

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

## **Update Report - Third Quarter 2020**

### **Background:**

We approached 2020 with considerable optimism after the exceptional level of activity in Q4 2019, and we saw significant activity until the major disruption of COVID 19 and the Lockdown, which stopped face to face patient consultations with both NHS staff and supplier's equipment assessment experts, at which point application activity almost came to a standstill, and we began to wonder how the year would progress.

With a number of assessments having been carried out prior to the Lockdown, we began to see activity again start to pick up later in Q2 despite the restrictions and we reached the half year having completed 33 grants totalling £42,118.42.

### **Progress in Q3 2020:**

The early part of Q3 is usually quiet and then activity starts to increase rapidly in September and into October (Q4), as the children return to their special schools and additional equipment requirements are assessed.

During the quarter we have completed 16 more grants bringing the totals to 49 grants this year and £59,100.67 granted. We also have around five or six applications which are very close to submission, totalling, we anticipate, around £10,000.00, and a number of other preliminary queries. Grant activity has picked up sharply in September as ways are being found to carry out the necessary assessments safely, and we expect this trend to continue throughout October.

The activity figures for 2019 at the end of Q3 were 59 grants made and £64,587.69 granted, so despite the Lockdown this year, we are rapidly catching up with the previous activity level. We have also found that similar figures apply again for Small Grants (less than £1,000.00). 25 of the 49 grants made were small (ie 51%) and required £14,212.24 or 24% of the total granted, showing the value of small targetted amounts in a number of cases.

With the limitations on fundraising activity, this has inevitably affected our income, and our reserves are under increasing pressure. In 2019 we found it necessary to introduce a short waiting period on three occasions while fundraising continued, although thankfully we kept the delays in providing funding to never greater than two weeks. At present we do have some reserves from fundraising to date, but with the surge in applications anticipated, it may again become necessary to suspend grant activity for short periods during Q4.

As detailed in the previous report, we are constantly looking for new fundraising opportunities, and some progress is being made.

### **Progress with funding:**

1. Regular Donations - We currently have 15 regular monthly donors who kindly contribute £4,962.00 in a

full year (£6,187.50 with Gift Aid where applicable), which is a very useful source of stable income. We would be very appreciative of any additions to this group, and all the details are on the *Donation* page of our website.

2. We would, once again, like to highlight other areas where the amounts raised are currently small, but there is the scope for considerable potential expansion longer term, so we are constantly trying to develop them, and we register the Charity to enable donations to be received whenever we find a new potential source:

Commission Payments arising from a percentage commission on purchases made online or in a store, and we commented last quarter both on these and a new option which involves recycling:

(a.1) We are registered with Amazon Smile, so that we can be the named charity to receive the small payment from any Amazon purchase made online (usually 0.5%). 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. During Q3 we received another £5.15, which reflects the commission on just over £1,000 worth of purchases. Obviously still small but plenty of scope to build on, particularly with the recent increase in online sales and the approach of Christmas, and we would like to thank everyone who has helped with contributions from their purchases.

To access - please use <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and this will take you to the Amazon page that supports Smile. Once registered with your chosen charity, you can use this route to enter Amazon to shop online in the usual way.

(a.2) We are also registered with Everyclick, and there is a link on our *Donation* webpage of our website for occasional donations.

(a.3) We are registered with Easyfundraising, which again offers the potential for commission payments, sometimes with significant percentages of the cost.

These can be claimed for a named charity on purchases online from many different Companies/Stores, and there are also In-Store cards. Both of these methods use Easyfundraising, and the link is, as stated above, on the Donations page of our website.

The Chairman uses a John Lewis In-Store card for Waitrose shopping, which he reloads with £100 regularly, 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 £150 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 wide range of stores, although the Tesco card has been withdrawn currently, attributed to the COVID 19 situation).

For purchases from many online stores, if the same link is used and the selected online site is then entered via Easyfundraising, the nominated charity earns a commission bonus on the purchase. With the significant increase in online purchases, this offers scope for a large increase in commission payments received.

(a.4) We registered with Recycle4Charity (<https://recycle4charity.co.uk>) and once you have registered you can select your chosen charity. The organisation pays £1.00 to the nominated charity for each used printer ink cartridge recycled, these being returned to them in Freepost envelopes supplied (there is also an option to recycle larger numbers in boxes).

There is a list of accepted cartridges on their site, most major brands being covered. While this is unlikely to be a major source of income, if we could encourage collection and recycle of cartridges by a number of our supporters or perhaps the setting up of a regular collection by a group supporting us, it would provide

another way to make a difference to our fundraising.

Again, this could build rapidly if more used cartridges are returned.

Any additional support this year would be very welcome, although again, whichever charity is selected helps the Charity sector as a whole.

(a.5) We are also registered with PayPal Giving, and recently received a small donation by this route. Charity supporters can select which charity they wish to benefit and the system is operated by PayPal with no charges, a welcome change.

**3. Christmas Cards** - Once again we have our usual packs of cards available at £3 for a pack of ten cards/envelopes. These cards are donated to the Charity so all proceeds directly boost our reserves. We have just taken delivery of 3 new designs for this year and now have a choice of 15 different designs. Please contact CW directly if you would like to help by purchasing any packs.

