth Initiatives

DEMOGRAPHIC: 80 young people



12 GRAFFITI ART PROJECT

EIGHT WEEK GRAFFITI ART PROJECT UTILISING THE OVAL WALLS AS A COMMUNITY CANVAS WITH A FOCUS ON DEVELOPING ART TECHNIQUES TO HELP MANAGE STRESS AND ANXIETY.

In partnership with Rio Ferdinand Foundation, Choice Housing, Education Authority & 5th Element at the Oval.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 14 young people



14 CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART

GSP TOOK PART IN THE CROSS-COMMUNITY PROJECT, 'CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART,' BRINGING TOGETHER COMMUNITIES FROM ACROSS EAST BELFAST TO CREATE A MURAL THAT REPRESENTS ALL OF EAST BELFAST.

The mural, with direction from local artist Dee Craig, perfectly depicts both the industrial past of our city and the exciting future that lies ahead.

Ashfield Boys & Girls pupils and
Glentoran Academy players



15 INTO THE SPORT INDUSTRY

CAREERS EVENT INTRODUCING VARIOUS ROLES WITHIN A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB. GLENTORAN FC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED INSIGHT INTO THEIR JOB AND THEIR UNIQUE PATHWAY INTO THE ROLE.

In partnership with Rio Ferdinand Foundation, Choice Housing, and Four Star Pizza

DEMOGRAPHIC: 32 young people, The Oval,



16 INTO THE TECH INDUSTRY

CAREERS EVENT AT W5 LIFE SPONSORED BY FIBRUS. SENIOR PERSONAL FROM THE TELECOMS INDUSTRY SHARED THEIR PATHWAY INTO THE TECH INDUSTRY AND INTRODUCTION TO VARIOUS ROLES & RESPONSABILITIES

In partnership with Rio Ferdinand Foundation, W5 Life, & Fibrus

DEMOGRAPHIC: 10 young people, W5 Life



17 THE GLENTORAN CUP

FOOTBALL FOR ALL TOURNAMENT WITH TEAMS FROM DUBLIN, SOUTHAMPTON, AND LIVERPOOL AS WELL AS LOCAL BELFAST TEAMS, PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE ACROSS ALL ABILITIES.

With BIG thanks to our partners, Connswater Homes, CTL Couriers, Jordan's Wish, Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Newforge Sports Complex

DEMOGRAPHIC: 600 participants



18 CELEBRATION EVENT

CROSS-BORDER CELEBRATION EVENT BRINGING TOGETHER PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND WITH FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, DANCE & ART WORKSHOPS, AND A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL FOOTBALL EXPERTS.

Involving Rio Ferdinand Foundation, PSNI, 5th Element, BYMT (British Youth Musical Theatre), Four Star Pizza, PSNI Neighbourhood Team

DEMOGRAPHIC: 90 young people + local community



19 EAST SIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

'BACK TO THE OVAL WE GO' TOUR PROVIDED TWO SOLD OUT TOURS AS PART OF THE EASTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL. THE TOUR SHARES THE HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF THE OVAL AND THE PART IT HAS PLAYED IN EAST BELFAST SINCE 1882.

The tour is narrated and presented by Sam Robinson.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 40 participants



20 GLENTORAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

THREE CHRISTMAS PARTIES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FEATURING GAMES, ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, AND OF COURSE A VISIT FROM SANTA!

Involving GFC, Connswater Homes, and Cash For Kids

Hosted At Connswater Community Centre, The Oval, & Mersey Street Primary School.

DEMOGRAPHIC: 200+ participants



21 GLENTORAN CHRISTMAS APPEAL & CASH FOR KIDS NI

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY AT CHRISTMAS. INCLUDED DELIVERY OF FOOD AND TOYS TO THOSE IN NEED AS WELL AS HOT FOOD STALLS IN BELFAST FOR THE HOMELESS (INCLUDING SURVIVAL PACKS), AND A VISIT TO STELLA MARIS BY GLENTORAN FC TEAM & STAFF.

Involving Glentoran FC, Cash For Kids, Haven, Stella Maris, Connswater Homes, Youth Initiatives, Parkgate Residents, The Larder, Walkway Community Centre

DEMOGRAPHIC: East Belfast Community




21 CONTINUED

500+ FOOD HAMPERS,
60 CHRISTMAS MEALS FOR
PENSIONERS.

275 KIDS + COMMUNITY GROUPS
RECEIVED BRAND NEW TOYS AT
CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE CASH
FOR KIDS PROGRAMME.


TESTIMONIALS



“I can honestly say that I have loved every single part of being involved with Glentoran’s Elite Football & Education Scholarship Programme. I really enjoyed watching my friends, the other Scholars, thrive as footballers with their extra pitch sessions. Quite a few, Callan Farley, Casey Smyth, Lorcan Donnelly, Theo McToal and Jude Johnson have secured professional contracts with Glentoran’s 1st Team.

