Glasgow Charity Reception

The Hospital Saturday Fund awarded grants to twenty-five Scottish charities during a special reception at Glasgow City Chambers on 29 February 2024. A total of £110,000 was donated, with The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Councillor Jacqueline McLaren, hosting the event.

Among the recipients, Beatson Cancer Charity received funds to replace their chemotherapy treatment chairs. Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland were granted support for a specialist nurse in the West of Scotland, while Clan Cancer Support’s grant will fund complementary therapy sessions for people affected by cancer across Scotland. The Scottish Cot Death Trust received a grant for bereavement support services, and Blood Bikes Scotland will use their funds for a replacement vehicle. Capability Scotland’s grant will improve postural care training and awareness, and Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland will provide community healthcare support services with their donation.

Speaking at the event, The Lord Provost, Jacqueline McLaren, praised the remarkable work of the charities receiving support from The Hospital Saturday Fund. She had also designated the Lord Provost’s Funds as her chosen charity for the event, directing donations from HSF to support medical needs, ill health, or disability-related applications.

In 2024, The Hospital Saturday Fund will distribute £2.25 million in donations and grants to medical charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across the UK, Malta and Ireland. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

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Charity Update

FitzRoy Support

FitzRoy was established sixty years ago to pioneer a new way of caring for adults with learning disabilities. Their aim is to make people feel safe, healthy, valued, and understood.

Many people with learning disabilities must resort to behaviours of distress to communicate their needs, this can result in injury to themselves and others. This is where specialist care is needed to help them communicate better and to help others to understand them.

We have all seen people with various types of learning difficulties, who often lead lonely and frustrating lives. Having the right support really does help them have a much better life, not just for them but also for their families. This is where FitzRoy is so successful because they can provide the right kind of support with the best surroundings.

John Greenwood, Chair, The Hospital Saturday Fund, met with Anna Galliford, CEO, FitzRoy to present £10,000 towards positive behaviour support for people with learning disabilities.

To find out more visit their website: www.fitzroy.org

Swansea University

Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive and Mark Davies, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund visited Swansea University to present them a £10,000 grant for Medical Electives.

Dr Balwinder Bajaj, Medical Electives Lead at Swansea University, said: “We are grateful for the Hospital Saturday Fund’s support of the medical electives programme of the Graduate Entry Medicine course. This ensures access to global health learning opportunities for our students for the benefit of future patient care in the UK and internationally.”

The grant will be used to cover the cost of providing medical electives, which are a crucial component of the Graduate Entry Medicine course. These electives allow students to gain invaluable experience before beginning their careers after graduation. Their Graduate Entry Medicine programme consists of approximately 450 students, 104 of whom will be in their final year, and will be undertaking their electives in 2024. The Graduate Entry programme is unique in Wales.

To find out more visit their website: www.swansea.ac.uk

Rainbows Hospice for Children & Young People

In 1989, Harry and Gail Moore’s daughter, Laura, passed away from Leukaemia, after 3 years of treatment, including a bone marrow transplant from her twin brother, Kit. Her favourite thing was a rainbow. Her parents wanted to create something special in her memory - which is how Rainbows began in September 1992.

The aim is to advance the hospice vision and provide a “Rainbow Experience” across the East Midlands and to do this they need to expand their clinical team so that they can understand, assess and act on the needs of the babies, children and young people in Rainbow’s Hospice care.

An Advanced Clinical Practitioner looks after the care of babies, children, and young people who are approaching the end of their life, with the aim of keeping them within their chosen place for care and end-of life support. The Hospital Saturday Fund, presented £10,000 towards the Rainbows Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

To find out more visit their website: www.rainbows.co.uk
Charity Update

Orthopaedic Institute

There are about 70 babies born in the UK each year with the condition and approximately 1 in 40 people carry a copy of the altered gene which causes the condition, although they do not have the condition themselves.

It is extremely costly and time consuming to research and test new and suitable drug compounds for daily use. This is exacerbated when the drugs are required to treat specific treatments such as SMA.

Researching the use of “old drugs” which have proved to be beneficial in the treatment of other diseases will provide a cost-effective method of finding the best compounds already available. Full toxicology reports will have been completed and they will have been tested extensively prior to licences being approved, confirming their safe use for patients.

The research by Orthopaedic Institute has the potential for identifying therapeutic drugs that either alone or in combination with gene therapy, may offer maximum clinical benefit to patients, providing preliminary data for a more comprehensive study to address this knowledge gap in adult SMA and biomarkers.

John Randel, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund with Debra Alexander, Charity Manager, and Dr Ian Holt from the Orthopedic Institute to present them with a cheque for £10,000 towards this study to determine the potential of ‘old drugs’ as either independent or complementary treatment therapies for adult Spinal Muscular Atrophy patients.

To find out more visit their website: www.orthopaedic-institute.org

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a genetic disease that occurs in about 1 in every 10,000 live births. It is a rare neuromuscular disorder causing the weakening and wasting of muscle and problems with movement.

Individual Grant Updates

Tri Ride Power Addition

Jenny has been undergoing treatment since 2022. She suffers from weak tendons and muscles around her shoulders, as well as bursa issues within her shoulder joints. These issues are mainly caused by the repetitive strain and overuse she experiences daily due to being in her wheelchair. Additionally, Jenny had lymph node clearance in her right armpit due to breast cancer, which has left her right arm and shoulder stiff and prone to swelling. Getting a power add-on has helped alleviate some of the stress and strain her shoulders face and slow down the damage being done to the tendons. It has benefited Jenny’s mental health, as the pain and weakness often prevented her from pushing herself. With this assistance, it has greatly helped her regain some independence.

“I just wanted to send a picture and thank you for your donation toward the tri ride. It has made a huge difference to my life, as you can see from the smile on my face. I am forever thankful for your contribution.”

Electric Mobility Scooter

Geoffrey has been facing significant health challenges recently. He experiences shortness of breath, has lost 20% of his lung capacity in the past year, and suffers from chronic progressive external ophthalmoplegia and mitochondrial myopathy. These conditions have led to muscle wasting. Despite these difficulties, Geoffrey strives to maintain his independence. Unfortunately, he did not qualify for an electric wheelchair and could not use a self-propelled one due to his muscle deterioration. He was also reluctant to have someone push him, as he wanted to preserve his independence.

Thanks to a grant of £898.80 from The Hospital Saturday Fund, Geoffrey’s supporter was able to purchase an Electric Mobility Scooter for him. This has provided him with much-needed independence, allowing him to enjoy outings with his family.

“I wanted to send you this photo, from the mobility scooter grant you awarded, they are all so happy as it means they are now able to go out and do things as a family.”
The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) is a UK charity that was founded in 1873 by pioneers in social and philanthropic work to help people 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 2024 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give £2.25 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GMC Date</th>
<th>Standard Grants</th>
<th>Large Grants</th>
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<td>23 January 2024</td>
<td>£2,000 or €3,000</td>
<td>up to max £10,000 or €13,500</td>
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<td>January 2025 (all dates for 2025 meetings to be confirmed in December 2024)</td>
<td>£2,000 or €3,000</td>
<td>up to max £10,000 or €13,500</td>
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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.