

Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities.

Update Report - Second Quarter 2021

Background:

During Q1 we completed 12 grants totalling £13,857.45, and having received a number of queries about submitting future applications, we anticipated an increase in activity in Q2.

Progress in Q2 2021:

At the half year point, we have completed 34 grants totalling £44,183.90, which means that we saw an increase from the 12 grants in Q1 to an additional 22 grants in Q2. The total cost of the Q2 grants came to £30,326.45, as there were small adjustments to one or two previously approved totals, following minor changes in specification at the point of ordering.

The size of grant made once again followed the typical pattern we see, with 16 of the 34 grants in the year to date (47.0%) being classified as *Small* ie less than £1,000.00, although we are just awaiting a support letter for another small grant which will bring us closer to the typical 50% of all grants. The small grants total £9,614.46 of our expenditure this year (21.7%), yet again showing that small grants can be a great help to a large number of families to enable the required equipment to be purchased.

With a big upturn in activity in Q2, a number of approaches about the submission of applications in the near future, and the usual increase in business as we approach August/September, it would appear that 2021 is again going to be a busy year, putting more pressure on our need for fundraising.

Our overall position at the half year is that we have completed almost £964,000 in grants and helped 800 cases, all at zero administration cost, since we started at the end of 2003.

Funding Help in 2021:

With many of the varied sources of our income likely to be significantly down again this year until all restrictions are lifted and fundraising activity can restart properly, our aim has been to try and concentrate on 5 key areas:

1. Gift Aid - Our annual submission to HMRC, which was made promptly on the 6th April, raised £5,471.09, again showing how useful this additional funding is. Where donations are made directly to fundraising webpages, there is often an option to tick the Gift Aid button, which further increases the amount raised, and really does make a difference.
2. Regular Donations - We have now increased to 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. Regular sources of income greatly improve the stability of our cashflow, and we continue to try to increase this further. With the benefit of Gift Aid, where appropriate, we now find that this source contributes approx 9% of our target annual income.
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, limiting 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 critical as demand increases, and will, as usual, be a challenge.

5. Commission Payments – These arise from a percentage commission on purchases made online or in a store. While still small, they are all growing and have useful long term fundraising potential for us.

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, 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. There are no charges for using a Store card, and every time it is reloaded with funds, the nominated charity receives a donation. Waitrose, for example, contribute £1.50 to the Charity every time £100.00 is added to a Waitrose Store card, which is then used at the checkout instead of a credit card.

You can also recycle used ink cartridges at 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). Please make sure that you check the minimum quantity required, otherwise postal costs are applied which can eliminate any benefit to the nominated charity.

Grants Made in Q2 2021:

Age Yrs	Grant £	Details
4	1050.00	She has a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome, and has low muscle tone in her legs. She does not attempt to stand or walk and a special exercise trike was proposed to try to help the development of her co-ordination, and particularly to strengthen her leg muscles. With our agreed discount with the supplier and the family having raised some funding, we were able to proceed with the purchase.
1.25	462.64	She exhibits with hypotonia, global delay, visual impairment and infantile seizures. She has poor head control and limited ability to move independently. She required a special car seat to hold her securely and in the correct position. After attending the Regional Driving Assessment Centre, where she was fitted for the seat required, we agreed to fund the car seat, which was supplied by one of our regular suppliers, with whom we have a discount agreement.
6.75	828.00	He has a diagnosis of a rare genetic disorder and presents with significant learning difficulties, low muscle tone and autism. He was unable to support himself safely and correctly in his car seat and required a new seat and accessories to ensure his secure transport. Following assessment by Windmill Special Needs, we agreed to fully fund the required car seat.
9	1228.30	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy spastic diplegia, and exhibits with difficulties in posture, muscle tone, balance, co-ordination, and stamina. A special exercise trike was proposed to help to develop his leg muscle strength, co-ordination and spatial awareness. With the family already having raised a small amount of funding, we agreed to fund the balance, with the total cost reduced by both VAT exemption and our discount agreement with the supplier.
14.8	2735.00	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy spastic quadriplegia, and a range of communication, behaviour and medical problems. He uses a wheelchair and has had some hoists/tracks installed by his NHS Trust. He now needed another hoist/track system, but with the NHS Trust having already funded some of his needs, they would not fund any further equipment. He had been using a portable hoist on a temporary basis which was not very suitable for him, but this was no longer available. With his parents unable to lift him, another installation was required and we agreed to fully fund.

