

Statement from the Chair

Life really is unpredictable, throwing lots of curve balls and testing people's resolve and mental strength to the absolute max. Some of the global happenings over the last 12 months – well, you couldn't make it up for a storyline of a game if you tried!

The environment around us all is challenging, but as a games industry, dedicated to creating worlds for people to escape into, it has never been more important to safeguard, both physically and mentally, the people who make or partake in these worlds.

Safe In Our World was originally a project started by passion and with an absolute need to help people. That gem of an idea took shape, formed a seed, was planted and it grew. Actually, it has grown fast. In the last 2 years some wonderful things have happened, but one thing has never changed... the pure undiluted passion of every single person involved and the single-minded desire to help people.

What does this mean? It means, there are smiles, laughter, determination, joy, and sometimes tears from everyone involved as we all strive forward with passion and the desire to help.

Safe In Our World is unlike any Charity. There are no glass ceilings, just a raw desire to help. Now, two years on, there is a fully operational team of dedicated staff doing an amazing job, alongside a passionate and talented set of Trustees that push themselves to make a difference.

The wider community of Partners, Patrons, Ambassadors and Champions have grown exponentially and have all made a huge contribution to the positive impact that Safe has delivered. The sheer volume of fundraisers, content creators and donors supporting us is staggering, humbling and appreciated.

To say that I am proud of what Safe In Our World has achieved is an understatement!

The "Safer Together" Discord has engaged over 600 people from all over the world, helping each other, talking and forming bonds that never existed before, in a safe environment.

The funding from the Jingle Jam has allowed Safe In Our World to create a bespoke training course to empower Community Managers, who are at the front line, to deal with vulnerable and challenging communities. This course was created to not only to equip them with the tools to support them in their role, but also to help others, and thus create safer environments for their communities. So far nearly 200 people have been trained, or have courses booked, and all this is for free.

The Level Up Mental Health program that was aimed at providing companies who opted in, with tools and support to make their work environments a better place has exploded! We now have 80 global companies from all aspects of the games industry spectrum, including Mediatonic, The Embracer Group, Sumo Group, Curve Digital, Wired Productions, Creative Assembly and Sega Europe to name a few. The Level Up program has been a huge success and will be developed continuously with even more global and local resources.

The Safe In Our World team have launched a Podcast with regular guests, and they have been relentless in their mission to speak on panels globally, spreading the message and helping to engage in the conversation around mental health.

The website www.safeinourworld.org which is the main hub for activity has grown exponentially with helpful and relatable content.

The great work doesn't just end there. There are surveys and research studies underway, wider plans for creating a better understanding of mental health in games, alongside our current programs, initiatives and ideas for normalising the conversation around mental health.

Really, this is just the beginning. We all would like to do more, but we have to remember we are only two years old and have to grow responsibly. The results achieved already are outstanding, but we are a charity so rely heavily on everyone's generosity and passion to support us on our journey.

Thank you all for an amazing contribution, there are too many to acknowledge here, and I hope we can all push forward together to make a real difference. There is no single-handed action that has led to the success and growth of Safe In Our World, instead it has been thanks to the energy of the whole team, and by all those who have contributed in one way or another.

Here's to a safer 12 months and hoping you all do take care of your own wellbeing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LZ' or 'LZU', written in a cursive style.

Leo Zullo
Chair Trustee & Co-Founder