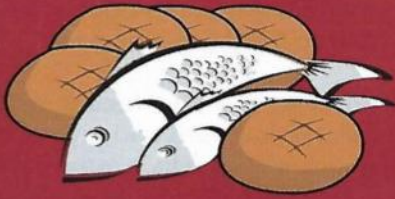


# Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



*Where a little means a lot*  
**No 1 of 2025**

# THANK YOU

We are very grateful to all who are supporting us in what continues to be a very difficult time. Regular donations are especially helpful as we seek to meet a growing demand.

**A special thanks to those whose gifts have been made anonymously or for whom we have no addresses to send our thanks.**

**<https://fundforhumaneed.org.uk/>**

## Annual General Meeting,

For the 2024 AGM we were kindly hosted by our patron The Rt Hon. the Lord Boateng at the House of Lords itself. It was a wonderful occasion to mark our 65<sup>th</sup> year attended by welcome guests from the connection, districts and the House of Lords. Lord Boateng was kind enough to take visitors and trustees on tours of the house and then opened the formal meeting. His remarks expressed a thanks for what we are doing and he explained how when he was working as a solicitor a small amount of cash would help with issues otherwise insolvable.

The Chair Revd Roger Cresswell then gave the annual report; he mentioned how the Fund was started by a small group led by Revd Donald McNeil (then based in Tooting) and the work done in the past, explaining how unrestricted income has risen from £6,500 (2013) to £101,000 in 2023-24 -and how our award payments have doubled!

Deciding those awards is not easy. A trustee commented after sharing in the allocation of the payments that it was a "heart-rending" experience. To read of the desperate situations in which many people find themselves and to decide who we are able to help and whose requests have to be declined is, indeed, very difficult.

In the past year the average grant was just £108. That is a figure which has increased very little over the years because of the much greater number of applications. If we can sustain or, better, increase donations we hope to help more people with larger payments. As part of this we are looking to widen our support base and are in the process of becoming part of the Churches Together Charities and Networks in Association. Also, we previously mentioned seeking ways to cover the fund-raising and administrative costs of the Fund so that donations could be used exclusively "to relieve and remove hunger and poverty. It is now expected that from the beginning of the next financial year all the running costs of the charity will be covered by a grant from a charitable foundation administered by the family of a current trustee. We are so grateful for this immensely generous possibility. This time next year FHN aims to apply 100% of all funds raised from individuals, churches and other fund-raising to the relief payments for the destitute and those most in need.

In the gospels when Jesus was anointed with expensive perfume, which provoked the disciples' indignation at the supposed extravagance and his response was: "You will always have the poor with you." Perhaps Donald McNeill was thinking of that when He drew up the Trust Deed, in which there is no provision for the dissolution of FHN. It will therefore remain in being for so long as its charitable objects are capable of fulfilment unless it dies a natural death through lack of income and the proper distribution of all its charitable funds. Which is just as well, since if we will always have the poor with us, the Fund for Human Need will be needed to offer practical help, love and hope.

Facts and figures for 23-24 on pg 3 and the full report is available on FHN's website: [https://fundforhumaneed.org.uk/?page\\_id=38](https://fundforhumaneed.org.uk/?page_id=38) or on the Charity commission site.

The FHN trustees with Lord Paul Boateng and Carolyn Godfrey (Vice president of Methodist Conference)



## Fundraising Partners.

Because we give cash awards, we cannot access sources of funding normally available to other charities. This makes the efforts of all our supporters even more special. We wanted to share and celebrate some of the fundraising you have been doing for us.

**There are also many churches in the UK to who we are grateful who also support us with regular donations and amounts from various collection and events.**

**Easby chapel** is a tiny village chapel near Stokesley in North Yorkshire and is linked with Great Ayton Methodist church. They often use a local village hall to host coffee mornings to raise money to support others.