13.5	700.00	He has a diagnosis of severe autism, learning difficulties, pica, and is incontinent. He needs 24 hour care and has high sensory needs. A dual cycle was proposed as he is unable to steer a trike and has no awareness of danger. With the bulk of the funding raised from the family, other charities, and an online fundraising webpage, we agreed to provide the balance required to proceed.
2	431.00	He has a diagnosis of Dandy Walker syndrome and other medical problems. He has a special seating system for postural support for use indoors, but this is not suitable for outdoor use. A suitable lightweight portable unit was proposed to enable him to be correctly held when outdoors, and able to participate in activities with other children. We agreed to fully fund.
7.5	5117.00	He has a diagnosis of Ohtahara syndrome and other medical problems. He requires 24 hour care and needs oxygen and tube feeding. While he was currently stable, he was severely life limited and an Acheeva bed was requested to help with his comfort and care. This was granted to the NHS Trust for later use for other children. The Charity negotiated a discount, paid the total cost and received a £1,500 from the NHS Trust, and £1,000 from another charity.
6.75	1621.10	Brain haemorrhage, resulting in global delay, hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, and other medical problems. Unable to walk, a special exercise trike was proposed to help to develop his leg strength and co-ordination, and we agreed to fully fund.
13	1500.00	He has a diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and required a comfortable seating system to hold him securely and fully support his hips. Although the NHS would supply a chair, the single type they specify was found to be unsuitable, and eventually a suitable seating system was found, with the correct support, but required funding by the family. With a total cost of £3,813.00, it was part funded by a GoFundMe webpage, and we agreed to fund the balance required.
9	1400.00	He has a diagnosis of severe learning difficulties, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and exhibits behavioural problems. He has had a trike before but now required a replacement, which would help to increase his exercise and improve his behaviour. With another charity having offered to pay approx. one third of the £2,044.00 cost, we agreed to fund the balance.
7 & 7	554.68 + 554.68	The two boys have a diagnosis of Autism and exhibit with the typical lack of awareness of danger. They release themselves when being transported and present a serious danger to the driver, as well as retaining them securely for safe egress from the car. A suitable harness type was tested and assessed with both boys, and we agreed to fund.
7	1613.45	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy with a left hemiplegia and hearing loss. He had extensive hip surgery in January 2020 and has been working to regain leg strength and mobility. A special exercise trike was proposed to help with co-ordination, and improvement of his leg strength.
4	1546.30	Diagnosis of cerebral palsy, and moves around either by "bottom shuffling" or using a wheelchair. A special exercise trike was proposed to help to strengthen her leg muscles and improve her mobility, which we agreed to fully support.
5	623.13	She has a diagnosis of Smith Magenis Syndrome, and has no awareness of danger. She regularly releases herself from her buggy straps and a secure harness system was required. She was assessed by Windmill Special Needs and we agreed to fund the proposed magnetic safety harness.
	451.96	The Victoria School has 240 children from the most deprived areas in Birmingham, 90% of which are wheelchair bound. The proposal was to purchase four small mobility pedal vehicles to encourage the younger children to use their legs and improve their leg strength and mobility, which we agreed to fund.
10	2260.05	He has a diagnosis of ataxic cerebral palsy, and a special exercise trike was proposed by his consultant. Due to his height, he needed an imported model which limits the amount of VAT relief we were able to claim. With the family able to contribute a small amount, we agreed to fund the balance to help to develop his leg strength, mobility and co-ordination.
7	400.00	He has a diagnosis of ASD, speech & language problems, and has difficulties with co-ordination and balance. A special exercise trike was proposed, costing £1,200.00 after discount. With another charity already funding £800.00, we agreed to provide the balance required for the purchase.
4	1304.80	She has a diagnosis of Cerebral palsy asymmetric diplegia, and learning difficulties. She is mobile with the aid of a walker, but has now outgrown the special exercise trike she was using. A new larger trike was proposed to continue to help with the development of her leg muscles and co-ordination, and with the family contributing a small sum towards the cost, we agreed to fund the balance.
3.5	1468.40	She has a diagnosis of Arthrogryposis, which affects the movement of her joints and she can only move short distances with the aid of her walker. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to help to development movement in her hip, knee and arm joints and to strengthen her muscles. We agreed to fully fund.
8	2475.96	He has a diagnosis of quadriplegic cerebral palsy, and is a wheelchair user with limited mobility. He can stand with a standing frame and has mobility with a walker. He has outgrown a trike he has used for the last 4 years as part of an intensive physiotherapy regime, which has helped to improve his lower limb movement. The only suitable replacement for him which would last into adulthood, required a German Trix trike import. Due to the cost, the family had raised some funds and asked two charities to each contribute 40% of the required total to raise the remaining funds needed. We agreed to provide 40% of the funding required, after an agreement with the supplier on a discount structure as we fund a number of trikes from them.
Total	£30,326.45	

In Conclusion:

If you would like to contact us regarding this report, please email us at chriswestwoodcharity@gmail.com.

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

Chris Westwood.