

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025



St Gregory's Foundation
*Helping vulnerable children and families
in Eastern Europe*

Charity no. 12348109
www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BY MR NICHOLAS KOLARZ



2025 was a challenging year, with a mix of internal and external factors affecting our work. The ongoing war in Ukraine has made work in Russia difficult, but even more important, given the lack of funds available to support the most vulnerable. We have continued to transfer funds to Russia via the IVTS system, which has been recognised by the Charity Commission.

Fundraising for our Russian partner organisations has proved more difficult, although we have been successful in raising funds for the non-Russian projects. We continue to support the three Russian partner charities: Communication Space in Moscow, the Deaf Club in Saint Petersburg, and the Sunflower Centre for Parents. We were successful in providing full funding for these projects despite the difficult overall fundraising position.

This year, much effort was put into developing the non-Russian projects, such as Mkurnali in Georgia and Rain Kids, Sunny Corner, and The Wish in Moldova. Here, we see real potential in the immediate future to help create life-changing conditions in Moldova.

In the autumn, we appointed a new Treasurer, Alina Nikitina, who brings valuable accountancy and language skills to the charity.

Because of the current fundraising difficulties, the charity had to take some funds from the investment fund, although this was considerably less than expected due to a significant donation received at the very end of the year.

Despite these difficulties, we will continue to offer support to all the projects we have supported in the past.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2025

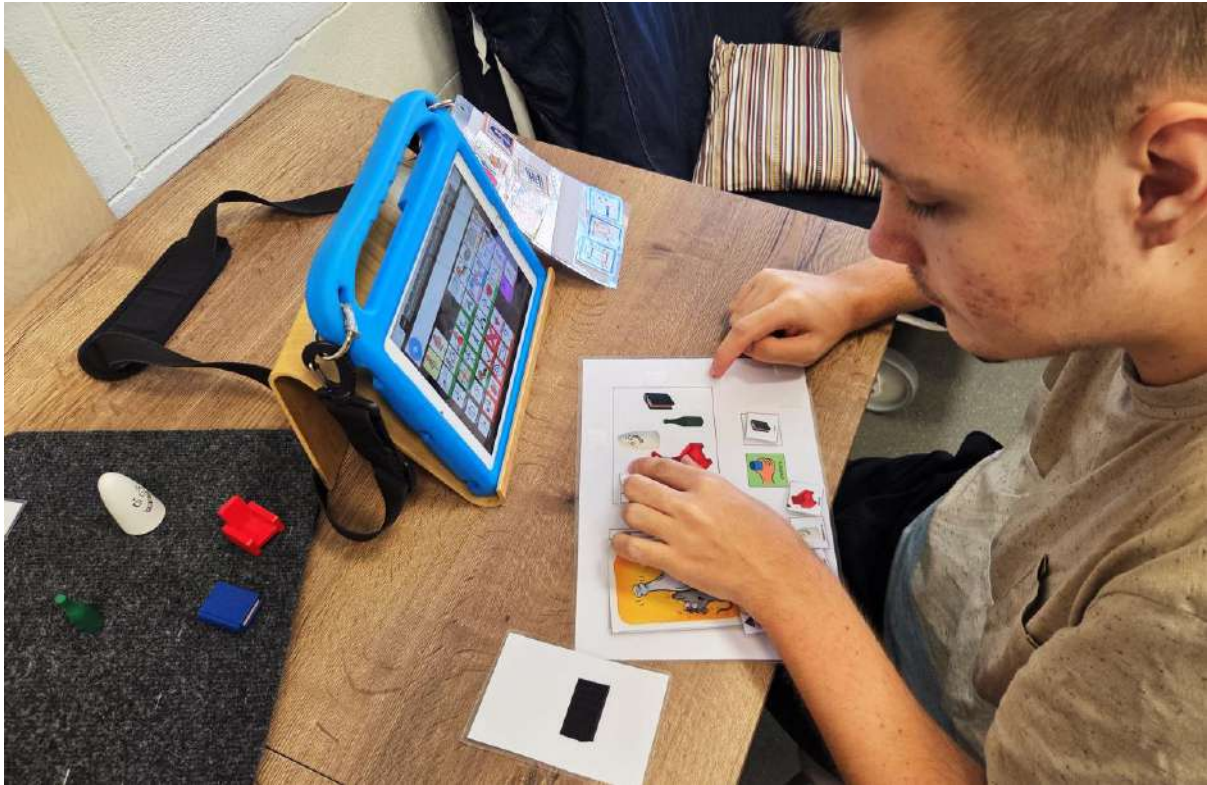
Alternative/Augmentative Communication (AAC) for disabled children and youth – run by ANO 'Communication Space' in Moscow.

