

Keeping Warm in Manchester

Nathaniel comes from Iran and is claiming asylum in the UK on political grounds. His case has been ongoing since 2007 and Nathaniel relies for help on friends around south Manchester. He cannot return to Iran until the human rights situation there significantly improves.

The Manchester Refugee Support Network approached the Fund for Human Need on Nathaniel's behalf for a grant to enable them to buy him some warm clothing in time for winter – a pair of shoes, jeans, a couple of pullovers and a coat. A grant of £100 from the Fund for Human Need provided Nathaniel with his warm clothing and the Red Cross also helped out with some food parcels.

Medical Needs in Middlesex

Mary suffers from cerebral palsy and has a bilateral foot deformity so she needs some special shoes to help with her mobility. The Orthotics Department of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore required her to have a specific style of quality shoe suitable to accommodate foot orthotics but Mary's disability means that she can only work part-time with a consequently low income and there was no way that she could afford to buy the correct shoes.

The Fund for Human Need provided £100 to cover the cost of the special shoes and the orthotics were fitted for her by the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Mary was immensely grateful for the help that the Fund for Human Need provided.

A summary of the grants made by the Fund for Human Need during 2011/2012

Overseas	£
Methodist School, Panamá	5,000
Boys Town, Jamaica	1,000
Hogar Atlantico, Panamá	372
Orphan Boys, Kenya	150
UK	
Personal distress Project*	£2,720
Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Homeless	1,000
	9,350

**Refugee Council Project on Destitute asylum seeking mothers*

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Briefings

Where a little helps a lot

Fund for Human Need
occasional Newsletter
to contributors



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People like Betty and George need our help

Roger Cresswell, Chair of FHN writes...

When the Fund for Human Need was created 52 years ago its object was "to relieve and remove hunger and poverty in all parts of the world without regard for politics, race, colour or creed."

While it was never expected that an organisation such as FHN could play more than a small part in this global challenge, what we can say is that the fund still seeks to fulfil its original purpose.

It does so both by supporting specific projects overseas and by responding to cases of urgent human need in the United Kingdom; the latter being the focus in this edition of *Briefings*.

There is every possibility that the demands upon the fund will increase in coming months as cutbacks are made in statutory support. Local councils, NHS trusts and other institutions are among those which appeal to FHN on behalf of clients for one-off grants to relieve situations of particular hardship.

We are grateful to all who contribute to FHN whether by regular payments or single donations. You can be assured that what you give is used for the real benefit of those in genuine need.

Roger

From Zambia to Bristol

Betty came to the UK from Zambia in 2004 on a work visa. In 2007, she became very ill and was diagnosed as HIV+. Since then she has suffered paralysis in her legs and eye-sight problems due to detached retinas. The NHS has helped with her medical problems but she is only able to work for very limited hours which means she can barely earn enough to cover her food and other living costs.

The Brigstowe Project in Bristol came to her rescue and helped her find funding for the £820 cost of making a visa application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. The Fund for Human Need provided £100 towards the cost of the application which was successful and this has enabled Betty to access benefits that have reduced her level of poverty and greatly improved the quality of her life.

Homeless in Aberdeen

John, who has learning difficulties, lived in a caravan in a village near Aberdeen but, having lost his job as a building labourer, he was unable to keep up with his rent payments. The caravan was damp and suffered badly with condensation which had spoiled John's clothes with mildew.

With bankruptcy looming, John went to Aberdeenshire Council for help. They approached the Fund for Human Need on his behalf and the Fund was pleased to be able to help him in his dire situation. Meanwhile, the Council found John a homeless flat and he is now starting a new life.

Brighton Voices in Exile

Mr D is an Iranian asylum seeker who came to the UK in 2007 and now lodges with a friend. With no income of his own, Mr D is reliant on a weekly bag of groceries from the Brighton Voices in Exile organisation and also receives help from them liaising with legal and health professionals.

The Fund for Human Need provided a grant to enable Mr D to attend an ESOL course and Brighton Voices in Exile made sure that the money was paid direct to the college. Go to http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/ImprovingYourSkills/DG_10037499 to find out more about courses in English for Speakers of Other Languages and how the course can really make a difference to individuals.

School Children in Manchester

George (6) and Heidi (15) are the children of two asylum seekers in Manchester. Their parents receive help from the National Asylum Support Service in the form of Asda vouchers but had no cash with which to buy school uniforms for their children. Consequently, George and Heidi felt “different” from the other pupils at their

schools and were singled out by their peers which made life very difficult for them.

Their case was referred to the Fund for Human Need by the Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN). The Fund provided MRSN with cash to buy regulation school blazers, pullovers, ties and sportswear – a simple act which has made a significant difference to the quality of life for these 2 young people.

Building a Future in Bristol

Having received refugee status, Ben became homeless because he was no longer eligible to stay at his National Asylum Support Service accommodation. “Futures at Knightstone”, a charitable service provided by Knightstone Housing Association in Bristol, rescued Ben from a homeless hostel and have provided him with a place in their supported housing scheme.

Futures at Knightstone contacted the Fund for Human Need on Ben’s behalf and the Fund was able to provide Ben with bedding and kitchen equipment. From this stable base, Ben is getting ready for independent living and is able to build a future for himself.

Heathrow Terminal

When his mother died, William was unable to keep up the payments on his home. Unaware that he could get any assistance from the state, William became homeless and for 13 years he lived at Heathrow Airport. Although he had worked all his life, he had

always been on the minimum wage and had no savings. A difficult position became worse when William suffered a stroke and could no longer work which was when he came to the notice of Heathrow Travel Care, a charity providing crisis social work services at the airport.

Heathrow Travel Care helped William to move into sheltered housing provided by Hillingdon Council, but as the property was completely unfurnished, they organised a fund to help him to furnish and equip it. The Fund for Human Need was one of a number of charities that contributed to the fund that enabled Heathrow Travel Care to provide William with everything he needed for his new home.

Now at Home in Northallerton

Susan became homeless when she became pregnant. She had had a turbulent relationship with her partner but was forced to leave the home that they had shared when he did not want her to go through with the pregnancy.

Susan lived between family and friends for several months before making a homeless application. She was allocated an unfurnished house in Northallerton where she now lives with her baby boy. The Fund for Human Need helped Susan with a grant towards the purchase of some second-hand furniture and when her maternity leave comes to an end, she is hoping to return to her part-time job with North Yorkshire County Council soon.

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 to contact our Finance Officer first. Experience shows that problems may otherwise arise.