



Mark Benevolent Fund

The Story So Far

Q1-3 Review

January – September 2024



Fund Activity Summary

- £152,468 - Local Community Focus
- £158,530 - Humanitarian Aid
- £245,887 - Secondary Emergency Services
- £111,810 - Hospice Care
- £101,427 - Youth Sector
- £424,321 - Disability Support Services
- £222,303 - Medical Support
- £10,964 - Our Own Brethren

52%

of funds went to applications directly initiated by our Provinces

48%

of funds went to direct applications from charities



£10,964
to help 6
petitioners

The Mark Benevolent Fund has assisted our Brethren and their families in need with assistance for new white goods, blinds and replacement of dangerous flooring. A new boiler was paid for as well as part repayment of a debt that help put more money back into the household. The M.B.F. can help in many ways. Contact your local Provincial Grand Almoner for further information and details of how to make an application – don't leave it too late!

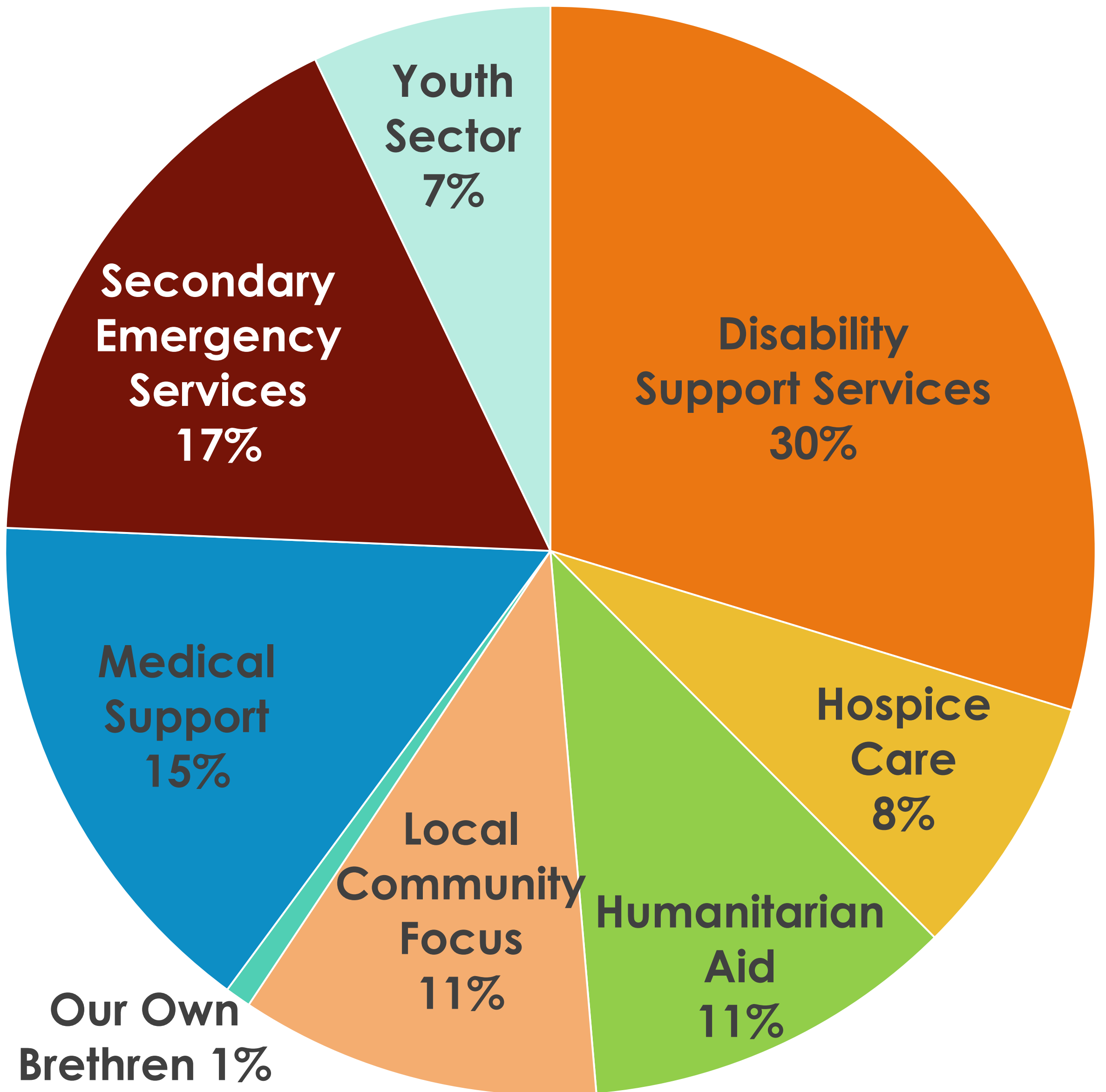
If you need assistance with medical costs your first port of call must be to the Masonic Charitable Foundation to check if they will be able to help you. Contact your Craft Lodge Almoner for further help or contact the MCF direct either online or by phone.

