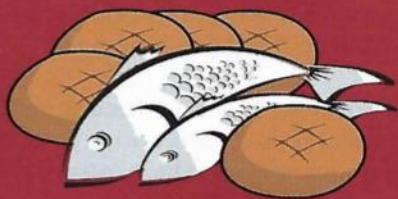


Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



Where a little means a lot

No 1 - 2023

THANK YOU

We are very grateful to all who are supporting us in what is for everyone a very difficult time. Regular donations are especially helpful as we seek to meet a demand for help that is likely to be greater than ever in the coming months.

A special thanks to those whose gifts have been made anonymously or for whom we have no addresses to send our thanks.

Happy New Year.

In November our annual general meeting reviewed the year (to August 31st). We had a record year in 2021/22, recovering from the difficulties of the pandemic, £72,600 was paid out, the highest figure ever. Over 750 awards affected the lives of 1359 people about half of them children, 87% started with applications from local authority or medical support services, Citizens Advice and charities spread across the whole country.

The range of circumstances in applications is wide and includes help with buying food and basics such as bedding, cooking utensils and paying for essential travel. The highest categories of need are people who are homeless, suffering from medical or mental issues and claimants waiting for their first universal benefit, along with women who have experienced domestic violence and refugees and asylum seekers seeking assistance to secure education or training. Because the needs are often very urgent, and with a new 2-person release bank account, we have started to send our awards by direct transfer a much quicker (and cheaper) way of responding.



While the awards are modest, responses received often express appreciation of the money given which for many is a life-line when they are so desperate. As important as is the money, which provides vital, short-term help, is the knowledge that through the generosity of our supporters we have been able to show concern, give hope and share God's love.

Given the cost-of-living crisis most are facing today we can anticipate that the demand for the help that FHN seeks to provide will continue and increase. At the same time, we are aware that those who support the Fund are also under considerable financial pressure.

Of course, our work involves some cost. Investment in attending carefully chosen events is necessary to generate new support as is advertising, but we aim to restrict these costs to 20% of our expenditure, and will be seeking sponsorship for events to enable us to allocate all donated money to payments. The aim of all this is to develop new links to attract the interest and support that will enable the Fund to continue its work into the future for as long as it is needed.

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Keeping in touch – The newsletter is sent three times a year, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. We get in touch to find out your mailing preferences. If at any time these change, please let us know. This and any other correspondence to:

Mrs Gill Mason (Admin): fundhumanneed@gmail.com **Ph: 01325 244992**

Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL

Working partners-

The Fund for Human Need is small but we believe it is also efficient. Gill, the administrator, is the only (part-time) employee and the trustees and friends are all volunteers. We make the majority of our grants through organisations on the 'front line,' many of whose staff are also volunteers. Over the next few newsletters, we will be sharing some of their stories about the people they refer to us - people whose circumstances they verify and help to access our services.

*It is reported** that the North East has the biggest percentage of asylum-seekers awaiting decisions about their future in the whole country (double the number in London). Among the organisations responding to the needs of these people is Peace of Mind, which since 2014 has been supporting refugees and asylum seekers (RAS), both individuals and families in the Gateshead and Newcastle area, to overcome some of the cultural, language and social difficulties and barriers they face and help them to integrate into life in the UK. They provide advice, translation services, education, emergency food packs and household and personal care items.*



Some of the volunteers at Peace of Mind.

"Fund for Human Need is one of our outstanding partners in tackling the issue of food, clothing and hygiene poverty among the RAS community as we regularly refer people (marginalised by the UK's immigration system) for hardship support and for the needs that cannot be met by other funders or mainstream service providers / Government organisations because of the client's immigration status."

Case 1: The weekly drop in (Sep 2022) started quieter than usual, it was raining and very cold when a lady entered our premises with a very young baby. The mum was shivering with cold while holding her (few months old) baby tightly. Realising that mother didn't have a warm coat and the baby had no socks, shoes or hat on the volunteer responded immediately by offering a warm welcome, hot cup of tea and offered winter socks, hats and a warm coat from our emergency clothing stock.