### Grants Made in Q3 2020:

Age	Grant (£)	Details
14.5	1258.00	Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, other sight problems, and registered blind. We have helped before, but she urgently required further computer equipment for her school work. Family prepared to contribute but supplier would only take payment from Charity if total amount paid. Family co-funded (£558.00) and the Charity then added the balance of £700.00 and paid the full purchase cost.
11	1396.00	He has severe ASD, learning and communication difficulties, and severe challenging behaviour. All electrical points in his bedroom removed for safety, but he has destroyed his bed and was smashing the plaster on the wall. Proposal to fit some soft padded wall cladding to protect him, and to provide a special strong bed. We agreed to fully fund.
8	1313.15	Significant learning difficulties, speech and language problems, challenging behaviour and exhibits hypermobility. Proposal was to provide a special exercise trike with the parental control option, to try to develop her core strength and co-ordination. With the family able to contribute £200.00 towards the discounted cost, we agreed to fund the balance.
14	716.50	Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, with severe learning disability and is doubly incontinent. He required a special strong bed with leakage tray and protection covers for electrical sockets to protect him, as he has no sense of danger. With the family unable to fund, we agreed to fully fund the equipment required.
3	1145.00	She has a diagnosis of quadriplegic cerebral palsy, and a range of other medical problems including seizures, following oxygen starvation at birth. She has problems with sitting and her mobility, and the proposal was for the purchase of a special exercise trike to help to develop her leg strength, balance and co-ordination. With the family having raised £400.00 via a donation website, we agreed to fund the balance required for the purchase.
1.8	251.45	He has a diagnosis of Spinal Muscular Atrophy type 1, and exhibits with very weak muscles. This severely limits his ability to sit up and move and we were requested to help with funding some special needs toys suitable for his condition. We agreed to fully fund.
7	2380.00	One of three siblings, all with medical problems, although he is the worst affected. He is incontinent, still in nappies and requires regular changing. His mother acts as a full time carer but also has severe medical problems and finds it very difficult to bend down to change him. A raise/lower bed was urgently required to help the family and we agreed to fund the full cost.
9	1311.45	Diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy with epilepsy. This affects his mobility as he has great difficulty in coordinating leg movements, he has weak muscles and his balance is affected. He receives regular physiotherapy and has been using a special exercise trike to try to develop both his leg muscles and coordination. Having now outgrown his trike we were asked if we could fund the balance required for the purchase to proceed, which we approved.
22	1143.37	Diagnosis of ASD, no sense of danger, learning difficulties, and arthritis in his hands. A recumbent trike was proposed to help him to exercise, and with the family having raised £2,750 from a range of activities, we were asked if we could help to both reduce the cost with our agreed discount structure, and to provide the final balance of funding required, so we agreed to fund the amount required.
5	1292.45	She has a diagnosis of a very rare genetic condition – Bosch Boonstra Schaaf Optic Atrophy Syndrome, which exhibits as a range of medical problems, vision impairment, and development delay. She has weak muscle tone and poor balance, and uses a

		wheelchair for any distance movement. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to help to develop her muscles and coordination, to improve her general mobility.
6	803.50	He has a diagnosis of global development delay and challenging behaviour. He needs a car seat fitted with a suitable restraint harness to hold him securely when being transported as he releases himself at present and becomes a serious risk due to him behavioural problems. As we have a discount agreement with the selected supplier, we were able to obtain a saving on the original quoted price.
9	928.00	Diagnosis of Cerebral palsy and autism, and uses a wheelchair when outside. Request was for funding for a special exercise trike to help with muscle development, coordination and general mobility. Some charitable funding already raised and we agreed to fund the balance required.
	650.60	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy spastic diplegia, and uses a wheelchair or a walker when one is available. NHS supplied unit is at school and difficult to transport due to its size, so proposal was to fund a second unit for home use to help her mobility, independence, and to improve her walking ability.
10	685.19	He has a diagnosis of Charcot – Marie Tooth Syndrome, resulting in weakness in his limbs, and also exhibits development delay and mobility problems. He has a wheelchair which he struggles to push, and uses a walker when possible. The request was for a second walker for home use to enable him to gain maximum exercise benefit as transport of his walker from school presents problems due to its size. We agreed to fully fund.
3	966.70	She has global development delay and a range of medical problems. She is non verbal, has both gross and fine motor skills problems, and struggles with her mobility. She can stand with the aid of splints, but has a dislocated hip which will require surgery. We were asked to help with funding a special exercise trike to help to develop her general health, leg muscle strength and coordination. With the family having raised some funding, and our supplier discount, we agreed to fund the balance.
12.5	585.87	He has a diagnosis of Kabuki Syndrome with a range of medical problems, and we have helped with equipment on a number of occasions. He required a powerpack to attach to his wheelchair, which was being sourced by the Family Support Worker, and we agreed to fully fund.
	<b>£16,802.23</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 continue to look towards the hopefully successful completion of an uncertain and challenging year, and we can only thank our supporters for their help.

Chris Westwood.