But, for me personally, the tailored Strength & Conditioning programme helped me improve my athleticism immensely and the football analysis sessions ignited a passion in me for football video and performance data analysis. I was provided with the opportunity to work with the club’s analysts and I’m delighted that the club have now offered me a full time job as the 1st & Reserve’s Team Analyst. I honestly am thrilled to have this opportunity of working full time for the club.

I have completed the Scholarship Programme and have secured 3 A*-A grades in the BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport. I also intend to continue my studies through the Open University while working for the club.”



- Leon Tierney, Elite Football & Education Scholarship Programme 2024

TESTIMONIALS

“

I took part in the Glentoran Social Partnership/Rio Ferdinand Foundation programme thinking that it would be another same old boring group chat, but I was wrong. When I started the programme I had low mental health because of some family issues but my mental health got better while I attended the sessions.

The staff helped me when I needed it and even got me a qualification. If I was you I would try out GSP/RFF programmes. You can support both communities and you will always be welcome to come along with your mates. I really enjoyed it and hopefully there is more to come.

”

- **Brendan, Participant**



TESTIMONIALS

“

The ongoing engagement at the community garden in Mersey Street is making a real difference to local people's lives. The group currently using it are partially sighted or have complete sight loss. Working with Darryl and the Oval staff we were given access to an area within the Oval grounds. This was to help us put together a portable sensory garden that could be transferred to Spring Fest which is run by Belfast City Council. Darryl helped us by preparing the area and making raised platforms for ease of access. He also helped us to create a banner for the group who now call themselves Mulch and Munch, this had all of the relevant logos displayed and would have been viewed by the 12 thousand visitors over the weekend. We also have another group within the Mersey Street apartments that we are working with Glentoran on, Hello Neighbour Hello Nature. This is a group of local people coming together, learning about wildlife in their area.

- **Maureen Carvill, Partner, Ulster Wildlife**

”



CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 1

LFC is 15-year-old Protestant boy from East Belfast. LFC attends a local Boys High School and takes part in a cross-community group of twelve boys. LFC has a lot of potential and is a clear leader within the group but struggles with anger issues and confidence in his own abilities.

LFC has been suspended from school on several occasions for fighting and local 'community leaders' have warned that his anti-social behaviour is attracting attention that could lead to serious trouble.

Further investigation into LFC's background shows he was the victim of a serious sectarian assault.

Teachers at the local Boys High School have reported that LFC's work with the cross-community programme is making a positive difference in his outlook on life, and his confidence. The challenge is to get LFC to attend the group sessions more consistently.

LFC responds well to the male leadership within the group. It is recommended that LFC has more incentives to attend sessions and develop his leadership skills further.



CASE STUDY 2

BB is a young girl from a diverse background that attends weekly football sessions with GSP.

During the first month of attending sessions BB never spoke to anyone and often stood against the wall preferring not to draw attention to herself.

BB gained confidence after more weeks passed and she began to take an active role in every session. BB's mother was very pleased with her role within the sessions and encouraged her participation.

Once given the chance, BB joined one of the GFC Academy teams where she met friends and enjoyed her football, finding confidence on the pitch and within her team.

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 3

MT is an older gentleman that lives near the Oval; he is not a football fan but is interested in the history of the Oval and Glentoran.

MT has limited mobility and is mostly estranged from his family. MT takes part in weekly community sessions, and even though he is not able to physically assist, he enjoys the time speaking with other participants and volunteers. MT shared with staff that he is quite lonely and enjoys his time with the group each week. MT was a skilled worker in his youth and misses the activity that came with his job.

MT would like to join the GFC Monday club (men's group) and take part in more activities when possible but due to his limited mobility he is not able to access most areas of the Oval grounds.

CASE STUDY 4

GG is a 15 year-old Catholic Boy from East Belfast that attends a local integrated high school. GG is a well-liked young man with aspirations to become a professional footballer. GG attends every session and provides a lot of thought when offering feedback within the group.

GG causes some concern in his inability to 'read the room' and gets himself into trouble with his temper, his default when encountering a new situation is to often use confrontational language and tone. For example, when attending a football match in a predominantly Protestant area GG made comment about the bands and Rangers FC, drawing attention to religion and its associated biases. GG was pulled by a group of adult fans for his behaviour and the situation was handled quickly.

More work with GG around his use of language, stereotypes, and leadership is recommended.



Together, with your help, we can have an even bigger impact in the community!



CONTACT INFO:

SOCIALPARTNERSHIP@GLENTORAN.COM

THE BET MCLEAN OVAL
37 PARKGATE DRIVE
BT4 1EW

DONATE TODAY

