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The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020

In 2020, the Big Give completed its most successful Christmas Challenge campaign yet. A total of £20m was raised for the 764 participating charities over the 7-day period. Since it was founded in 2007, the Big Give has now helped thousands of charities raise over £156m through match funding campaigns.

Given the global context, the result of the campaign was extremely pleasing. In a report published pre-Christmas, they discovered that since the pandemic hit, 63% of charities had reported a decrease in income whilst 55% had reported an increase in demand for their services. The Christmas period proved to be a crucial time for charities fundraising efforts.

The Big Give was delighted to welcome The Hospital Saturday Fund as a match-funding Champion to the Christmas Challenge. Key achievements from our portfolio:

- A total of £293,086 was raised for 26 charities who were;
  - Rainbow Living SW
  - Haemochromatosis UK
  - Meningitis Now
  - Orchard Trust
  - Crossway Pregnancy Crisis Cntr
  - Headway Worcestershire
  - Newlife Charity for Disabled Children
  - Orpheus Centre
  - Cancer Support Centre-Sutton Coldfield
  - Alder Trust
  - Joss Searchlight
  - Over and Above
  - Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care
  - Wilberforce Trust
  - my AFK
  - Alex’s Wish
  - Cornwall Partnership Foundation
  - Trust Charitable Fund
  - Spinal Muscular Atrophy UK
  - Friends of Rosie Children’s Cancer Research Fund
  - Keech Hospice Care
  - Basics Devon
  - St Andrew’s Hospice
  - Ronnie Grove Hospice Care
  - GIST Cancer UK
  - Nottinghamshire Hospice Limited
  - HEART UK

We followed and promoted the charities achievements through our Facebook and Twitter channels which resulted in some wonderful feedback from them;

- “We were delighted to receive your support which enabled us to reach our Big Give target. In fact our campaign was really successful and we exceeded our £4,000 target and raised a fantastic £5,593. We are thrilled with the outcome.”
  - Orchard Trust

- “I just wanted to thank you for your support with the Big Give Christmas Campaign. I know that unfortunately we did not reach the target for financial aid, but we really do appreciate your original backing and support via social media. From looking at the stats I am sure that you socials helped us to receive the out of area donations that we did.”
  - St Andrew’s Hospice

- “As you may already know, we are really excited to be announcing that due to the Big Give funds raised online and also some additional funding attracted because of our Big Give project that we are now have the funds in place to get our new palliative care nurse in place at the hospice! We are so excited about this development and we hope you are too as it wouldn’t have been possible without your support and financial contribution. Thank you.”
  - Nottinghamshire Hospice

- “Now that the Christmas Challenge has ended, we just wanted to get in touch to say thank you so much again for championing Rainbow Living in this year’s campaign. We were thrilled with the total amount raised and really do appreciate the match funding that the Hospital Saturday Fund provided. It’s been great to connect with you on social media over the last few weeks, and we will be in touch in 2021 to fulfil the reporting requirements.”
  - Rainbow Living SW

A tremendous achievement from all the charities involved.
Partners for Health 2021

In June we will hold our 4th joint partnership with London Catalyst, Partners for Health, which offers grants to registered charities within the M25 area of London. Priority is given to charities with an annual income of £500,000 or less who have not previously received a ‘Partners for Health’ grant.

The grants range from £3,000 to £10,000 and are usually for one year. Applications are now open for projects that can demonstrate: Positive outcomes for people facing significant barriers to health, a new approach or thoughtful development of service or a partnership between health and community organisations.

Interviews will take place on Monday 21st June 2021, in person if government guidelines permit.

The Brain Tumour Charity

In 2020 The Brain Tumour Charity were awarded £2,000 towards the Tessa Jowell BRAIN MATRIX. Our support is helping them transform the trial landscape for glioma patients in London and will allow them access to the latest treatments. In their update they were pleased to say the Local Research and Development team in London approved the study and staff from the Clinical Trials Unit in Birmingham, who are managing the overall delivery of the study, visited to check everything was in place and carried out training. Although delayed by COVID-19 the trial opened for patients being treated in London in November 2020 and one person was enrolled, although it has now had to temporarily close again due to the lockdown. Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40. 31 people in the UK are diagnosed with a brain tumour every day which makes The Brain Tumour Charities work invaluable.

Martha Trust

Since 1987, the Martha Trust charity has delivered residential, respite and day care for people with profound physical and multiple learning disabilities. Many of these individuals have conditions that are a result of congenital and post-natal disorders that include having an under-developed brain, hydrocephalus, epilepsy, curvature of the spine, displaced hips, breathing difficulties, and brittle bones.

Most of the residents are unable to walk unaided, and all are dependent on nurses and caregivers for every necessity.

The organisation has three homes in Deal, Kent and Hastings, East Sussex, delivering the highest standards of around-the-clock nursing care with state of the art facilities. The 33 young people and adults living on site are in turn provided with bright, modern and purpose-built environments, ensuring safe and stimulating settings for them to thrive in.

Through a variety of available therapies and activities, Martha Trust encourages their residents to explore the world around them and take an active role in their communities. Individuals are also inspired to face new challenges, which helps them to reach their full potential, as well as positively contributing to their physical and emotional health.

Key therapies on offer at the homes include reflexology, massage and physical therapy, as well as hydrotherapy pools with high tech sound and light systems that deliver a complete sensory experience. Alongside these, a broad programme of activities are available, such as sensory cooking, arts and crafts and music. Prior to the pandemic, days out were also a regular occurrence, consisting of excursions like horse riding, bowling and trips to the cinema.

