The Hospital Saturday Fund
Charity Update

Issue 8 UK
December 2019
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Northern Ireland Charities receive donations from The Hospital Saturday Fund together with the Launch of a Fundraising Partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support

Twelve Northern Ireland charities received donations from The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) at a special reception hosted at Queen’s University Belfast on 4 September 2019. In total, £65,000 was donated to the charities at the event, which was held in partnership with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Four grants were made by HSF in conjunction with CFNI, a new initiative between the two organisations that sees delivery of the latest round of the Community Innovators Programme, run by CFNI and their partner Work West, which was focusing on health and wellbeing challenges.

Four charities were successful through the Seed Fund round, among which were IncredABLE aiming to design an innovative drop-in space for people with learning disabilities and/or autism using a double-decker bus; Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership wanting to explore and identify new solutions to the challenge of supporting vulnerable older people; South Eastern Regional College aiming to explore and develop a new cross-college approach to addressing the challenge of supporting students with complex social and health related problems; and Women’s Aid Armagh Down wanting to explore and develop new approaches to connecting and engaging with hard to reach service users.

Eight grants were made by The Hospital Saturday Fund to local charities, among these beneficiaries were Anam Cara Northern Ireland who support approx. 2,500 bereaved families across Northern Ireland; Meningitis Now who support those struck down with Meningitis and who work to raise awareness of this devastating disease; Northern Ireland Children’s Hospice caring for children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions, the only provider of specialist paediatric palliative care in Northern Ireland; and the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust who support bereaved families repatriating the body of loved ones who have died abroad in sudden or tragic circumstances.

The evening also saw the launch of the exciting new fundraising partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support, the UK’s leading source of cancer support, and The Hospital Saturday Fund who are joining forces to support more people with cancer and other critical health conditions across Northern Ireland. This unique initiative takes place between two organisations who have a rich and long history of supporting those with critical health needs and this partnership has ambitious fundraising plans to help even more people across Northern Ireland.

The Hospital Saturday Fund said: “We are delighted to continue the tradition of supporting many wide-ranging charities in Northern Ireland, many of which are less well-known. The Hospital Saturday Fund is honoured to support the efforts of such deserving charities and help in some way towards the exceptional, tireless work that they do in making such a huge and positive difference to people’s lives. We are very pleased to be working with the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland on this project and hope it is the start of a very fruitful relationship in which we can support many more charities in Northern Ireland.

“We are also excited to launch our new fundraising partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, with whom we have a long history. This partnership will go a long way to support those living with cancer and other critical health conditions in Northern Ireland and we are very pleased to be working with Macmillan on this initiative.

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of Paul Jackson, HSF CEO, John Greenwood, HSF Chairman, and the Macmillan Team.
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland

HSF health plan’s June Devlin and Paul Jackson visited Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland in Glasgow on 26th November, to present a donation for £2,000 in memory of Nicola, June’s daughter, who sadly passed away in September.

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland was founded in 1965 (then known as Scottish Spina Bifida Association) by a small group of dedicated parents who each had a child with spina bifida.

June and Paul visited the purpose-built Dan Young Building, which offers support facilities for children and their families, and adults with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Nicola (pictured right) was a regular visitor to the centre and there are a number of photos of her displayed on the centre walls.

Beatson Cancer Charity

The Beatson Cancer Charity wanted to upgrade several rooms by installing large windows to give patients a view and natural light. They also wanted to install large vinyl wall panels with nature prints, colourful furniture and a television, all of which will help patients overcome the loneliness, isolation and depression which can set in when receiving this treatment.

At HSF’s August Grant Making Committee, the charity was awarded a grant of £2,000 towards the renovation works.

HSF Association Meeting, London

The Hospital Saturday Fund held its Association Meeting in London on 16 October 2019, at which they awarded grants totalling £26,000 to 8 charities.

HSF were very pleased to welcome Simon Hickson, from MediCinema charity who is Cinema Manager at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Following his presentation he received a grant of £5,000 towards MediCinema’s work in offering cinema screenings for patients in 6 hospitals throughout the UK. Simon gave an interesting presentation where he spoke about his entertainment career which included writing and performing on BBC shows such as Going Live!, Live and Kicking amongst many others.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of grant cheques to Bowel Cancer UK, Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, Down’s Syndrome Association, Heart of Kent Hospice, Lupus UK, the Macular Society and Tiny Tickers.

Diana - Individual Grant Recipient

Diana applied for a grant towards a mobility scooter. She suffers with Rheumatoid Arthritis amongst other things and has difficulty bending. She uses a delta walker inside and out, her life now being limited (apart from teaching where everything is easily accessible). She can only walk a short way and it is difficult to look upwards.