<https://mcf.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>





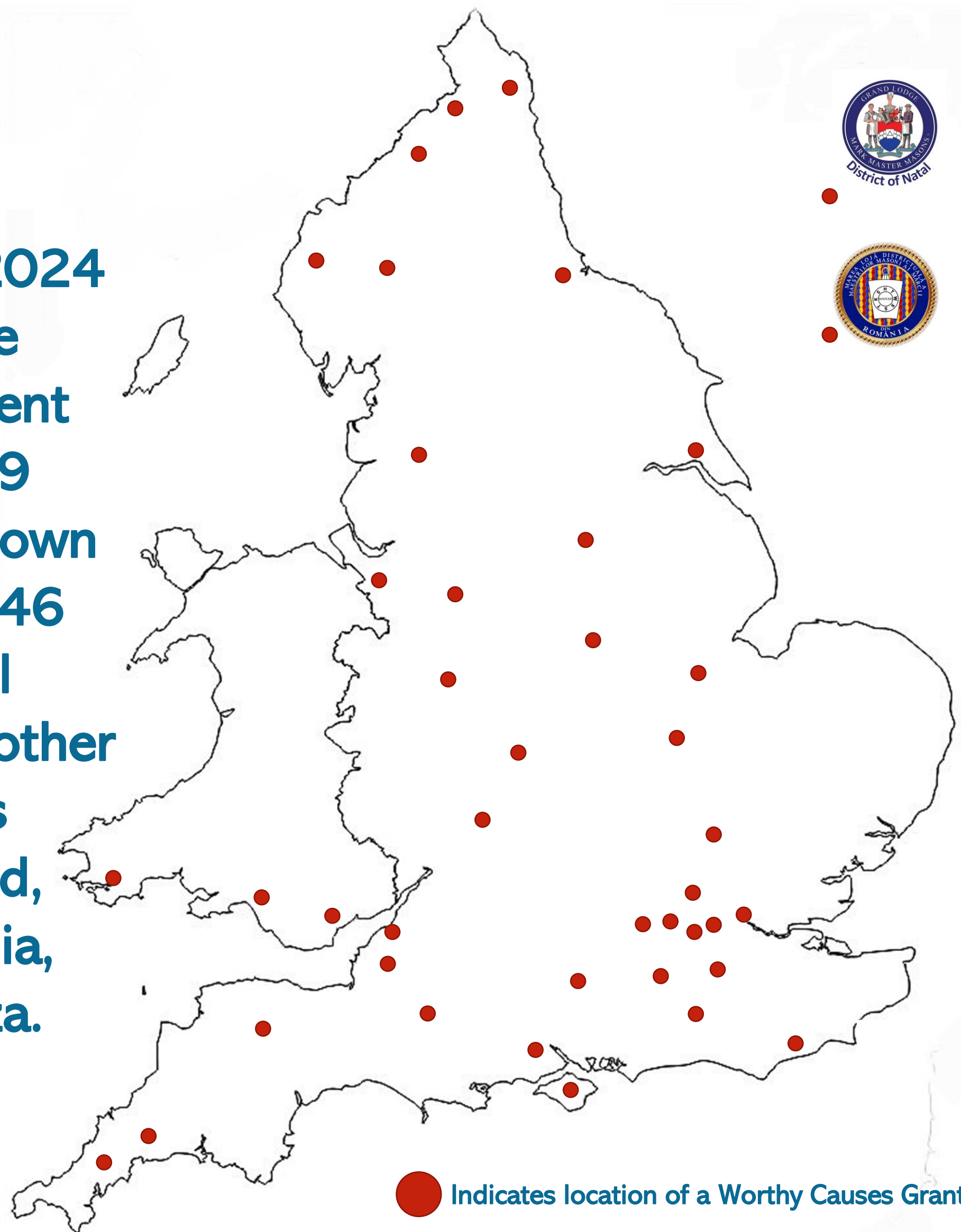
At a Glance...





