

New Major Grants Announced

4 May 2011

The first major grants of 2011, awarded by The Freemasons' Grand Charity, have been announced - totalling £676,000. Seventeen charities have been awarded grants for projects based throughout England and Wales in support of vulnerable people and youth opportunities.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

The Amber Foundation £25,000

To fund a recruiting officer for a residential centre for disadvantaged young people in Surrey. The charity provides a structured programme of activities at three residential centres for unemployed young people.

<http://www.amberweb.org/>

Fairbridge £60,000

This grant is payable over two years to fund a Development Tutor and Outreach Worker at a centre in Liverpool. Fairbridge works with 3,500 of the most disaffected and disadvantaged young people, running open-ended programmes of courses and activities.

<http://www.fairbridge.org.uk/>

Girlguiding UK £20,000

To fund a peer mentoring and education project which will train older Guides to deliver sessions to Brownies and younger Guides on a wide range of topics. The project also helps the trained peers with their presentation skills, communication, decision making and leadership.

<http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/home.aspx>

Helena Kennedy Foundation £36,000

This grant is payable over three years to fund the *ThinkBig* programme for 10 looked-after young people (i.e. children in care). The programme will help those 'A' level students who do not have any family support to overcome personal circumstances and achieve in higher education. The charity provides a mentor to help students to complete their studies and also offers internships and training in interview skills and business writing, as well as financial support.

<http://www.hkf.org.uk/>

Venture Trust £25,000

To fund the *Transitions to Independent Living* project for young homeless people living in England and Wales.

<http://www.venture-trust.org.uk/>

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Beatbullying £20,000

To fund *CyberMentors*, an online peer support project specifically for disabled children and those with special needs. The charity supports young people to tackle bullying through prevention workshops in schools and communities.

<http://www.beatbullying.org/>

The Children's Trust £30,000

This grant will go towards funding the upgrade of parents' accommodation at the Tadworth site, which provides residential care and rehabilitation for children with acquired brain injuries and complex medical needs.

<http://www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/>

The Lin Berwick Trust £15,000

To contribute towards a new holiday cottage in Cornwall. The charity provides self-catering accommodation for severely disabled people and their families. The Trust currently runs two cottages which are occupied 45 weeks of the year.

<http://www.thelinberwicktrust.org.uk/>

MDF The Bipolar Organisation £20,000

To fund a Regional Development Officer for self-help groups. The charity is a self help organisation for sufferers of bipolar (manic depression) with 120 self-help groups and 4,500 members.

<http://www.mdf.org.uk/>

Meningitis Trust £30,000

This grant is payable over three years to fund the salary of its Community Nurse Manager. The Meningitis Trust provides 'support for life' to over 20,000 people each year. The Community Nurse Team provide support by assisting with home visits, providing face-to-face support and information, answering calls to the Trust's 24-hour helpline and assisting with the organisation of the Trust's family days.

<http://www.meningitis-trust.org/>

National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy £15,000

To fund the *Champions for Childhood Epilepsy Campaign*. The Charity provides specialist services for young people with epilepsy and other neurological conditions.

<http://www.ncype.org.uk/>

Parkinson's UK £250,000

To be distributed to each of the Provincial Grand Lodges for presentation locally to fund branch activities for people with Parkinson's Disease – *please note, Parkinson's UK is currently deciding on the branch allocation. The Grand Charity will be contacting all Provinces once Parkinson's UK have made their decision in the coming months.*

<http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/>

Phoenix Futures £30,000

This grant is payable over two years, to fund the *Conservation Therapy Programme* engaging service users in practical outdoor conservation work as part of rehabilitation. The charity provides rehabilitation programmes for drug and alcohol addicts and this project is delivered away from treatment centres in eight sites with the National Trust, Natural England, and the RSPB.

<http://www.phoenix-futures.org.uk/>

Queen Alexandra Hospital Home £15,000

To provide a Neuropsychologist to help residents with acquired brain injury (ABI). The charity provides residential rehabilitation and nursing for ex-Service personnel. Those with ABI often have difficulty communicating and are frustrated, angry or confused. The Neuropsychologist will help them, as part of a multi-disciplinary team, to come to terms with their disability.

<http://www.qahh.org.uk/>

Sunfield Children's Homes £15,000

Sunfield Children's Homes provide specialised education and residential care for up to 60 pupils from across the UK with severe and complex learning needs including profound autism and challenging behaviour. The grant is to fund equipment to be used in structured therapy sessions with an occupational therapist to help develop sensory integration skills and to modulate behaviour, as well as in play breaks

<http://www.sunfield.org.uk/>

Treloar Trust £50,000

To fund a design and technology room at Treloar's, a School and College in Hampshire. Treloar's provides education, care, therapy, medical support, independence training and opportunities for over 250 young people with complex physical disabilities and learning difficulties from UK and overseas. 90% of students use a wheelchair and 40% have little or no speech. The most recent Ofsted report rated Treloar's as 'outstanding'. The design and technology room will be part of a new development of purpose-built facilities for the school and college.

<http://www.treloar.org.uk/>

Youth Cancer Trust £20,000

To fund the salary of the Support Worker. The charity provides free holidays in Bournemouth for young people with cancer. Eight young people at a time join in activity-based holidays and 240 young people attended last year. The charity aims to reduce the isolation that young people with cancer suffer as they are separated from their peers by their illness. The holidays receive excellent feedback from the young people.

<http://www.youthcancertrust.org/>

If you would like detailed information regarding any of these grants please contact Katrina Baker at kbaker@the-grand-charity.org

For further information regarding The Freemasons' Grand Charity please contact Siobhan McCarthy at smccarthy@the-grand-charity.org or on 020 7395 9385.