The volunteer translated and we found she was a single mother and a newly arrived asylum applicant. It was her first day in Gateshead having been left outside her (Home Office) flat with no financial support, no food, no warm clothing of her own just the clothes on her back. She was not given any information/instructions about how to turn on heating in the flat, or how to get basic items of need, especially when she had no money as her financial support wasn't started yet. She was asking for help on the street from passing strangers when a kind person gave her our information and walked with her to the Church. After supporting her immediate needs – we rang migrant help to request her Aspen payment card and HC2 certificate and applied for one-off hardship support through **Fund for Human Need** so she could buy basic items of need, hygiene items and warm clothing until her support is in place. She thanked our volunteers with tears in her eyes before leaving and promised to come back next week.

She says "The love and support I received from this (Peace of Mind) charity has made me feel so welcome in my new home and city. I lost my whole family including during the war in my country. I cannot bring them back to this world but I feel so relaxed knowing that I have support and I am not alone".

Case 2: "This is the first food I had in last 5 days, I rely on what people give me when passing by and if I am too hungry, I go to the shops and find food in their bins. My asylum case has been rejected and Home Office has withdrawn all my support making me homeless. I don't have any money and no one gives me a job because I don't have (right to work) papers. Thank you very much for the supermarket voucher, I will spend this money very carefully on food so I can use it for longer. I don't know when Home Office will restart my support. My solicitor is still preparing my fresh asylum claim. My life is in extreme danger and I cannot go back to my country because I am gay. Thank you very much for the supermarket voucher; this is the best gift of the year 2022". (Peace of Mind convert our awards to Vouchers as it can cause difficulties if people in the asylum system are provided with cash.)



"Can I please take this opportunity to THANK the whole team and supporters of Fund for Human Need for your ongoing and outstanding support. Your support is a lifeline for many in our refugee and asylum-seeking community. With your one-off donation/support we have seen people gaining their strength and self-confidence back leading to a happy, healthy and successful lives after a short-term crisis and trauma." Chair Peace of Mind.



Fundraising Charity Cards

We have teamed up with **The Pen and Camera Club of Methodism** to produce a set of fundraising cards. These are A6 cards, in packs of 5 using images from the club exhibition of 2022. The cards are suitable for all occasions being blank inside. Minimum suggested donation £3.00 per pack. Postage and packing £0.55 per pack up to a maximum of £3.50. Contact Admin to buy or for any further information.

Pack 2



Pack 1



Our thanks to all who bought our Christmas cards this year, we have raised over £500. We have limited numbers left if you want to be organized for Christmas 2023. Christmas 1 is a modern nativity, 2 highlights the issue of homelessness. These are A6 cards and envelopes with 5 in a pack. (Single design in each pack) Minimum suggested donation £3.00 per pack. Postage and packing £0.55 per pack up to a maximum of £3.50. Contact Admin to buy or for any further information.

Our thanks to the artists, J Sams and F Bowman.

How You helped: From Gateway – Enhanced Young Person's Liaison and Diversion Service.

*Lucas is a very vulnerable young adult with serious mental health issues. He was recently released from a short custodial sentence but due to his communication issues he has not yet been able to access any benefits and was initially homeless or sofa surfing. We believe he will be entitled to both universal credit and personal independence payments and applications are now in hand for both but there will be the usual 6 weeks of processing time (more for the PiP). He may also need to apply for copies of identification. We have arranged a hostel place and are looking at a range of sheltered accommodation to see if a suitable placement can be found.

Currently with no income *Lucas needs basics such as toiletries and some additional clothing so he can do laundry. (Award £90 November 2022)

Thank you so much for helping, we have found some accommodation and hope to have him settled soon.

*Name changed to protect identity

Can you help us with Fundraising by sponsorship?

Our small awards are classified under charity rules as 'grants' this makes it very difficult for us to access any funding as many of the major trusts and funds are restricted by their deeds and rules from supporting grant giving bodies. We are always looking for ways to cover our costs so that as much of the donated funds as possible go to those who need our help while maintaining a public profile.

