Chris Westwood Charity

For Children with Physical Disabilities



Progress Report as at 31st December 2014



What Do We Do?

Background

The Charity was founded on the 19th November 2003, specifically to help children and young people with physical disabilities, in Stourbridge and the surrounding areas, which for practical reasons we defined as being within a 50 mile radius of Stourbridge. The Charity Commission registered number is 1101230.

The stated aim is the provision of financial assistance, at the discretion of the Trustees, to provide the relief of physically handicapped children. This includes improvement to the quality of life by the provision of financial or other assistance, or any other purpose the Trustees deem to be in accordance with the stated aim.

We grant small sums for specific uses, where a significant difference can be made to both the life of the child and the family, we try to fill the gaps left in the State support system, we are very keen to give a rapid response, usually within 24 to 48 hours, and we aim to achieve all of this with no operating costs at all.

Typical Areas of Assistance Provided to date

- Special exercise equipment, special exercise tricycles, walkers, and standing frames, to assist in regaining and maintaining mobility
- Wheelchairs, special mobility chairs, special car seats, special seating, special beds, and support and lifting equipment, to improve the quality of life

How we Assess Grant Applications

Following an initial approach, we request the submission of a detailed grant application. In order to assess the position, we typically require the following:

- Background and reason for the request
- Supporting information from a suitable professional person detailing the medical position and the advantages of the proposed equipment purchase
- A detailed quotation, following assessment by the supplier's competent person
- Details of any funding already raised, any other sources of funding, and the financial position of the family

Then, provided that we are assured that our help will be for those in real need, the application is in accordance with our grant criteria, and we have the funding available, it can be considered for approval. Grants are provided by a cheque payable to the supplier, to ensure that the funds are only used for the intended purpose. All remaining order and delivery arrangements are then left to the applicant, so that we are not involved in any administration costs.



What have we been up to in 2014?

We started 2014 with our reserves at a low level, and with some concern that we might well struggle to cope with the ever increasing requests for help with funding for equipment purchases. By careful management of our contacts, we succeeded in having a year of consolidation, where we were able to cope with the demands that we received, increase our funds raised, and end the year with the reserves in a position where we are more optimistic for expansion once again in 2015.

Our total grants were slightly down at 58 (61 last year), and the total granted was also a little down at £59,238.07 (£66,853.31 last year), although we have two further applications awaiting final detailed quotations, which could have added around £5,000.00 to the total, but will now fall into 2015, if approved.

The main highlight of the year was that on November 19th, we completed 11 years of activity, and at the start of that month, we completed our 250th grant since inception, with the total granted exceeding £250,000.00. We ended the year on 257 grants made, and approx £265,900.00 granted, since we started. The scale of the funding problem that we have faced in recent years can be seen by the fact that £177,000.00 of that total was granted in the last three years alone, as expansion has so rapidly raised the number of applications we have received.

We have continued to benefit from regular donations from a number of supporters, and both personal and company donations. Our fundraising activities have included Quiz Nights, the Walkathon, and a number of events at the Stourbridge Tennis Club, for which we must thank our keen supporters. We also benefited from numerous collections, and we were particularly heartened when we were approached by a couple who raised over £1,200.00 for us by walking 100 miles in 48 hours, in what turned out to be appalling weather, and when we became aware of a collection organised by Ride Red 100, which again raised over £1,000.00. Reports on both of these events are in this booklet. We should like to add that we never cease to be amazed at the number of people who are prepared to make an effort to raise funds for us, and without whom we would struggle to cope with the requests for help that we receive.

Once again, the Wolves Community Trust, through Wolves Aid, provided great support for children in their area that we had helped, and as this is the third year of a three year support project, we hope that we might be able to continue our relationship with them. We established a relationship with St James' Place Foundation, and after a meeting, they very kindly supported us with £10,000.00 during the year. We now hope to be able to occasionally access further funding from them. Finally, several Charitable Foundations also helped very generously, and so we were able to increase the total funding raised during the year, to a new record total.

So it has been another busy year, a new milestone, and steady progress with our fundraising. We are looking forward to the new challenges that 2015 will undoubtedly bring, as we try to further expand our work.