HSF awarded Diana a grant towards a mobility scooter which has allowed her to resume normal activities, shopping, gallery visits, gardens visits etc and this has made an enormous impact on her life.
British Disabled Angling Association

Angling is one of the nation’s most popular participating sport/activity and around 1/5th of all people who would like to go angling have a disability or health issue that affects their physical activity.

The British Disabled Angling Association offer potential opportunities and benefits to disabled people across all impairment groups and age ranges both as a competitive sport or recreational activity leading to a healthier lifestyle.

Angling can be life changing for disabled people however, they are often excluded by poor design rather than their disability. Physical barriers can prevent disabled people from participating in healthy recreation, as can attitude, lack of awareness, policies and processes that do not consider disabled people’s needs. The lack of access and facilities catering for disabled people remains a major barrier to inclusive participation. Working with fisheries, clubs, parks and lakes, BDAA help to overcome these barriers so that all disabled people can participate and enjoy the benefits of this popular sport including social inclusion, confidence building, muscle strengthening, educational, recreation and rehabilitation.

BDAA is committed to creating inclusive angling environments for disabled people of all ages, increase the number of people able to fish, to socially integrate disabled and non-disabled people within angling, and to raise disability awareness.

In August they were successful in receiving £2,000 from HSF towards specialist equipment, disabled access, services, information, support and practical advice on all issues encompassing angling for disabled people.

Creating Adventures

Creating Adventures is a very small local charity operating in Warrington and Trafford. Jenny Allcock formed the charity after working for 11 years at a children’s charity called The Children’s Adventure Farm Trust (A charity that HSF has previously supported).

The charity is regularly turning away adults who need to access their activity space. Following research and consultation with parents and community groups, who expressed the need for activities, support and therapeutic stimulation for adults, Jenny took it upon herself to do something about this.

Since starting their first project funded by Lottery funding, they have gone from strength to strength supporting adults through music, art, sports and employment. Creating Adventures enriches the lives of adults with autism and learning disabilities through unique activities and experiences, which are both stimulating and therapeutic to improve their physical and mental wellbeing therefore helping them to have an improved quality of life.

It is the aim of the Art Project to benefit these adults by reducing isolation, promoting engagement, acting as a source of therapy, encouraging them to feel a sense of achievement, explore new textures and work together towards an exhibition to display their work.

BASIC - Brain & Spine Injury Centre

BASIC was established in 1986 and was originally based in the Neurosurgical Unit at Salford Hospital. The charity has grown substantially to meet the increasing need for on-going rehabilitation following discharge from hospital. From one member of staff in 1994, the charity now has a current establishment of 14, in addition to a network of volunteers.

Traditionally the charity worked with adults, but since the launch of the virtual rehabilitation suite in 2015, this technology has benefited a young number of people. The charity has also gained wider recognition for its work, with a visit from a delegation from China, who would like to establish the exact template that is in use in Salford in China. The CEO has also visited the Minzu Jinan Stroke Rehabilitation Hospital in Jinan Province China earlier in the year to deliver a presentation at a 2 day conference on the work that BASIC undertakes.

Paul Clare first visited the charity in 2017 and since then they have gone from strength to strength. In addition to expanding the reach of their service provision, they have gained a growing reputation, most recently with the award of North West Charity of the Year.
The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) is a UK charity that was founded in 1873 by pioneers in social and philanthropic work to help people to afford medical care. In recent times, the Fund has 'tailored' its benefits and these are now offered through HSF health plan, one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Ireland. Profits from the trading company, HSF health plan, are channelled into the 'parent' charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund, to enable charity donations to be made. In 2019 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give £1.5 million in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across the UK and Ireland. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

Grant Information

Who can apply:
The Hospital Saturday Fund is a registered charity whose aims are to provide assistance through its charitable funds for:

- Registered medical health charities which are in need of grants for medical projects, care, research or in support of medical training within the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Republic of Ireland;
- Individuals with a medical condition or disability who would benefit from assistance with the purchase of specialised equipment or from particular forms of treatment.

For how to apply see the HSF website for criteria and link to the online application form: www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

Applications for Organisations:
The Grant Making Committee (GMC) meets quarterly. Applications should be submitted online by close of business on the deadline date. Here are the dates for 2020:

GMC 27 January 2020
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 3 January 2020
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – 1 December 2019

GMC 19 May 2020
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 21 April 2020
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 24 March 2020

GMC 10 August 2020
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 July 2020
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 15 June 2020

GMC 2 November 2020
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 5 October 2019
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 7 September 2019

GMC January 2021 (dates for 2022 to be confirmed in December 2021)
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2021
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2020

Applications for Individuals:
Individual applications are accepted throughout the year on a rolling basis. See the guidelines on our website for further information.

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