We are developing a sponsorship package which would give the opportunity for small businesses / traders to sponsor an event we attend, or one of our publications. The sponsor can claim the value of the donation as a business expense (<https://www.gov.uk/tax-limited-company-gives-to-charity/sponsoring-a-charity>) and will get publicity from acknowledgments such as a banner displayed at an event, logo and acknowledgment in video displays, a poster prominently on any display and on publications an acknowledgment and / or logo on every item.

We need this information to go out to as many companies as possible, and this will work best where there is an introduction. Do you or any family members or friends work with / for or know of any company or trader who may be able to help? Does your church or circuit use a trader who you can ask? A complete package will be provided with space for personalisation.

Further details from Gill or any trustee.

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How You helped:

Personal application from Greater London. *Emily and her small child were among others rescued from a fire that severely damaged a block of flats. Fortunately, due to the prompt response of the emergency services after a review at hospital they were released with no serious health issues. Evacuated to a local church overnight Emily was given our information. Later the next day they had a call to go and salvage what they could but between the smoke and water damage just about all of their belongings were destroyed. Having no family in the area they were all rehoused into a hotel and were hoping to quickly be offered a new (but empty) flat.

With only basic universal credit and no savings to rely on they needed urgent help, the need was for clothing, nappies, toiletries and other basics so they could manage in the hotel. *Emily applied direct to us by email and we were able to send an award of £120 direct to *Emily's bank straight away.

"Thank you so much. Your help is very much appreciated. I have received the funds."

*Name change to protect identity

How You helped:

From Mustard Tree Manchester. "Mustard Tree runs a range of projects, all with the aim of providing support and working towards long-term solutions for the homeless and marginalised across Greater Manchester"

*Behrouz is a young man who fled Iran due to persecution, he is keeping himself busy as a very useful and willing volunteer in our charity shop. Currently housed in a basic hotel he has £8/week home office subsistence and £15/ month credit for clothing etc from the charity shop. Due to injuries during his travel to the UK he has serious medical issues and a recent operation means he should eat a specialised diet which the hotel does not provide. Application for vegetables and quality protein, help with communication.

Award £110 November 2022

"Please pass on my thanks to your team for granting support to *Behrouz. It was very timely; you will have heard the reports coming from Iran and the civil unrest. As a result of this the internet has been cut off preventing safe communication. For two weeks he was unable to contact his wife and mother who live in the capital Tehran where there has been shooting and deaths reported. Fortunately, in the last week he has spoken to his family, and they are safe. He is doing well, busy with training courses but it is when he is on his own in a hotel with little means of financial support that he finds it hard. Catching a bus to see a friend is out of his reach when you only received £8 a week. Your help made a big difference to his physical and emotional wellbeing."

*Name change to protect identity

DONATE. If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to relief funds or benefits, please see our website at: http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111 There you will find all the information you need on making a donation or regular gift. Or you can contact us at: fundhumanneed@gmail.com Ph: 01325244992

The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you can consider?

Standing Order – Regular giving is so valuable and if you can Gift Aid, it adds 25p to every £ donated. Details on the website or from Gill M.

Cheque - if you prefer to donate by cheque, these should be made out to 'Fund for Human Need' and directed to Gill Mason (Admin) at the address on page 1.

Other ways you can help - Other news outlets- Is there a local news outlet that you could pass our information to? Church or Circuit notices or magazines?

Resources - Our film, copies of this news sheet and other resources are available on the website – www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk

Electronic giving- We are on 'Just giving'. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundforhumanneed>



Try our QR code to go to the Just Giving site. (just point the camera of a smart phone at it.)

Home shopping- we are on **Smile Amazon** and **Give as you live**, if you nominate us, a percentage

comes to us with no cost to you.

Synods - Do you go to Synod? Could you take some leaflets, staff a marketplace table? Maybe you could speak for us? All materials and assistance provided.

Greetings and Christmas Cards- could you send for and sell on some of our cards? Its more cost effective to send a big pack to one person. Phone Gill to discuss.

Wills and codicils - If you already have a will made and would be happy to add a bequest to Fund for Human Need a simple codicil form is available on the Website (or from our Admin).

Friends in Districts- we still have need of people in many of the districts to advertise us at district events and synods, giving out leaflets and putting up posters, getting information into publications etc. (all supplied and supported).