Easby Guild started in 1936 and meets regularly on Thursday afternoons often involving a speaker. For 2024 their chosen charity was Fund for Human Need and back in September Gill was invited to be the speaker – what a wonderful afternoon! not only an attentive and interested audience – but the most wonderful bring and share tea.

Not only did the members buy fundraising cards, but cheques to the value of £1111.52 were forwarded as a result of the fundraising for the year. Thanks to all at Easby for your efforts on our behalf.



**Bilsdale Silver Band** plays for general public enjoyment, mainly on Sunday afternoons, and often outdoors in some of the most beautiful places in Yorkshire, including stately homes, abbeys, and seaside resorts. This year, in November they managed to fit in a fundraising concert for Fund for Human Need.

The event took place at the ancient Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in Stokesley. The band under the direction of Christine Britland the regular conductor played a varied and very well received programme to a packed house.

There was an interval where everyone had chance to talk to the band, visit the FHN stall, have tea, coffee and cake and buy tickets for the raffle with its generously donated prizes.

The event was organised by Mrs Fiona Bowman as part of the years fundraising for FHN from Great Ayton Methodist Church and added £1300 towards their total for 2024 (more on that in a later edition of this newsletter).



Our thanks to all the players, conductor and committee of Bilsdale Silver Band.

Rev. Ben Gunter, the Churchwardens and especially the tea ladies at St Peter and St Pauls. Fiona and all who attended and supported this event.

**The Pen and Camera Club of Methodism**, were kind enough to allow us to use images to produce our last charity cards. We are now at a point where we have sold almost all of the wonderful note cards, they helped us produce. To date these cards have raised just over £900 in profits. Thank you to all involved both at the club and all those who have sold or bought cards.

**Any amount is gratefully received, see page 4 for details of how to send donations – Our thanks to all who do. If you do hold a fundraising event, please let us know about them send any information (and if permitted, photos) to Gill.**



## ART CARDS.

These cards have been produced with the help of 3 talented ladies from across the UK and we thank Mrs Sams, Sheach and Bowman for allowing us the use of their wonderful paintings. As previously these are quality cards complete with envelopes and blank inside making them suitable for all occasions.



**Suggested donation £3per pack also available by post** from the Administrator, (contact details on pg. 4) post and packing remains at £0.55 per pack up to a maximum of £3.50. Want to get organised? The same rates also apply to our Christmas cards – still available. Packs of 5.

**All profits from the sale of the cards are used by Fund for Human Need to provide relief from poverty, hunger and distress to those in desperate circumstances across the UK.**



## 2023-24. Facts and figures

This year we received almost 1,000 applications from organisations including national charities, churches, NHS mental health teams, citizens' advice and individuals. 68% were from those organisations on behalf of their clients and 32% were personal requests. After careful assessment of each one 90% of the payments (672 in total) were made through those agencies, with awards to individuals of £100-£110 and to families of £120 - £130. We distributed a total of £72,050 and since 2014 we have distributed £550,000 in awards.

This year's payments have helped over 1,500 people, the majority of whom have requested money for food, clothing, bedding and other essentials this includes 473 children.

Fundraising expenditure, of £8,560, amounted to only 17% of the year's unrestricted income.

The full report is available on FHN's website: [https://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page\\_id=38](https://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=38) or on the Charity commission site

## Thanks to you.....

Rachel\* bravely left violent and controlling partner, and the only way to escape was to not return after a trip to the local shops. This meant she arrived at a shelter with nothing other than the clothes she had on, no personal effects and she had in fact left behind lots of family items. A hostel was able to help with clothing and eventually she was able to retrieve some of her personal and family bits and pieces. Awaiting her universal credit (6weeks minimum), with her goods in storage she applied to us to help pay for basic necessities, her phone and the storage fees. Award £110. Dec 24

I have received this, thank you so much for sending it, it has been such a challenging time with very little support from anyone but yourselves. Truly, thank you so much.

The Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants are one of the London based organisations that apply to us regularly. In December they applied for Mia\*, she was living in temporary hotel accommodation with her three children, two of which are in secondary school. Keen to keep up the children's school attendance she is struggling to get together the money needed to provide school uniform and equipment for her children. "The Fund for Human Need grant would help enormously with getting the two older children set up with school uniform including PE kit, school bag, shoes, maths equipment etc. they are currently managing on the home office allowance of £8.86 per person in her family". Award £130 Dec 24.

As always, thank you very much. This grant means such a lot to our clients and goes such a long way. best wishes & many thanks, Islington Centre for Refugees.

\*Names changed

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## How You helped:

The Advice Service of Highlands and Islands Students' Association applied to us on behalf of a student who was still in the asylum system. He had mobility issues but was still faithfully attending college despite a 35 minute walk each way. As he was in dispersed hostel accommodation his only income was a weekly allowance of £8.86 from the Home Office. A bus ticket cost £3.20 for each day and they were concerned how he would manage in the bad weather as he was ineligible for any hardship funding at the college, they sought help with the cost of bus travel to and from the campus for 3 months of travel covered for the harsh winter months.

Award £110. Dec 24

I want to extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of the student you've chosen to support through the Fund for Human Need. Your generosity has created a meaningful impact during a challenging time, and your assistance will lighten their load in ways that words alone cannot convey.

We recognise the significant pressure you face with your resources and deeply appreciate the compassion and consideration you bring to every decision. Your commitment to making a positive impact for as many individuals as possible, especially with the limited funding you have, makes this support feel even more valuable.

This grant represents more than just financial support; it serves as a heartfelt reminder to the student that they are not alone on their journey. There are caring individuals like you and your committee who are truly invested in their success. Your generosity reflects the deep compassion that fuels your work and brings much-needed hope to those who are facing challenges. Thank you for being a source of light and encouragement for those in need.

Thank you once again for the incredible impact you continue to make. Your work truly changes lives.

With heartfelt appreciation.

Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) Jan 2025

**Keeping in touch** – The newsletter is sent three times a year, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. We get in touch to find out your mailing preferences, if at any time these change, please let us know. This and any other correspondence to:

Mrs Gill Mason (Admin): [fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com)

Ph: 01325 244992. Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL

**DONATE.** If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to relief funds or benefits, please see our website at:

[http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page\\_id=111](http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111)

Or you can contact us at:

[fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com) Ph: 07561717230

**The backbone of any charity is the fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you can consider?**

**Standing Order** – Regular giving is so valuable and if you can Gift Aid, it adds 25p to every £ donated. Details on the website or from Gill M.

**Direct bank payment:** Bacs payments can be sent direct to: Fund for Human Need. Sort Code 08-92-99, A/C. 67234233

**Cheque** - if you prefer to donate by cheque, these should be made out to 'Fund for Human Need' and directed to Gill Mason (Admin) at the address below.

**Other ways you can help - Other news outlets-** Is there a local news outlet that you could pass our information to? Church or Circuit notices or magazines?

**Electronic giving-** We are on 'Just giving'. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundforhumanneed>



Try our QR code to go to the Just Giving site. (Just point the camera of a smart phone at it.)

**Home shopping-** we are on **Give as you live**, if you nominate us, a percentage comes to us with no cost to you.

**Synods** - Do you go to Synod? Could you take some leaflets, staff a marketplace table? Maybe you could speak for us? All materials and assistance provided.

**Greetings and Christmas Cards-** could you send for and sell on some of our cards? Its more cost effective to send a big pack to one person. Phone Gill to discuss.

**Wills and codicils-** Freewills an online service <https://freewills.co.uk/charity/fundhumanneed> who can also make a will over the phone on 0333 188 5688. If you already have a will made and would be happy to add a bequest to Fund for Human Need a simple codicil form is available on the Website (or from our Admin).

**Friends in Districts-** we still have need of people in some of the districts to advertise us at district events and synods, giving out leaflets and putting up posters, getting information into publications etc. (all supplied and supported). **Can you help?**