A Selection of the Grants Made in 2014

Age	Grant	Details			
Yrs	£	He is unable to sit unaided, and is not yet able to support his head. He requires postural support to help to prevent			
3.5	612.38	contractures, and to make him comfortable when travelling. He also suffers frequent fits, so good restraint and support is essential. Following assessment, we were asked to help with the purchase of a special car seat, and we agreed to provide the total funding required.			
4	1931.00	She has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, severe encephalopathy, global development delay, and is gastrostomy fed. She can only crawl, and has problems with involuntary limb movements, but with the correct walker, she could gain mobility. She had been assessed, and the only suitable walker was a Leckey model, which she had been able to manage. We agreed to fund, in order to help her to continue to progress.			
12	457.90	She has severe learning difficulties, and her problems include speech and language difficulties, vision and hearing difficulties, and rare conditions of a Fumarase deficiency, and a metabolic deficiency associated with epilepsy. When in the car, she releases herself from her seatbelt, and either grabs at the car driver or starts to damage the seating. A magnetic harness restraint was proposed to safely secure her in position, which we funded.			
8.75	413.00	He has a rare genetic condition called Optiz G Syndrome, which gives rise to a number of medical problems, including breathing and feeding difficulties, and he is Gastrostomy fed (tube into the stomach). He also has severe learning difficulties and autism, and suffers frequent chest infections. Due to the large amount of medical support equipment that needs to be taken with him, whenever the family goes out, we were asked if we could help with the purchase of a lightweight suction pump, as the standard units are heavy, making carrying all his equipment difficult. We approved the purchase, as this should help to increase the opportunity for the family to take him out more easily.			



A Selection of the Grants Made in 2014 (Cont.)

Age	Grant	Details
Yrs	£	She was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome at 26 months, after being unable to speak or walk. A special exercise trike was
4	983.98	proposed, to try to build up her muscle strength. She was assessed, and with no other funding available, we agreed to fund the purchase.
12.5	3343.25	Cerebral Palsy with Spastic Diplegia (<i>known as Little's Disease</i>), which presents with a high and constant tightness and stiffness of the muscles in the lower part of the body, and he requires regular muscle stretching exercises to retain some mobility. He can walk short distances slowly, but tires rapidly and a trike was proposed to help his muscle strength and exercise. Due to his size, a full reclining seat type of trike was required to prevent the risk of toppling over, which we agreed to fund.
16	2153.35	She has cerebral palsy, affecting her left side, and is unable to maintain an upright position, causing pain in her lower back. She has exacerbated lumbar lordosis (excessive curvature of the lower spine) and needs a special support chair to sit comfortably. She uses a specially adapted chair at school, but this must remain there when she leaves. We were asked if we could fund a support chair for home use, as she will soon be at home for most of the time. She was assessed, and we approved the purchase of a suitable chair with fittings including a 4 point lap belt, and lateral and multi adjustable headrests.
13	154.71	He is autistic and has sleep problems. The recommendation was to provide a weighted blanket, as this type of therapy, providing a gentle pressure on the body, has been shown to help with sleeping difficulties. Having previously funded a similar item for another child, we were aware of the therapeutic effect. With the family unable to raise the funding, we agreed to purchase.
19	2728.00	She sustained a brain injury in January 2013, further surgery failed to improve the position, and she will require full time care for all of her needs. State funding has supported alterations to the family home, and some of the equipment needed, but with no further funding available, we were asked if we could help with a grant towards the cost of a special bed. In view of her condition and her long term needs, we were pleased to be able to help, and funded the full purchase cost of the bed.



How a Donation Can Help (1)

Wheelchairs.....



She is 12 years old, and has a diagnosis of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, with a range of complex disabilities including scoliosis, epilepsy, and cerrabellar hydroplasia (a rare condition with the part or complete absence of the part of the brain controlling motor and cognitive functions). She also has bowel, bladder and renal problems, is paralysed from the waist down, has learning difficulties, is gastrostomy fed (tube into the stomach), and can not sit or walk. She has an electric wheelchair set up for indoor use, which is unsuitable for outside, which limits greatly any activity outside, or the opportunity to leave the house. The request was for a specially supportive manual wheelchair, as only one chair is supplied to a family. In view of the circumstances, the need, and the profound effect it would have on the quality of life for the family, we agreed to fund the full cost of £3,014.00. The photograph shows her being able to enjoy a family day out at the seaside, in her new manual wheelchair, just prior to returning to hospital for a further operation.