£1,427,710

The story of 2024 so far sees the Mark Benevolent Fund making 9 grants to our own Brethren and 46 grants to local charities and other worthy causes across England, Wales, Romania, Natal and Gaza.





£81,000

Supporting the charity in Reigate to create a Centre of Excellence for families and professionals involved in supporting a child or young person who has Down syndrome.



£30,000

This is a child poverty prevention program, and the charity was awarded funding for the conversion of a care takers bungalow on the site of a local school that was identified as a Community Hub. The house was in dire need of work and the M.B.F. made it possible for the project to become reality.

Rawmaterial



£20,078

This charity based in Brixton promotes education and training in the creative and expressive arts and seeks to advance the educational, physical, cultural and social welfare of young people from disadvantaged inner-city areas. Funding has allowed them to purchase specialised equipment to support the community, including provision for new computers, software and speakers.



Children's Sailing Trust

£12,159

The Trust offers accessible, affordable water sporting activities and residential opportunities to children with disabilities, learning difficulties and those with mental wellbeing problems. Funds purchased a special hoist to allow a single caregiver to assist individuals with restricted mobility.



£8,800

This branch of cadets wanted to develop a marching pipe and drum band. The Squadron provides training which will be beneficial to Cadets in civilian life and those who choose to progress through the Armed Services.

£57,000



The charity needed funding to get a dual-purpose "Water Support & Team Transportation Vehicle" on the road. This allows them to move various items of kit to searches that take place on many of London's waterways. Their new vehicle will also give the flexibility to transport up to 6 members of the team around to different locations in the search area.



£31,346

The M.B.F. provided physical training and recreational equipment for use by special needs students, who currently do not have access to any appliances, assisting them physically and mentally.

£7,184



This charity promotes holistic care for those with a limited life expectancy, who have entered the palliative care phase, respecting their individuality & choice. The M.B.F. award allowed them to purchase 10 pressure-relieving mattresses for the Adult Inpatient Unit which will have an immediate impact on the lives and well being of patients.



£7,796

St Lukes repairs, the Kearsney farming area to the north of Durban, South Africa. Their mission is the special needs care of mentally and physically disabled children and adults in the community. The home needs many repairs, and the District is supporting the restoration of the roof to make the home watertight.

£28,480



The charity needed a new hybrid pool car for the team allowing greater flexibility and reliability for home visits. The vehicle now has a designated parking space in the Hospice which alleviates precious time spent finding parking on their return.



£13,685

A new audio system is essential to the running of All Saints Church in Hesse, both for the many services held there each week, and for all the community events. The M.B.F. stepped in when the old one failed.

£63,350



The M.B.F. continues to support Ukrainian refugees through our District in Romania. It is thanks to the enduring generosity of Mark Master Masons and their families that we are able to continue making these donations.



£100,805

The charity is raising funds for a cutting-edge piece of equipment for the Paediatric Neurosurgery department at Bristol Children's Hospital.

This innovative piece of equipment will revolutionise the care of children with complex brain tumours by allowing surgeons to operate on lesions using a robot guided laser, instead of performing open brain surgery. The M.B.F. was pleased to be able to make up the difference in funding for this life changing piece of equipment.

£38,709



Aspire Oxfordshire is a housing and employment charity supporting vulnerable and marginalised people to address their unique housing and employment needs across Oxfordshire. Refurbishment of an empty 3-bedroom property in East Oxford was needed, to be repurposed and used to accommodate people experiencing homelessness in Oxford.



£45,180

The M.B.F. made a grant towards the first major Trauma Centre specialising in the rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking and other severe abuse. It will fund an accessible reception desk, kitchenette and special glazing on doors and windows.

