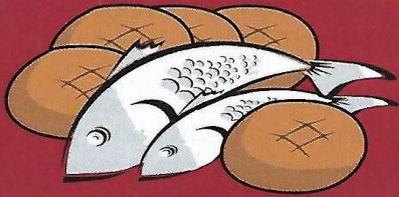


Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



Where a little means a lot

January 2020

Our Calling

Thank You



2020 marks sixty years since the Revd Donald McNeill, a Methodist minister serving in London, was so concerned about those living in poverty, that he helped set up the Fund for Human Need.

Today the main focus of FHN's work is on relieving the distress of destitute individuals and families throughout the UK. Applications for assistance come mainly through statutory bodies and voluntary organisations but individuals also can apply.

Although there is currently a maximum of £120 per payment, such is the number of requests for help we receive that in the past five months they have averaged slightly less than £80. Yet, despite what many of us would regard as this modest amount, we receive some very moving letters of thanks.

In recent years there has been an encouraging increase in the number of people giving to the work of FHN and on behalf of the trustees I wish to thank you for being one of those. We are most grateful for your concern and your generous support. It is through you and others like you that we were able to send urgently needed help to nearly 850 families and individuals last year. So, from us and from those who have been blessed through your giving, thank you, again.

Roger Cresswell
Chair, FHN

DONATE

If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to the major relief funds or benefits, please see our website at:
http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111

There you will find all the information you need on making a donation or regular gift.

Or you can contact us at:

fundhumanneed@gmail.com

Remember thanks to our funding from Methodist Church (MAPJ) **100% of your donations** go to those in the most need.
60 years of loving our neighbours.

The Need: 2018/19 we had applications from parents affecting **532** children, over **600** cases needing food and basic items. **283** homeless or recently housed people applied along with nearly **200** people with medical or mental health issues. The growing benefit gap accounted for **114** applications, the number of asylum seekers looking for help was **545**.

Updates on Fundraising

Our film and resources are available on the website – www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk

Events – In the New Year Gill is looking forward to Meeting with and running a workshop for Methodist Women in Britain at their Spring conference. We are also planning to be at: Christian resources Exhibition (Coventry) Spring Harvest in Harrogate, Methodist Conference, Greenbelt, and the Superintendents conferences. We will also be at many of the Synods but are still looking for representatives in some districts. **Watch out for other events and opportunities to celebrate our 60 Years of work and service.**

New Leaflet: We are **60** years old and we have a new leaflet – can you place some in your church or community space? If so, get in touch with Gill who can supply all you need.

Local fundraising: Could you organise a fundraising event? We can help

Electronic giving: We are on 'Just giving' search for us or use the button on the website. On **Amazon** please use the 'smile' version and nominate us. 0.5% comes back to the Fund, it costs you nothing.

Wherever we go we are Inviting regular giving by Standing Order – Increasing this where possible by gift aiding donations this enables us to claim back the tax and add 25p to every £ donated. **The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you would consider?**

Could you be a 'Friend to FHN'? – We are looking for people who can raise our profile within their communities, Churches and Synods and make people aware of the work we do.

Happy New Year?

December and the Christmas period brought us an exceptionally busy month. The New year is a time for taking stock, so how busy have we been? In Our 2018/19 year we made **845 emergency payments**, to individuals and families, ranging from £40 to £120. We had **228 applications from homeless**, people Like Andrew - who was supported by The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields a shelter in London: Originally from Africa Andrew lived in the UK for many years, but due to documentation issues he struggled to prove he had the right to work and live here and became homeless, destitute and unable to work or access benefits. Applying to FHN for a payment he was granted £60. Andrew was very grateful to access this support as this helped him to cover his basic needs, including food and transport, while Connection helped him to obtain proof of his immigration status. He made an application obtained new documents and has leave to remain in the UK. Andrew is now accessing benefits and has accommodation while he tries to rebuild his life.

**Names changed and illustrations from creative commons.



Those seeking asylum often find themselves in a most difficult position, usually not allowed to work they must keep appointments with solicitors and the Home Office while they apply to stay. We had **545 applications** from those caught in this situation. An application from Money Matters in Glasgow was for a 31-year-old asylum seeker, sent to them by the Special Needs in Pregnancy clinic. She had been forced to work as a sex worker in Thailand from the age of 15 and then brought to Britain. On arrival here, she was again forced into prostitution, which ended when the Police raided the place she was working. Despite continuing harassment of her family and herself she decided she was safer in the UK. Having never dealt with money she did not know how to budget at all and was living on a diet of noodles and using the rest of her money for travel. Money Matters gave her information about a local charity who provide second hand baby items. Happy about this she was eventually confident to go to the shop herself, the problem was that she had no money to do this. She seemed a good candidate for FHN and we applied to the charity on her behalf. She was awarded £80, this enabled her to go and buy some essentials for her baby. **



We're looking for more friends:

- To ensure FHN leaflets / newsletters are topped up and visible in all places where Methodists meet and take a banner and leaflets to Local Synods
- To ensure FHN's work is mentioned regularly in newsletters, meetings and draw attention to the website.
- To use links that you have with other relevant organisations and see if they can help?
- To organise a local fundraising event where the film can be shown, donations made and standing orders encouraged
- To send in a report (it need only be brief) so we don't duplicate activities in an area.

All supplies and support provided, contact Gill.

Keeping in touch – we send a newsletter regularly, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. For new supporters we will get in touch to find out your mailing preferences. If at any time these change please let the administrator know.

Administrator Mrs Gill Mason:
fundhumanneed@gmail.com

01325 244992 - 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL. If you need any help, leaflets or gift aid envelopes please get in touch.