During 2025, 21 children and young people with developmental disabilities took part in therapeutic sessions. Organised into five small groups of five participants, tailored to age and abilities, each session supported skill development, confidence, and overall well-being.

The Centre provided group supervisions to 26 specialists from cities across Russia, including Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Volgograd, and Rostov-on-Don. These sessions offered professional guidance, peer exchange, and practical support, helping participants enhance their skills and improve outcomes for children with special needs.

In April, the Centre ran an online course for parents and specialists, "*Adapted Reading for Children and Teenagers with Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities.*" A total of 27 participants attended, including parents, guardians, or family members, and specialists from cities across Russia such as Voronezh, Pskov, Kaliningrad, Kodinsk, Ramenskoye, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhny Novgorod, Syzran, Bryansk, Lipetsk, Belozyorsk, Irkutsk, and Tula. The course provided practical strategies to support adapted reading at home and in professional settings.

Additionally, 10 animated social stories and two adapted games were created and published on the organisation's website, offering accessible educational resources for children and young people with special needs.



Throughout the year, the Centre provided comprehensive psychological support for parents and worked tirelessly to increase the competence of specialists. Forty-nine parents from Moscow and other regions received individual, couple, and family consultations, while over 50 specialists took part in professional online group sessions. The Centre's psychologists also ran a free telethon for parents on a specially created Telegram channel, "Stantsiya Otdykh," which now has 266 subscribers, including parents from across Russia and one participant from Georgia.

Music and speech therapy for hearing-impaired children in St Petersburg.

The Club remains the only place in St. Petersburg where children aged 10 months to 2.5 years can receive early diagnosis and begin speech and language therapy, while parents gain practical support and connect with other families.

In 2025, 25 families benefited, including 11 with parents who have hearing impairments. Most were from Saint Petersburg, with a few visiting from Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, and Tomsk for hearing assessments. The Club's audiologist conducted five consultations and hearing checks, while the educational psychologist held three sessions on developmental and communication concerns.

All children showed positive progress, particularly in communication skills, using facial expressions, gestures, actions with musical instruments, and producing sounds and short words. Parents also improved their emotional well-being, expanded their social networks, and became more confident advocating for their child's right to learn alongside hearing peers. Following the Centre's guidance, parents can now access legal support through the City Psychological-Medical-Pedagogical Commission if needed.



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Tackling homelessness and providing legal support to young offenders in Georgia – run by Association 'Mkurnali', Tbilisi.

In 2024, Mkurnali provided legal support to 48 young people, with two cases still pending. Seven were acquitted, 25 received conditional release, 13 were given reduced prison sentences of one to two years, and three received longer sentences. Mkurnali works closely with local police, offering legal assistance to young people in contact with the justice system.

Alongside legal work, Mkurnali supports rehabilitation through access to basic education, temporary housing, vocational training, and employment support, while advocating for social services and young people's rights.

Education is still a big focus at the shelter. There are daily classes run by two teachers, a volunteer teacher and the director. Attendance is tracked, and the children get extra support if they've fallen behind.

Last year, a UK volunteer on a gap year in Georgia joined the team and helped those who were behind at school with their English.



In January–February 2025, a complaint from a former resident alleging misuse of funds was investigated. As no supporting evidence was provided and all financial records were found to be in line with contractual agreements, the complaint was dismissed. While the issue briefly affected the environment of the shelter, it has been fully resolved. We continue to work closely with Mkurnali to ensure transparency and accountability.

Supporting orphanage leavers through the Sunflower Centre in St Petersburg.

The Centre supports graduates of orphanages, children without parental care, and young people with foster care experience, providing social, psychological, and educational support to help them adapt to independent living and develop essential life skills.

In 2025, around 80 young people participated in 49 sessions, including group training, individual consultations, and home visits. These activities promoted personal identity, reduced social isolation, improved psychological well-being, and strengthened communication skills. An active peer support chat connects 20 young adults living independently, offering mutual support, reinforcing communication, and boosting confidence.

In the first half of the year, 90% of participants developed self-reflection skills, 20 created realistic life plans, 13 from orphanages showed reduced social maladjustment, and six from foster families reported improved relationships with caregivers, demonstrating greater trust and conflict-free communication.

A key focus was home visits with graduates who are young mothers and not yet ready to join the family support programme. In the second half of the year, Sunflower also worked at SOS Children's Village Pushkin (Youth House), providing tailored support to residents transitioning to independent living. Twelve participants took part, achieving noticeable improvements in psychological well-being, social skills, and life prospects.



