

# Working for The Message Trust | Ethos & Values

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**The Message Trust exists to share the good news about Jesus Christ boldly with young people, primarily in urban areas.**

We're a worldwide movement passionate about sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the hardest-to-reach young people in words and deeds. In schools, communities, on stages and in prisons you'll find us giving hope to the next generation by sharing the gospel with them. Each and every day we see lives transformed as people discover their true identity.

We are committed to raising up generations of Urban Heroes. Thousands of youth from the margins who have found hope and purpose in Jesus. They are transformational leaders who are emotionally, socially and economically mature. They are people of faith, positive role models, leading healthy lifestyles, economically active. Urban Heroes not only are transformed, but transform others, creating a ripple effect of change in their families, communities and nation.

## **These objectives are being worked out in four main areas:**

**Creative Mission:** Our cutting-edge mission teams creatively shares the good news about Jesus to young people through the creative arts, school programmes and gospel proclamation events. Live music events, relevant Christian music, printed materials, the internet and multi-media are all used to communicate the Gospel to young people mainly within the Cape Town area, in ways that are relevant to today's youth culture and perspectives.

**Community Transformation:** Our Community Hubs provide a safe environment for young people to engage in after school programmes including life skills, discipleship, educational support and fun-based youth activities. The Community Hubs are in some of Cape Town's toughest neighbourhoods and provide long-term interventions for at-risk youth. Community-based teams of volunteers advance the work of The Message through partnerships with local churches. Our goal is to see Community Hubs with full-time and volunteer youth and community workers established in the most deprived neighbourhoods of Cape Town, positively impacting the people in those areas irrespective of religion, colour or background.

**Christ-Centred Enterprise:** Our prisons and enterprise team provide a Christ-centred holistic approach to break the cycle of crime and gangsterism amongst young people. We do this through providing effective discipleship through our Prisons & Enterprise programmes that can give previously incarcerated young people a fresh start in life. Not only do we share the Gospel in and out of prison, but we also offer accommodation, training and a first job to young men and women with a criminal record. This intervention can stop the tragic consequences of gang activity, crime and reoffending that entraps so many youth across the city.

**Training and Equipping:** Inspiring and training church leaders and youth groups to be effective in reaching and communicating the Christian gospel to young people around Manchester and beyond. Our goal is to produce discipleship materials, evangelism training courses and to inspire people to get involved with their neighbourhoods, through social action and evangelistic outreaches.

## **Ethos and Values**

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The Message Trust's work is underpinned by a clear definition of its Ethos and Values, which affirms the Christian origins of the Trust and its ongoing day-to-day working principles. A Statement of ethos and values is in place (see below) to demonstrate how the Christian Faith energises the organisation's work and sustains its culture, galvanising its long-term cohesion.

The Trustees, Executive, Management and Outreach posts within the organisation have been recognised as carrying a Genuine Occupational Requirement. This is to ensure that the organisation's distinctive Christian basis is sustained. This is important given the extensive nature of the organisation's Christian charitable donor base which provides the basis for the financial viability of the work. The Message Trust is an inclusive Christian organisation, working with and supporting people from all sections of the community. In particular the Statement explains how organisations and individual people from all faiths or no faith can identify with and benefit from the services and support that the organisation provides.

We maintain the Trust's Christian ethos which is founded on a belief in God the Father as Creator, Jesus Christ the Son of God the Redeemer, and The Holy Spirit, the Enabler and third person of the Trinity. The Trust also affirms that the practical application of the Christian faith in accordance with the Bible should be expressed in daily work and living. As a Christian organisation working with and supporting people from all sections of the community, we recognise the need to set out our values. These are clearly drawn from our Christian faith and our aim is that all our staff, volunteers, clients, service users, charitable funders and business partners should be able to identify with the benefits of the organisation's work and ethos.

### **People**

We seek to empower staff to meet the needs and expectations of our clients and other service users as well as the requirements of the organisation overall. We will support staff through a comprehensive induction and training programme, backed up by strong supervision. The Message seeks to establish a culture that encourages teamwork, rewards creativity and innovation, and welcomes imaginative suggestions. Key attributes that The Message seeks in all its staff members and volunteers include valuing one another, honesty and integrity, the importance of the individual, respecting differences, a profound compassion, and working in an inclusive, non-discriminatory and non-judgemental way.

### **Partnership**

We expect all staff to work together to achieve the aims and objectives of the organisation. To achieve this, staff will act as team players in supporting one another, recognising that more is achieved through harmony. We acknowledge and value contributions to our operation arising from the diversity of staff who join the organisation, and actively look to promote links and partnerships between the Trust and other service providers, local communities and agencies. To ensure all staff work as team players, we seek to create an environment where openness, trust and support of one another is expected. Our formal supervision policies place this expectation on all staff.

### **Performance**

Our philosophy is to recognise the dignity and diversity of our clients and service users, to respect their independence, and to work with them to help meet their needs. Our staff will create an environment where our clients and service users are encouraged to take control of their lives and have the ability to exercise choice wherever possible. We will provide a high-quality framework for our work, which sets out guidance and expectations. All staff and volunteers will accept their responsibility and accountability to treat clients and service users as they would wish to be treated and challenge any practice that does not meet this standard at all times. Respect for the individual's freedom of choice will be paramount at all times. By working together, we aim to be recognised for "services of excellence" which offer proven

choice, added value, and individually tailored support. We will value and recognise the importance of every individual helping to achieve this goal.