

# **Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities.**

## **Update Report - First Quarter 2021**

### **Background:**

In 2020 we completed 76 grants totalling £83,253.19 despite the problems with COVID 19 having a major impact on our income from fundraising events and group collections. Normally, many groups very kindly collect for us at their regular meetings and we particularly noticed this loss of income once the pandemic started to limit activity.

Overall, this brought us to 766 grants completed and £919,801 granted since we started over 17 years ago. The final quarter of 2020 was particularly busy as lockdown eased for part of the period, and ways were found to carry out the required equipment assessments in a safe manner.

We approached 2021 with some optimism about pushing on towards our next goal of £1 million raised and granted since we started, all with no administration cost, but with some trepidation at the fundraising difficulties the rate of activity might present as lockdown began to ease.

### **Progress in 2021:**

The year started quietly, which was perhaps not unexpected after the surge we had seen in Q4 2020. and the subsequent lockdown limitations. Activity was well down on previous years in both January and February, but enquiries began to increase rapidly in March, and at the time of writing we have outstanding initial enquiries concerning around twelve applications. Many of these we expect to proceed to a full application, for detailed consideration by us, once the necessary quotations and supporting letters have been obtained, which in some cases have been delayed by redeployment of NHS staff to provide any COVID 19 support required.

To date, we have completed 12 grants totalling £13,857.45 and the recent enquiries mentioned above could easily add a further £15,000 to £20,000 if formally submitted and subsequently approved. Needless to say this will have a significant effect on our reserves, and so we are, as usual, pursuing any and all possible fund raising avenues.

One brighter fundraising spot has been the regular monthly donors, and we now have 17 participants, raising £541.00/month, which increases to an effective £675.00/month when we add in the Gift Aid, which we claim yearly on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

The total Gift Aid to be claimed this year is likely to be in the region of £5,300, which is typical of the total amount we are able to claim each year from personal donations (we are unable to claim gift aid on Company donations or grants from Charitable Foundations, it must be an individual who is a UK taxpayer).

### **Funding Help in 2021:**

With many of the varied sources of our income likely to be significantly down again this year, our aim will be to try and concentrate on our 5 key areas:

1. Gift Aid - Our annual submission to HMRC, which will be made promptly on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, is practically ready, and subject to any late income receipts, we are expecting this claim to be for approx. £5,300.00, as already mentioned, which will be a very useful boost to funds.

2. Regular Donations - We now have 17 regular monthly donors, which is another very useful and reliable source of income. As already mentioned, we would be very appreciative of any additions to this group.

3. One-off Donations - which vary greatly from year to year but are always welcome.

4. Charitable Foundations – We do receive help from some Charitable Foundations, and we have had multi year agreements with several, (usually for 3 years) although all of these have now completed their cycle, and require a further year’s break before we can then apply again for consideration. However, a number of our regular sources are either closed or concentrating on COVID 19 support at the moment, meaning that once we have received the Gift Aid payment, we do not have many other possibilities for the rest of the year. We shall continue to try and find help as usual, but fundraising later in the year is expected to become much more difficult.

5. Commission Payments – These arise from a percentage commission on purchases made online or in a store.

We are registered with Amazon Smile, so that we can be the named charity to receive the small payment from any purchase made online (usually 0.5%) from Amazon. You can nominate any charity, and while we would hope we might be considered, as long as this facility is used, it benefits the charity sector as a whole, at no additional cost to the purchaser. Just log on to Amazon via [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk), and after registering your nominated charity the first time you log on (and you can change the charity choice whenever you wish) you can shop on Amazon in the normal way. Provided you access Amazon by this route, the nominated charity receives a commission payment on every purchase.

We are also registered with Give as You Live/Everyclick, and there is a link on our *Donation* webpage. Various percentages can be claimed for a named charity on purchases online from many different companies, and there are also Store cards. The Chairman uses a John Lewis Store card for Waitrose shopping, which he reloads with £100 periodically, and each payment puts the full £100 on the card and creates a payment of £1.50 to the Charity. To date, in two years of operation, this has generated £140 in commission payments at no additional cost. The Store Card is just swiped at the checkout instead of using a credit/debit card, which is quick and easy to do. This is a simple system to use, and it creates some useful income for the chosen charity at no cost other than an initial £2.50 for the relevant store card (these being available for a very wide range of stores). Any additional support this year would be very welcome, although again, whichever charity is selected helps the Charity sector as a whole.