How a Donation Can Help (4)

Special Car Seats.....



He is six years old, and suffers from a rare condition called CHARGE Syndrome (In 1981, the term "CHARGE" came into use as an acronym for the set of unusual congenital features seen in a number of newborn children. The letters stand for coloboma of the eye, heart defects, atresia of the nasal choanae, retardation of growth and/or development, genital and/or urinary abnormalities, and ear abnormalities and deafness). These features are no longer used in making a diagnosis of CHARGE syndrome, but the name remains, and CHARGE syndrome is the leading cause of congenital deaf/blindness).

He is unable to communicate verbally, and can not stand or walk. He is classified as deaf/blind, although he does have limited vision and hearing. He has low muscle tone, curvature of the spine, and is peg fed through a tube in his abdomen. He needs substantial support when being moved in a car, and after assessment at the Regional Driving Centre, a special car seat was selected, which was suitable for him.

We have a discount agreement with the supplier, which reduced the final price to £617.00. As the application was submitted because the family needed help with the purchase, we agreed to fund the full cost.



How a Donation Can Help (3)

Special Exercise Tricycles.....



He is five and a half years old, and at the time of application did not have a complete diagnosis, as the results of further genetic tests were awaited. He has learning difficulties, generalised hypotonia (weak muscle tone), fatigue and pain in both legs. He is unable to pedal a normal trike, but following an assessment, he was found to be able to manage this particular model of special exercise trike (which was supplied with the additional parental control bar, attached just below the front handlebars).

His Paediatric Physiotherapist had recommended a special trike to help to build up his leg muscles, and improve his general condition. From previous experience, we were aware of the advantages and successes with this type of equipment, and we agreed to fund the £1,011.18 required. Subsequently, we heard from the family that he was making good progress with the trike, and they were very grateful that we had been able to help.



How a Donation Can Help (4)

More Special Tricycles.....



The Victoria School in Birmingham has 200 pupils in the 2 to 19 age range. 85% of theses are wheelchair bound, and 70% have cerebral palsy, which affects both arms and legs, so that they are unable to propel any form of tricycle. This meant that they would never have the opportunity to experience any form of cycling, unless suitable equipment could be purchased for them.

The School was trying to purchase a range of special trikes to allow them to experience more outside activities, and we were asked to consider funding a wheelchair transporter trike (shown above), which allows one child, in a wheelchair, to be pedalled around by an adult. The cost was £4,000.00, and with the School able to find £1,000.00, we agreed to fund the balance, as we felt that this would allow a large group of children to experience a form of cycling, despite being confined to a wheelchair. Although the purchase cost was significant, with the large number of children that would benefit, the actual cost per child was very small. With the number of potential users, this equipment has already seen considerable use, and has proved very popular with the children, as they are able to enjoy being pedalled around the school.



The Triathlon

The event was held on Sunday 14nd September, and we were fortunate once again to have fine weather. The event originally began as a Walkathon, along the banks of the river Severn, with participants free to choose their preferred route between Bewdley and Bridgnorth, as well as possible use of the train (Severn Valley Railway). Choices ranged from a walk from Bewdley to Arley and return by train, to the full 26 miles on foot to Bridgnorth and back.

Now in its fourth year, the event includes the option of a cycle route, and a canoe trip from Bridgnorth to Bewdley. This year we had 43 entrants, with 13 venturing out in canoes, and the rest walking, with no runners or cyclists.

A number of dogs also accompanied their owners, and we understand everyone managed to complete the trip, although some found the trip somewhat harder than anticipated, and following feedback, we shall provide more advice on allowing extra time for next year's event.

Those making it back to Bewdley by late afternoon were again able to use the facilities of the Bewdley Rowing Club, who made us very welcome, and we must thank them for all their help. Martyn kindly proved suitable liquid refreshment, which was thankfully received by the participants. The final total raised was over £1,000.00, which was another very useful addition to our funds.



