Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) operates and funds three air ambulances covering six Midlands counties including Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire Worcestershire and the West Midlands.

Since 1991 MAAC have responded to more than 70,000 missions, making them one of the busiest air ambulance services in the UK. The charity responds to some of the most traumatic incidents including cardiac arrests, road traffic collisions and sports injuries. The aircraft reaches remote locations to attend to patients unreachable by land ambulance.

In March 2023 John Randel, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund, visited the Midlands Air Ambulance at RAF Cosford and presented a cheque for £10,000 to go towards Surgical Training Equipment. This will allow their highly skilled paramedics and doctors to practice lifesaving procedures that cannot be performed by regular NHS paramedics but can significantly increase a patient's chance of survival in a real-life emergency.

To find out more visit their website: www.midlandsairambulance.com/

John Randel, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund with Rebecca England and Ian Lock, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.
Charity Update

Epilepsy Society

Epilepsy Society’s Chalfont Centre in Buckinghamshire has been the charity’s home since it was founded in 1892. The site is home to 92 residents who live in residential care and supported living services across the site. The medical and world-leading research centres are also on-site pioneering the most advanced techniques for diagnosing and treating epilepsy. The centre aims to provide an accurate diagnosis, improve seizure control, optimise drug therapy and assess the skills associated with activities of daily living.

To facilitate important research at the centre and minimise the risk of power failure of their critical equipment, the Society is aiming to purchase a 440kVA standby generator. This will replace their two rented backup generators which are inadequate to provide the power the whole site requires. The seriousness of the issue means that if a power cut was to strike currently, the care homes, Gowers Hospital Ward, MRI scanner and Research Centre would have no backup power which would have a potentially devastating impact. The Hospital Saturday Fund granted £10,000 to contribute to the cost of the Society owning their own standby generator, providing much-needed stability for the important services and research the Society is undertaking.

To find out more visit their website: www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/

Chelsea Football Club Foundation

The Chelsea Football Club Foundation was formed in 2010. As one of the world’s leading Football Social Responsibility programmes the Chelsea Foundation uses the power of football and sport to motivate, educate and inspire. The Foundation runs a number of different charitable activities to support better health and mental wellbeing in the community. These include the Chelsea Foundation’s Disability Inclusion programme which enables young people and adults with any disability to participate in regular, organised football matches and coaching sessions in a safe and enjoyable environment, and a wellbeing programme.

The Hospital Saturday Fund awarded a grant of £7,700 towards the Bridging the Blues Project to help improve the health of patients who have had a transient ischaemic attack.

The programme is a 12-week healthy lifestyle course for people between the ages of 40 to 60 who have suffered a TIA or a minor stroke. The course includes exercise programmes, healthy eating advice and mental wellbeing support, as depression is very commonly experienced by patients. The Foundation intends to run three initial courses, using the power of the football club to ensure that patients are encouraged to join and complete the course.

To find out more visit their website: www.chelseafc.com/en/chelsea-foundation
BraveheartsNI

Bravehearts supports teenagers and young adults in Northern Ireland with congenital heart disease and also provides support to their families via pastoral and welfare initiatives. The Charity supports the patient and family before, during, and after hospital stays. There is also a pastoral and welfare befriending service for Bravehearts and their families, liaison between patients, family, ACHD team, and mental Health Counselling. Another important part of the Charity’s work is to provide equipment and resource support for ACHD treatment at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. Braveheart is run exclusively by volunteers.

The grant will supply Apple MacBooks which will be used in conjunction with specialist software to show a 3D scan of a patient’s heart to both the patient and consultant. As many forms of ACHD are rare, these 3D scans are shared with specialist heart hospitals around the world to obtain better treatment for the patients at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Unfortunately, without Apple MacBooks, this wouldn’t be possible.

To find out more visit their website: www.braveheartsni.com/

Individual Grant Update

Emily is 28 and became disabled after being assaulted at work 2019 which resulted in an injury to her spine, retrolisthesis, significant nerve damage, chronic pain and fatigue.

Emily was awarded £500.00 towards Triride compact HT - power add-on. The Triride Compact HT will attach to Emily’s manual wheelchair to enable her to go out independently, comfortably and safely travel on uneven ground including gravel, cobbled streets and grass.

Emily wrote the following thank you: “I am writing to thank you for the very generous donation the Trustees gave towards this life changing piece of equipment. Since my Triride arrived, I have been able to access places I haven’t been able to visit since I sustained my spinal injury four years ago. I have been able to go to the beach, join my friends on dog walks, go to the supermarket independently, explore local nature reserves with my partner and even go on a trip to Cornwall! This piece of equipment has given me back my freedom and independence, and I finally feel like me again. I am so grateful for this wonderful gift you have helped me access and I have enclosed photos of me using the Triride. Please send my sincere thanks to the Trustees for helping me gain back my independence”.

John Greenwood, Chair, The Hospital Saturday Fund, presenting a grant to Clare Caulfield, Founder & Chair, BraveheartsNI.

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To find out more visit their website: www.braveheartsni.com/
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 2023 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give £2.3 million in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across Ireland, Malta and the UK. 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, Malta 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 Hospital Saturday Fund’s website for criteria and link to the online application form: www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

Applications for Organisations:

**GMC 26 January 2023**
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2023
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2022

**GMC 12 May 2023**
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 20 April 2023
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 22 March 2023

**GMC 8 August 2023**
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 July 2023
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 15 June 2023

**GMC 2 November 2023**
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 6 October 2023
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 8 September 2023

**GMC January 2024 (all dates for 2024 meetings to be confirmed in December 2023)**
Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2024
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2023

Helping your employees with everyday health cost

With HSF health plan your employee can get affordable cover which includes HSF Assist, our Employee Assistance Programme, and covers their family at no extra cost.