Sunflower's summer camps for 6 single parents who grew up in orphanages and 6 of their pre-school children were organised in June 2025. Summer training aims at strengthening family relationships and supporting communication between children and parents and with their peers.

Supporting children with special needs in Moldova

In 2025, we supported three local grassroots charities in Moldova, one of Europe's poorest regions, helping them reach some of the most vulnerable children and families.

At Dorința (The Wish) Centre, 20 children with autism, Down syndrome, speech delays and other additional needs from rural Călărași and nearby villages received regular therapy and tailored educational support. For many of these children, access to specialist services would otherwise be extremely limited.

Rain Kids (Copiii Ploii) in Chișinău received funding to provide essential food and hygiene parcels to 80 families raising children with additional needs. Alongside this, we supported training for their therapists, helping to strengthen the quality and consistency of care offered to the children.

Sunny Corner (Plaiul Soarelui) runs a countryside farm that offers a safe and supportive environment for young people with learning disabilities. In 2025, 43 beneficiaries aged eight and above took part in meaningful daily activities, practical work and social programmes, all funded by St Gregory's Foundation.

Within this group, children and young people were supported through structured activities focused on building practical skills, learning school subjects, improving health and physical stamina, and developing independence. This includes agricultural skills such as planting and growing crops, along with cooking, making preserves, and managing everyday tasks. There is also a strong emphasis on social development, helping participants build confidence, adapt to new situations, and engage more fully in community life.



Fundraising and publicity

The planned Georgia trip with our UK supporters didn't go ahead, as there weren't enough participants to run it. We were grateful for the community fundraising efforts, including support from the Chela Choir in Cambridge, Orthodox parishes, and other generous donors. A. Leporc's online lecture also helped raise modest funds for our projects in Moldova.

The sale of Christmas cards and other gifts through the SGF online shop on eBay continued to be a popular way for supporters to give, though on a smaller scale.

Future plans

Russian partner organisations

We continue to support the Sunflower Centre, a leading organisation providing counselling and training for orphanage leavers in St. Petersburg. We're also offering essential, though limited, support to the Communication Space Centre in Moscow, helping them deliver accessible AAC solutions and technologies for disabled children. This is possible thanks to the Centre's own successful fundraising, which secured additional support from other Trusts and Foundations.

As always, we remain committed to helping hearing-impaired children and their parents in St. Petersburg and the surrounding region, whose needs are not currently being met.

Georgian and Moldovan partner organisations

We'll continue to support Mkurnali's legal programme, the only one of its kind in Tbilisi, helping more homeless young people under their care. At the same time, we're supporting local charities in Moldova that run programmes for disabled and autistic children, working to raise standards of care and build the skills of local practitioners. We're also planning a fundraising trip and hope to bring a UK specialist to Moldova to deliver practical, hands-on training.

Assessing future projects

We've put the assessment trip to Azerbaijan on hold for now due to reduced fundraising, but it remains something we hope to pursue in the coming years.

Financial review

2025 was a challenging year, with a mix of internal and external factors affecting our work. Fundraising for our Russian partner organisations proved difficult, and the number of retired and

lapsed donors increased, impacting our income. Despite this, we were pleased to provide full funding for all approved projects in Russia and even increase support for our partners in Moldova and Georgia.

The charity closed the year with a surplus net income of £73,047 (compared to £116,424 the previous year). After re-evaluating assets, the overall net movement of funds for 2025 was £(25,647)(compared to £2,356 in 2024).

SGF policies

St Gregory's acts in accordance with our policies:

- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults and safeguarding policy (online teaching)
- Volunteer policy
- Conflict of interest policy
- Donations policy
- Complaints policy
- Privacy policy
- Risk management
- Investment and reserves policy

Policies are due for revision in spring 2026.

Investment and reserves policy

SGF aims to ensure sufficient funds are available to sustain the Charity's operations and meet regular charitable commitments for at least two years. To achieve this, the Charity maintains long-term and short-term reserves. Long-term reserves are managed to preserve the real value of capital over time while generating income to support ongoing activities. Short-term reserves focus on safeguarding capital with minimal risk.

The Board has entrusted long-term reserves to Schroders, an authorised professional investment manager, and also holds a Charity Investment Account with Hargreaves Lansdown plc, selecting investments aligned with these objectives. The Board seeks professional investment advice where appropriate. Overall, SGF aims to achieve the best possible financial return within an acceptable level of risk.

Risk management policy

The Board has identified potential risks in the current climate and taken steps to minimise their impact wherever possible. SGF continues to rely on fundraising and donations to support its work, while maintaining investment reserves to ensure continuity and fund major future projects.