A view upstream walking from Bewdley towards Arley

The 100 Mile Walk through the Welsh Valleys

Lisa and Hughie contacted us with their plans for a 100 mile walk in 48 hours, through the South Wales Valleys. They are regularly involved in Charity fundraising, and asked if they might help us on this occasion. Naturally we were extremely grateful, although slightly worried at the daunting challenge they had set themselves. We were told that they were practising regularly, and that they were confident. With sponsorship, they hoped to raise a significant amount, and set themselves an initial target of £1,000, which they easily exceeded.



In Lisa's own words:

"What a challenge that was! We set out at 10 am on Saturday (24th May) from Pontypool School, and the rain was already falling. We climbed uphill with the total accent over the 100 miles being the equivalent of walking up Snowden 5 times. The rain did not stop or ease for the first 24 hours, and we survived the first night without sleep, but very wet. We walked for two nights without sleep in very wet boots and socks, nursing blisters along the way.

Fatigue set in on the second night, but we continued to walk, knowing that over half the 500 participants had dropped out, due to the weather and terrain. The thought of the children we were helping kept our spirits high.

The weather was making it nearly impossible to walk, with a landslip that added a diversion, and marshland that had us walking in water up to our knees. The last 5 miles was a very steep climb, followed by a slippery descent, but we made it, without sleep, in 47 hours and 19 minutes. Over 300 people cheered us across the line.

The challenge has not stopped there.... the pain, the blisters, lack of sleep and aching muscles, we were exhausted, but it was worth it for the Charity."

Thank you Lisa and Hughie, a tremendous effort, and a great fundraising result.



Ride-RED 100 Mile World War Centenary Cycle Ride



The ride took place on 28th July, and was organised by David Antcliff. Having recently returned from a cycling trip to France, where he cycled up Mont Ventoux with some friends, David decided that this was the right time to attempt a 100 mile event, to both mark the centenary of the First World War, and to raise funds for charity.

In David's own words:

"I heard about your charity due the help you had given to the daughter of friends of mine, and I thought that this was the perfect charity to raise funds for.

We set out from Dudley Fire Station at around 7:00 am and embarked on our epic journey, the route took us approximately 17 miles across Birmingham to The Spitfire Island at Castle Vale, scene of the UK's biggest spitfire manufacturer during the War effort, we had a quick photo opportunity there, then continued a further 30 miles up to The War Memorial at Alrewas, a very humbling place indeed. After a brief refuelling stop, we then rode 30 miles across to Cannock and through to RAF Cosford, where we finally actually got a decent half hour break and some real food inside us. From Cosford we continued our journey back through Worfield and up through Kingswinford back to Dudley and finally returned to Dudley Fire station at around 3:30 pm, covering another 27 miles.

After a very brief celebratory back slapping, groaning, creaking and thigh rubbing session,



Ride-RED 100 Mile World War Centenary Cycle Ride (2).

we then all embarked to The Red Cow Pub in Gornal, where some serious rehydration took place. We had covered 104 miles in around seven and half hours of cycling. We only suffered one puncture and two wrong turns, which accounted for the extra 4 miles in distance. At one point we did find ourselves on an un-adopted and very dishevelled road, with potholes reminiscent of a wartime bomb site, due to the poor map reading skills of one of our party. It was a cracking day out and the weather was very kind to us, as were the majority of other road users, we had one near miss early on in the morning, but then covered around 95 miles before we suffered any road rage."

The 5 riders claimed a combined age of 260 years, and their efforts raised over £1,000.00, once Gift Aid was taken into account. An excellent result, and thank you to David and the team, shown in the picture opposite.

Quiz Night at Hagley Community Centre - Nov. 22nd.

The event was again kindly organised by two of our keen supporters, Carolyn and Miles.

The event included two Quiz sessions with a break for a Fish and Chip supper, and a raffle for a number prizes which had been kindly donated. The ticket price was kept deliberately low at £10 per head, including the food, to cover the expenses, (hire of the hall, the necessary licences, and other minor costs etc.), while still making a marginal profit.

