

Setting up Home in Sandwell

A Support, Time and Recovery (STR) worker is someone who “works as part of a team, which provides mental health services and focuses directly on the needs of service users, working across boundaries of care, organisation and role”. Thanks to an STR working for MIND in the West Midlands, Earl has been receiving help to manage his chronic depressive state.

When Earl was offered a home by Sandwell Council, his STR worker contacted the Fund for Human Need who were able to help with a grant towards some of the essentials that he needed. Thanks to everyone pulling together to help Earl, he is now starting to get involved with the community groups that can help him to rebuild his life.

From Rags to ... Regaining Dignity in London

20 year old Bahija is an asylum seeker who has been living in the UK for nearly 3 years. After her support was discontinued, Bahija had to rely on friends for food and accommodation. Of course, her friends were also on tight budgets and there was no money available for clothes. Bahija's clothes and shoes were so worn out that they were ripping or opening at the seams with only the slightest provocation, making her ashamed even to go out.

The Fund for Human Need was able to provide Bahija with a grant of £100 which she used to buy shoes, cardigan, 2 tops, 2 pairs of trousers and underwear. This simple act of aid helped to lift Bahija's spirits and restored her dignity.

Financial Hardship in Fife

Callan and Dale are brothers who are aged 5 and 9 years old. Their mother, a heroin addict, was separated from their father who was unemployed and both boys had significant difficulties whilst living with her. It was looking likely that they would have to go to foster parents.

However, with help from the Social Work Service of Fife Council, their father has been able to look after the boys, despite his own financial hardship. The Fund for Human Need helped their father to buy a washing machine so that he could look after the boys properly at home.

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*Fund for Human Need
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to contributors*



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Genuine stories; only the names have been changed

Introducing our new Treasurer

The *Fund for Human Need* board has recently been joined by Alan Hickox as Treasurer and a Trustee. At a time of greatly increasing need amongst those whom the Fund seeks to support, Alan says he is delighted to be working again with Roger Cresswell, a former minister in the Croydon Circuit and currently FHN's Chair.

Having qualified as an accountant and spent a decade with one of the major accountancy firms, Alan worked at a city bank, dealing with loans to UK businesses (not as an investment banker!).

A life-long resident of Croydon until November 2011, with church responsibilities as organist and in finance and other areas, Alan and his wife Veronica now enjoy life in the country in West Sussex, on the outskirts of Chichester — although the postman maintains they live over the border in Emsworth in Hampshire. A two year-old grandson living nearby keeps them on their toes!

Fleeing from Egypt

Ibrahim, an IT professional, fled from Egypt with his wife Jannah and their 1 year old son to start a new life in Torquay. Ibrahim joined a course at South Devon College in order to improve his English in the hope of getting a good job to support his young family. His wife, Jannah, spoke very little English and was becoming increasingly isolated.

Ibrahim and his family had lived in various temporary homes before getting help from Westcountry Housing. One of their Housing Support Workers got involved and approached a number of charities for financial help to furnish a home that the Housing Association could offer them. The Fund for Human Need played its part by providing £100 towards their long list of basic household equipment.

Essential Support in Essex

Habiba was nearly 9 months pregnant when she was made homeless when her landlord took the opportunity of her being out of the

house to change the locks and throw her belongings outside. Inevitably, some of her property was stolen and other items were damaged during this process.

Thankfully, the Look Ahead Housing & Care group were able to help Habiba to get a new flat for herself and her 5 year old son. They also wrote to the Fund for Human Need on her behalf and requested financial assistance to help her replace bedding, towels and kitchen equipment. Some of the grant from the Fund for Human Need also went on necessities for her new baby.

St George to the Rescue

St George's Healthcare NHS Trust in south west London has a specialist team that helps homeless people, asylum seekers and refugees. There is a seemingly endless stream of people who come to them for help. Whilst they have the skills and experience to alleviate suffering with essentials like advice and accommodation, there are some items that fall outside their scope but which, nonetheless, make a real difference to the recipients.

St George's have made a number of applications to the Fund for Human Need for assistance for their "clients" and we have been able to help them with things such as travel cards to access other services, phone cards to enable people to liaise with relevant agencies, warm clothing for winter and even bed clothes. It is often through agencies such as St Georges that people are introduced to the Fund for Human Need – when small grants can make a huge difference to the grateful recipients.

Lost: Lithuanian Passport

After losing his job, Fabian also lost his home and started living on the street. He also lost his passport and jobcentre documents when they were stolen from him whilst sleeping rough. With no proof of identity, Fabian was unable to claim benefits or even to obtain a crisis loan.

The local Citizens Advice Bureau in Bolton, Lancashire applied to the Fund for Human Need on his behalf for £100 to pay for a replacement passport and help with travel costs to London in order to visit the Lithuanian Embassy. Armed with his new passport, Fabian was able to make a homelessness application by proving his right to reside in the UK as an EU National.

Salvation Army at Work in Scotland

George came into contact with the Salvation Army after he found himself homeless following a relationship breakdown. He spent 8 months living in temporary homeless accommodation during which time he took up the training and volunteering opportunities that

were offered to him. As a result, George obtained a place as a full time student and was offered tenancy by a housing association.

The Salvation Army applied to the Fund for Human Need on George's behalf and we were able to help George to buy essential kitchen equipment. Friends helped him with other items and he is now looking forward to a much more positive future.

Thank You

A short poem from a very grateful recipient of a grant from the Fund

*Thanks for giving all you give;
Thanks for doing all you do;
Thanks for caring as you care;
Thanks for being you.*

*Thoughtful people like you are very special indeed.
I will always remember your kindness with warmth and gratitude.*

Seeking Asylum in Swansea

Anna is a young woman from Gambia who is seeking asylum in Wales to escape from a forced marriage and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). The man her father had arranged for her to marry already has 3 wives. Until she is granted asylum, she receives no financial support from the government and relies on friends for a home and for food.

Despite her own difficulties, Anna helps at the local African Community Centre in Swansea. The grant from the Fund for Human Need will help Anna to survive until her asylum case has been heard.

As a general rule, grants are channelled through bona fide agencies who can guarantee the money is paid to the designated beneficiary.

How to contribute

Donations may be sent to

Alan Hickox
Treasurer
Fund for Human Need
1 Duffield Lane
Woodmancote
Nr Emsworth PO10 8PZ

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 Treasurer first. Experience shows that problems may otherwise arise.