You can also recycle used ink cartridges at [www.recycle4charity.co.uk](http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk), and again select your chosen charity. We are registered and receive a payment for each cartridge returned that is on the approved list (usually those with a visible external printed circuit board).

## Grants Made in Q1 2021:

Age Yrs	Grant £	Details
2.5	395.00	She was born with multiple limb deficits of her left arm/leg, and is unable to stand, walk or crawl. As she is under 3 years old she is not eligible for a frame, so to provide some mobility and to strengthen her muscles prior to a prosthesis for her left leg, a Firefly Scoot was proposed. This will help her to develop some mobility and we agreed to fully fund.
5	1559.79	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy spastic quadriplegia, and is dependent on her parents for all aspects of her care including feeding, with her mother acting as a full time carer. She requires special postural seating to support her correctly at a table or desk, but she has no other suitable support seating to hold her both safely and comfortably when relaxing. A Ppod Bean seat was proposed, and having purchased a number of these previously for similar cases, we agreed to fully fund.
6.5	856.00	He has a diagnosis of dyskinetic cerebral palsy, and is significantly affected. The COVID 19 Lockdowns have affected his development and some sensory equipment was proposed. We agreed to fund some of the equipment requested, with co-funding from another charity.

	13.50	Towards the end of 2020 we approved three trikes and estimated the discounted cost. The final invoices were presented early 2021 and included £4.50/trike above our estimate of the discount, necessitating a small adjustment to the totals authorised previously.
	995.00	The Victoria Special School takes 240 of the most severe cases in the Birmingham area (age 3 – 19), 90% of whom are permanently wheelchair bound which limits their activities. We agreed to co-fund with two other charities the provision of a kiln in the Art Department, which will be used by up to 140 pupils in small groups, to help to develop activities in which they can participate while being in a wheelchair.
13	525.30	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and is not independently mobile. In conjunction with her special school some sensory equipment was proposed to help to help to develop her motor skills. We have helped before and were aware of her problems, so we agreed to fully fund.
6	975.00	He has a diagnosis of Autism, and has a number of other problems including speech and language, co-ordination of movement and general physical condition. The proposal was for the purchase of a special exercise trike to help to develop his general strength and coordination. With the family able to raise some funding, we agreed to fund the balance to enable the purchase to proceed.
3.5	2007.00	He has a diagnosis of Autism, and struggled with restraint when being transported in his car seat. He required a fully supportive car seat which would hold him securely and prevent him releasing himself and presenting a danger to the driver. He was assessed by Windmill Special Needs and we agreed to fully fund.
7	49.69	He has sensory processing needs, and a pressure vest has been found to help him self regulate throughout the day. With this item available only on short term loan to the family, we were asked if we could fund a vest for him, which we agreed..
3	1360.54	She has a diagnosis of quadriplegic cerebral palsy, and is fully dependent on her mother for all of her care. While she has an R82 Xpanda chair to hold her in the correct posture for table activities, she is unable to tolerate it for long periods and needs a comfortable secure seat. A Ppod Bean seat was proposed and we agreed to fully fund.
4	2992.50	He is undergoing assessment for learning delay, sensory difficulties and anxiety brought on by noise. A safe area was found to help, and he was using a safety sleeper both during the day and at night, which helped him greatly, but was only on loan from Newlife Charity. As that was needed by the Charity, the family were trying to raise the funding for the purchase of a similar unit. Having previously dealt with the supplier we had an agreed small discount, and we approved the funding of the purchase cost.
10	1310.75	She has a diagnosis of Dravet Syndrome, Scoliosis, and exhibits with major cognitive and physical development delay. A special exercise trike was proposed to help to develop her leg strength and co-ordination, and with the family having raised some funding towards the cost, we agreed to fund the balance.
7	817.38	She has a genetic condition (Trisomy 9 Mosaic) and other problems and exhibits with global development delay, learning difficulties and has to use a wheelchair. With no sense of danger, she presents a hazard when being transported as she regularly releases herself from her car seat. She was assessed by Windmill Special Needs and a secure system to hold her both safely and in comfort was specified. We have helped her before, and on this occasion we agreed to fully fund the purchase of the seat system required.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,857.45</b>	

## In Conclusion:

If you would like to contact us regarding this report, please email us at [chriswestwoodcharity@gmail.com](mailto:chriswestwoodcharity@gmail.com).

We now look towards an uncertain and challenging year, and we can only thank our supporters for their help.

Chris Westwood.