With the profit from the raffle rising to £300.00, after a donation, several other donations, and some profit from bar sales, the total raised was £851.00. The numbers were down slightly on 2013, and the quantity of alcohol consumed was significantly less than last year, which resulted in a small reduction in the funding raised. General comments were that the evening had been enjoyed by everyone, and many of the teams were taking the competition very seriously, and reducing their alcohol intake.

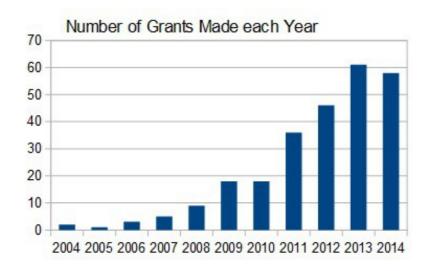
Sadly the "Bosted Brains" proved to be an appropriate team name, as they ended up last of the 15 teams entered. The editor's team finished sixth (a much needed improvement on last year), the "Bounders" were third, the "I'm a quizzer, get me out of here" team second, and the winners were the "Pickled Eggheads", who seemed remarkably sober. Well done, and thanks again to our organisers.



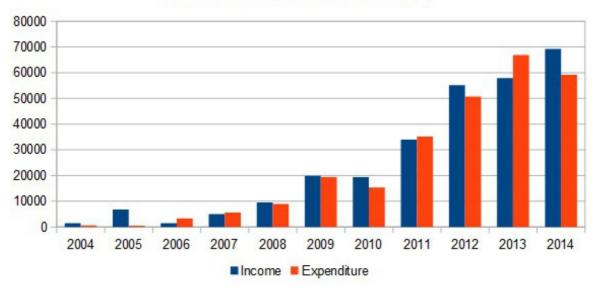
Our Accounts

Cash Balance brought forward at 31.12.13:					
Income:					
(a) Fundraising Events					
Collected Directly	6,180.14				
Collected by Charities Trust (incl. Gift Aid) on sponsorship pages	2,150.15	8,330.29			
(b) Gift Aid: (April 2013 to April 2014 – claimed directly from HMRC)		2,602.69			
(c) Standing Orders – Payments received		2,295.00			
(d) Personal Donations		10,088.00			
(e) Company Donations		3,741.94			
(f) Wolves Community Trust Support		5,817.94			
(g) Grants from other Charitable Foundations and Organisations					
St James's Place	10,000.00				
Robert McAlpine Foundation	10,000.00				
Other Charitable Foundations	15,800.00	35,800.00			
(h) Collection Boxes		72.90			
(I) Interest on Bank Balances		1.95			
(j) Grant Reserve written back					
Total Income:		69,205.71			
Expenditure:					
Grants made in the year to date: 58 in Total		59,238.07			
Other expenditure/costs/overheads					
Total Expenditure:					
Excess of Income over Expenditure:					
Leaving a cash balance at 31.12.14 of:					

Funds Raised and Grants Made to Dec 31th 2014



Annual Income (£) vs Grants Made (£)



During 2013, 61 grants totalling £66,853 were made, a more manageable increase of 32% on 2012, and bringing us to 199 grants made, and £206,664 granted, in the ten years since inception. In 2014, we completed 58 grants (with 2 pending), and £59,238 granted, which meant that after 11 years of operation, we have now completed more than 250 grants, with more than £250,000 granted.

The graphs show the rate at which demand has increased, with no marketing effort on our part, and the challenges that we can expect to face in the coming year, to raise the funding we need.



The Organisation

The Charity has four Trustees, and formal Trustee meetings are held twice a year. There are no employees, and all the necessary work is done on a voluntary basis, so that there are no administration expenses incurred.

The Trustees are in regular contact for all routine management decisions, any additional meetings required can be arranged at short notice, and Quality Solicitors Talbots (Stourbridge) provide office facilities, again at no cost.

With all this voluntary help, we are able to maximise the effectiveness of the funds we raise, and operate with no administration costs.

The Charity Trustees at a recent Trustee Meeting



I-r Martyn Morgan Chris Westwood Janine Barnes Graham Wood



How Donations can be made to us

In addition to donations by cash or cheque, can we suggest consideration of the following:

Standing Orders

Any amount from £2/month upwards is of great value to us, and only requires the completion of a Standing Order Mandate, which can be stopped, or changed, at any point in the future, should you wish. The Standing Order Mandate goes directly to your bank, so we never see it, or any of your bank details.

