

not afford to buy new glasses.

Freshwinds is a charitable organisation in Birmingham who provide help to families and individuals who have disability, health or financial issues and it was Freshwinds who helped Samuel apply to the Fund for Human Need for a grant to pay for the new glasses he needed. By working with another organisation, the Fund was again able to make a real difference to someone's life.



## No. 2 Autumn 2011

In our next issue we plan to explain the difference between Personal Distress and RASH grants, and to say something about our grant-making procedures. We also hope to outline our present commitment to projects overseas including Escuela Metodista de Colón referred to in the expenditure summary on the previous page.

'Briefings' is designed and published on behalf of the Fund for Human Need by David Woosley, 4 Wilson Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8BU (0151) 630 6479.

## How to contribute

Donations may be sent to

The Finance Officer  
Fund for Human Need  
111 Llanfabon Drive  
Trethomas  
CAERPHILLY CF83 8GX

Cheques should be made payable to

*Fund for Human Need*

Should you choose to set up a standing order our bank details are

HSBC Bank plc.  
8 Victoria Street  
Westminster  
LONDON SW1H 0NJ

Sort code 40-02-06  
Account title –  
*The Methodist Church  
Fund for Human Need*  
Account number 61329243

However, we strongly advise you contact our Finance Officer first. Experience shows that problems may otherwise arise.



*Fund for Human Need  
occasional Newsletter  
to contributors*



*No. 1: Spring 2011*

## Anne, Carol, Irene, Eddie and Samuel: their stories

### Welcome to *Briefings*!

The trustees of the Fund for Human Need believe we owe it to our contributors to give an account of our stewardship of the gifts they make. Hence this newsletter.

We aim to publish twice a year, in the spring and autumn; to tell the stories of some of the people you have enabled us to help, and to show how the money is spent.

All the stories will be genuine except that the names will have been changed.

So please accept this brief publication as a token of our thanks for your continued support.

**Roger Cresswell** *Chair*

## About the Fund

**T**he Fund for Human Need exists to provide grants to vulnerable individuals who need help to get over a short term problem. Typically the people who are helped will be homeless, refugees or asylum seekers to whom no help is available from the state. People who are in need will usually be referred to the Fund for Human Need by another agency that is involved in helping them with their current problems and the money is usually provided to them via that agency to ensure that it is spent exactly as intended.

The Fund for Human Need is part of the Methodist Church's outreach and care for those who are least able to fend for themselves, whether at home or abroad. The grants made are usually of a relatively small amount (up to a maximum of £100), but they make a world of difference for the recipients. To keep costs at an absolute minimum, the Fund for Human Need is entirely administered by volunteers.

The stories here tell how the Fund has helped destitute people across the UK.

## Caring in Glasgow

Anne is a single mum living in Glasgow who had spent nearly all her life caring for her own mother through many years of illness. As a consequence she had had a very unsettled and somewhat chaotic life-style which was not good for her new role as a mother herself. With help from the YMCA's City Centre Project, Anne was able to get a rented home of her own and the Fund for Human Need provided further help to set her up for her new start in life.

Anne continues to care for her mum as well as her own child, but is full of determination to succeed in life. Her goal is to go to college and study Social Care.

## Helping Children in Bradford

Carol lives in Bradford with her 3 young children. Having fled from domestic violence, the Gingerbread Housing Project helped her with temporary accommodation and approached the Fund for Human Need on her behalf.

Despite having debts, Carol has been helping her own mother who has recently been released from jail. The

Fund for Human Need provided cash assistance for essential clothes for Carol's children and the Gingerbread Housing Project ensured that the money was spent wisely. The family's problems continue but they were immensely grateful for the help.

## Avoiding Eviction in south Wales

Irene lives in a small town in Wales, not far from Cardiff. Unusually, Irene applied for help from the Fund for Human Need herself, having found details of the Fund's activities on the internet. Both Irene and her husband have severe medical problems and are unable to work, although they do help to raise 2 of their grandchildren.

Irene's problems had led to financial difficulties and she and her husband were in arrears with rent and Council Tax. The Fund for Human Need provided a small sum of money but it was enough to carry Irene through her immediate problems and stave off the threat of eviction.

## Abandoned in London

Eddie came to the UK with his father when he was 14 and spent a year at school here before the family returned

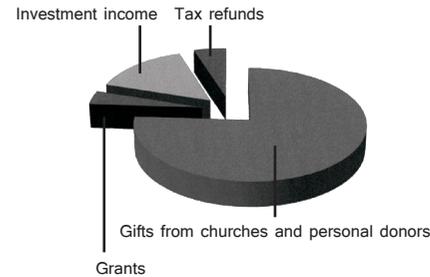
home to Jamaica. Then, when he was 19, his father brought him back to the UK after his mother died. When his father met and married a British woman, Eddie was abandoned to fend for himself. He had been living rough in London, sleeping in bus stations and getting help from wherever he could.

Praxis Community Projects learned about his plight and are helping him to regularise his immigration status so that he can get a job. Through Praxis, the Fund for Human Need provided Eddie with help to get warm winter clothing whilst they continue to assist him find a safe place to sleep and food to eat.

## Staying in Focus in Birmingham

Samuel is seeking UK asylum from his home country of Uganda where he was a soldier in the National Army. He has sight problems and needs to wear glasses for walking as he is unable to keep his balance without being able to focus on his surroundings. Having received one pair of glasses from the National Asylum Support Service, he was ineligible for a replacement pair of glasses when he accidentally broke them. With income of only £35 per week in asylum support vouchers, Samuel could →

### INCOME (2009-2010)

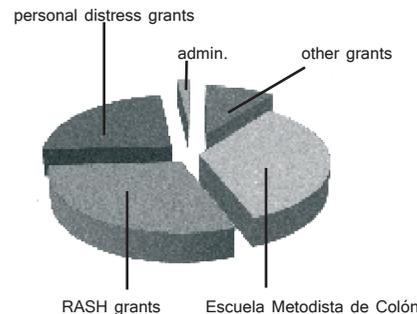


A total of £24,349 made up of:

- investment income (14.65%),
- tax refunds (4.97%),
- gifts from churches and personal donations (76.27%),
- grants (4.11%)

comprising £10,389 (42.67%) for restricted purposes – earmarked by the donor for a particular project – and £13,960 (57.33%) for general purposes such as are described in this newsletter.

### EXPENDITURE (2009-2010)



Personal Distress and RASH grants totalling £10,060 (44.03%) are those made to individuals such as those described in this newsletter.

Escuela Metodista de Colón is a primary school in Panamá which FHN has supported since its inception.

Other grants are restricted (earmarked).