In January our Group Chief Executive, Paul Jackson, had a Zoom meeting with Martha Trust’s Alice Moir, Marketing Manager, and George White, Chief Executive. Their grant application for the charity’s annual subscription for a mobile care personal monitoring software system was reviewed. Back in 2018, The Hospital Saturday Fund awarded the charity a grant towards the purchase of this software. Alice explained the difference that this has made to the care of the residents, where carers and nurses can now give more time to them. This has been made possible because there is no longer a need to spend hours writing up notes or having long meetings about patients, as their details are kept on the programme. All medication given is also recorded here too, and any patient difficulties, such as residents experiencing fits, is available for the carers to review.

For instance, George explained that he could use the software to monitor and record the weight of all the charity’s residents and inform parents that their children were doing well. If a resident is found to be underweight, then this can be discussed with the home’s chef and care team so corrective action can be taken immediately. The system also assists with staff management and salaries, as each member of staff is required to log into the system when they arrive at work.

During the pandemic, the software has become a vital communication tool between the residents and their families, considering that face to face visits have not always been possible. The families can access recently taken photos of their loved ones, as well as their care records and reports. It can also be used as an education and stimulation tool by residents, an important development during Covid when vulnerable residents have not been able to leave the care home.

Based on the feedback about the software’s impact on the charity over the past three years, Paul Jackson expressed how proud he was to see the difference that this tool has made to the lives of very vulnerable people. At a relatively low annual cost of £16,550, Paul said that he “found it difficult to believe that a greater number of care homes do not already have this type of system in place” considering the possibilities it can offer.

Alice explained that she had applied for a grant towards software costs from the Hospital Saturday Fund as, unlike many other grant-makers, we are not restricted to funding equipment only. As a result of their application, Martha Trust was awarded a large grant of £10,000 at our January Grant Making Committee meeting.

The hospital Saturday Fund

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Leonard Cheshire Disability is one of the largest disability charities in the world, with over 5,500 staff. The charity supports thousands of disabled people, both in the UK and in more than fifty other countries. Their focus is to work towards a society in which every person is equally valued, and believe that disabled people should have the freedom to live their lives the way they choose; with the opportunity and support to live independently, contribute economically, and participate fully in society. On the Isle of Man, the charity runs two centres for adults aged between 18-65 years old, with the centre in Ramsey also providing respite care. Upon catching up with Jan Farrell, the Service Manager for the Island, we discovered that she also runs an Outreach Team, which also works towards the organisation’s goal of helping beneficiaries to return to the local community. Over a thirteen-week period, the individuals receive intensive support gaining skills such as understanding their finances and learning to swim. This service is currently supporting 45 people who have medical conditions (and sometimes) learning difficulties. On the back of our conversation, Jan applied for a grant towards funding equipment in their Quinney Community Room, which is used by all local Leonard Cheshire residents.

Cure Leukaemia

Cure Leukaemia was founded in 2002 by Professor Charlie Craddock CBE and two patients, Michael Woolley and Graham Silk, to allow patients with blood cancer to access the remarkably effective and potentially life-saving new treatments which were becoming available. In 2005, Cure Leukaemia helped secure a grant for £2.2m to build the Centre for Clinical Haematology at the QE Hospital in Birmingham. This has resulted in the development of the second largest adult stem cell transplant programme in the UK.

At the January GMC, Cure Leukaemia were awarded a large grant of £10,000 to part-fund Rachel Fletcher’s vital Trial Co-ordinator (TC) role within the Trials Acceleration Programme (TAP) which would be vital to the success and efficiency of the network, ensuring continued accelerated clinical trial delivery to blood cancer patients across a catchment area of 20 million people. Impressively, the TAP Centres are based within hospitals right across the UK, including Glasgow, London, Manchester, Cardiff, Southampton and Belfast. A Trial Co-ordinator would be involved in one or more trial working groups, responsible for the management and organisation of the trial(s) office for the conduct of large, clinical trial protocols and administration of the clinical collaborative groups.

Several of the Cure Leukaemia specialist research nurses were redeployed to COVID-19 research teams, during the height of the pandemic. This proved highly valuable to the NHS with their expertise in clinical trials. They also utilised the Centre for Clinical Haematology in Birmingham as a base for chemotherapy patients to continue treatment to over 1,500 non blood-cancer patients. Without this facility, their treatment would have otherwise been put on hold. They are extremely proud that, due to the Trials Acceleration Programme (TAP), they were able to facilitate the opening of a new study named PACE. This examined the effects of infections, with a focus on COVID-19, on patients with acute myeloid leukaemia.

Individual Grant Update

We were very happy to award this individual a grant of £600 towards physiotherapy, and although this child receives the service from the NHS, once a week is not sufficient for someone with her condition. She was diagnosed with a rare, very complex genetic condition (NAA10 related syndrome) with associated profoundly severe developmental impairment, increased tone muscle, microcephaly, epilepsy, scoliosis, cortical visual impairment, heart problems, sleep disorder and reflux.

Her condition is very complex and rare. She is fully dependent on others for all her self-care needs, transfers and activities of daily living. Her condition causes spasms, rigidity, poor head control and core muscle, problem with eating and swallowing, communication, increased tone muscle which make her unable to do any of the following: sitting, crawling, standing, playing. These problems cause her increased pain, discomfort and stiffness.

In order for this child to reach full potential she requires intensive and regular physiotherapy treatment at least twice a week.
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 2021 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give £2 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 charities, hospices and medical organisations which are in need of grants for medical projects, care, research or 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](http://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 2021:

- **GMC 26 January 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

- **GMC 18 May 2021**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 20 April 2021
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 23 March 2021

- **GMC 10 August 2021**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 July 2021
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 15 June 2021

- **GMC 4 November 2021**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 7 October 2021
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 9 September 2021

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

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