A copy of the required Bank Mandate is available towards the end of this booklet, and should you choose this method, could you please complete a Gift Aid form, if you have not already done so, as this enables us to reclaim the tax at the year end.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, you can increase the effectiveness of your donation by completion of a gift aid declaration form, a copy of which is available on the next page. If the third box down, of the three options on the form, is ticked, the completion of one form will cover all donations past, present and future. HMRC treats the donation as if the donor had already paid basic rate tax, and the Charity can then reclaim this tax to increase the value of the donation. The Charity will receive an additional 25p for every £1 donated, which we claim annually from HMRC.

Please return any completed forms directly to Quality Solicitors Talbots (address on the form).

Online Donations

(a) By Internet Bank Transfer, direct to our nominated bank account:

Bank details for Online Donations are:

HSBC Bank, Sort Code 40-43-17 Account Number 72275813

Could you please use your name as the payment reference, so that we can track the payments into our account, and claim Gift Aid, where appropriate.

(b) From our website, using the "Everyclick" Donation button:

A donation button has been created on the Chris Westwood Charity website, to allow individual donations to be easily made online, and access can also be gained to our Every Click webpage via www.everyclick.com/chriswestwoodcharity.

Anyone kindly wishing to set up a sponsorship page is encouraged to use the Everyclick facility, as we are registered with them, and we do not pay any additional costs.



Gift Aid Declaration

Wish to cancel this declaration
 Change any of the Donor details

Please Treat



The Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities.

	The enclosed gift of £ as a Gift Aid Donation; OR	
]	
	All gifts of money that I make today, and in the future, as Gift Aid Donations; OR	
	All gifts of money that I have made in the past 6 years, and all future gifts of mon I make from the date of this declaration, as Gift Aid Donations.	ey that
٧	Please tick the appropriate box above.	
Tax at	er for us to claim Gift Aid, you must be paying an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital least equal to the tax that the Charity will claim from HMRC on your Gift Aid donationally, we are able to claim 25p for every £1 of eligible donations.	
Dono	or's Details	
Title	First NameSurname	
Home	Address	
Postco	ode Date	
Signat	ture	
Please	e notify the Charity if you:	

Please send this form to: FAO Martyn Morgan, Quality Solicitors Talbots, 63 Market Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 1AQ.

3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the Manager					
Name of Bank					
Address					
Post Code					
Please pay:	HSB	C Bank, 114 F	ligh Street,	Stourbridge,	West Midlands. DY8 1DZ
For the credit of:	Sor	is Westwood t Code: ount Number	40-	Children with 43-17 275813	n Physical Disability
The sum of: (in wo	rds) _				Pounds (£)
On the		(day)		(month)	(year)
And thereafter eve	ery mo	onth until furt	her notice,	and debit my	y account accordingly.
Name of account h	older	to be debited	l:		
Account Number:			-		
Sort Code:					
Signed:			Date:		

When completed, will you please pass this form directly to your Bank.

If you are a UK tax payer, and pay an amount of Income Tax, and/or Capital Gains Tax, at least equal to the tax that can be claimed on your donation, you can increase the value of your gift by using Gift Aid. This enables the Charity to reclaim the tax, which currently increases the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 donated.

If you would like to help, will you please complete a Gift Aid form, and return it to: Chris Westwood Charity for Children, c/o Quality Solicitors Talbots, 63 Market Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 1AQ.

If you would like to contact us:

For the attention of Martyn Morgan,
Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities,
c/o Quality SolicitorsTalbots,
63 Market Street,
Stourbridge,
West Midlands.
DY8 1AQ.

Tel: 01384 445850

email: martynmorgan@talbotslaw.co.uk

The following organisations have provided help to the Charity at no cost:

Quality Solicitors Talbots: Provision of Office facilities, Marketing, Event Organisation, and

general help and advice. (01384 445850)

Holmdale Print & Mail: Provision of Document preparation, and Printing services, including

all of our publicity material. (0845 367 1206)