Our work remains entirely apolitical and focused on helping those in need. In 2022, the Charity Commission approved our informal value transfer system (IVTS), allowing services and salaries to our Russian partners to continue without interruption. Independent legal advice was provided by Withers LLP, and a compliance review was carried out by Risk Advisory. Local partner charities in Russia are not subject to UK or US sanctions, and the Board continues to ensure grant transfers to Georgia and Moldova are made safely via standard banking channels.

Our finances

Alina Nikitina, SGF accountant



As we close 2025, St. Gregory's Foundation remains steadfast in our mission to support vulnerable children and families across Eastern Europe. This year, we recorded a deficit of £60,655 and made a deliberate, strategic decision to draw upon our investment reserves to ensure the continued stability of our local partners. While this is an increase from the 2024 deficit of £41,061, it allowed our life-changing work to proceed without interruption during a period of global uncertainty. Following a positive re-evaluation of our assets, the final net movement of funds for the year was £ (25,647).

Key highlights from 2025 were:

- Income totalled £73,047.
- Donations at £55,057 accounted for over 75% of our annual income.
- Reserves have been wisely managed to deliver £15,833 in dividends and interest for the year.
- Charitable project and activity costs met expectations at £95,291.

From providing critical legal aid to young people in Georgia to supporting children with autism in rural Moldova, your generosity has been our lifeline. We have empowered young people with learning disabilities at Sunny Corner, provided therapeutic sessions through Communication Space, and helped orphanage leavers gain independence via the Sunflower Centre.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us and the families we serve.

What we received	2025 unrestricted funds, £	2024 total funds, £
Donations & Legacies	55,057	75,552
Other trading activities	2,157	23,707
Investments	15,833	17,165
Total income	73,047	116,424
What we spent	Year to 31.12.2025	Year to 31.12.2024
Wages	21,983	22,082
Raising donations & legacies	22,277	25,959
Charitable activities	95,291	99,534
Governance costs	10,868	9,910
Total spent	133,702	157,485
Gains/losses	35,008	43,417
Net movement in funds	(25,647)	2,356
Total funds brought forward	520,013	517,657
Total funds carried forward	494,366	520,013

	Year to 31 st Dec 2025		Year to 31 st Dec 2024, £	
	£	£	£	£
Balance sheet as at 31.12. 2025				
Fixed assets	456,314		448,904	
Investments				
Current assets	870		1,867	
Debtors	41,805		73,211	
Cash at bank and in hand	42,675		75,078	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(4,623)		(3,969)	
Net current assets	38,052		71,109	
Total assets less current liabilities	494,366		520,013	
Net assets	494,366		520,013	
Unrestricted funds	494,366		520,013	
Total funds	494,366		520,103	

Legal and administrative details

Charity registration no. 1002469

Company registration no. 02589926 (England and Wales)

Registered office: 8 Biddulph Road, London, W91JB

Mission Statement

The St Gregory's Foundation works in some of the countries of Eastern Europe (namely, Moldova, Georgia and Russia) to tackle the social problems facing children, teenagers, parents and carers. Our projects bring knowledge and support to local initiatives, creating opportunities for vulnerable and disabled people to fulfil their potential. Our work makes disadvantaged children and families active participants in improving their own lives and encourages a more charitable society.

Governing documents

The St Gregory's Foundation is a charitable company and is regulated by Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Patron

HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

Directors

Mr Nicholas Kolarz (Chair), Mrs Tania Illingworth, Mrs Jane Jones, Mr Simon Jennings (Honorary Treasurer).

Partner charities:

- Association Mkurnali, Tbilisi, Georgia
- AO Association for the Support of Children and Youth with Disabilities "Dorinta" (the Wish) Calarasi, Moldova (tax code 1012620005845)
- AO Public Association "Copiii Ploii"(Rain Kids) (tax code 1014620000958), Chisinau, Moldova
- Foundation "Plaiul Soarelui" (Sunny Corner) (tax code 1021620001003), Chisinau
- ANO "Centre for parents - "Sunflower", (PSRN: 1097800001804), St Petersburg, Russia
- ANO "Early Intervention Institute" (PSRN: 1177800002423), St Petersburg, Russia
- ANO "Centre for the Development and Socialisation of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities "Communication Space" (PSRN: 1177700009123), Moscow, Russia.

Make a donation online

<https://stgregorysfoundation.org.uk/>

Otherwise, please send cheques payable to *The St Gregory's Foundation* to:
Julia Ashmore, Executive Secretary c/o Flat 2, Effingham Lodge, Surbiton Crescent,
Kingston-upon-Thames. KT1 2LN

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