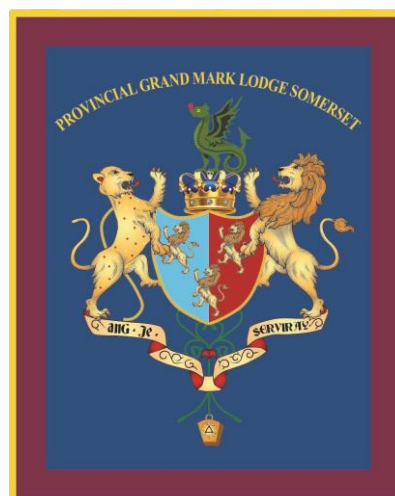


£6,010

This national charity has hubs throughout the UK. The focus of this request is for the Sense Woodside Centre in Bristol. Funds will provide a sensory room for children and adults with deafblindness and complex disabilities in and around Bristol and the M.B.F. have awarded the final funding needed to make the project happen.

£500

This charity was established in memory of Irene Taylor, wife of the late Lord Chief Justice Peter Taylor and works with some of the most vulnerable and excluded individuals in our society, inspiring them through the creation of new music. Funding will be used for new equipment and musical instruments.



£16,000

Funds are needed to replace waterproof jackets and trousers. These items will be issued to each fully operational team member.

£50,000



ShelterBox

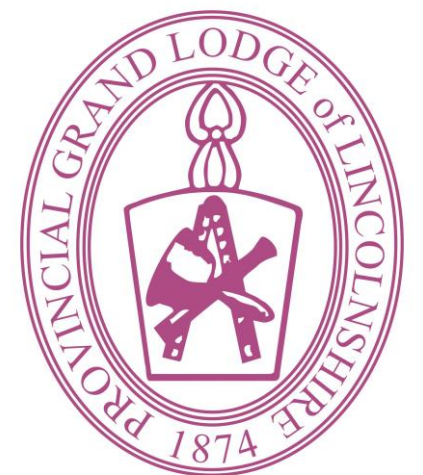
This grant is to be directed towards the humanitarian relief efforts by the charity in response to the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Up to 1.7 million people are displaced across Gaza and many people are having to live out in the open.



£100,000

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday, 12 March 2024 the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman gave the following address: 'Brethren, Metropolitan Grand Lodge has pledged £3,000,000 in support of the "Up Against Time" Appeal for London's Air Ambulance Charity, being one fifth of the cost to purchase 2 replacement state-of-the-art helicopters. 'W.Bro. Sir Michael Snyder, it gives me very much pleasure, on behalf of M.W.Bro. His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, Grand President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, to give you a cheque for £100,000 to add to your fundraising for London's Air Ambulance "Up Against Time" Appeal.'

£2,770



The Lincoln MS Centre provides hyperbaric treatment for people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), as well as other conditions and injuries. Funding replaced the front door system, which was worn out and no longer operated properly thus restricting the ability of wheelchair users, and those with walking difficult to access the building.

£27,300



HospiceCare
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND
Caring for Life

This hospice needs a support vehicle for use in their fundraising efforts across the county, help move stock from their shops and to make deliveries to clients.



DiABETES UK

KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

£10,000

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman gave the following address:

'I will now pay tribute to R.W.Bro. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.S.W., Grand Treasurer, who passed to the Grand Lodge above on the 30th of July this year, and who served as Mark Grand Treasurer for 10 years from 2013-2023. Let there be no doubt we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to R.W.Bro. John for the exceptional amount of time and effort he freely devoted to the prudent management of our funds. In consequence of his shrewd management our reserves have grown. We were able to reduce annual dues by £10 during the pandemic, returning only to pre pandemic levels this year. The M.W. Grand Master is considering how we may commemorate the memory of R.W.Bro. John Howitt in recognition of his outstanding contribution to our Orders.'
The Trustees of the M.B.F. agreed a grant of £5,000 to each charity.

£68,285



This charity provides training, education and therapeutic opportunities in land-based subjects through activities and courses designed for adults with disabilities and young people who find the challenges of schooling difficult. Funding will transform the green poly tunnel storage area into a barn with four new teaching spaces to satisfy this demand with an additional workshop, blacksmithing forge and tractor bay. It will enable them to buy the building, lay the concrete base, install water and electrics.

£1,493



This charity covers a wide area across South Wales and Monmouthshire. This grant was awarded for 20 bedside assessment kits.



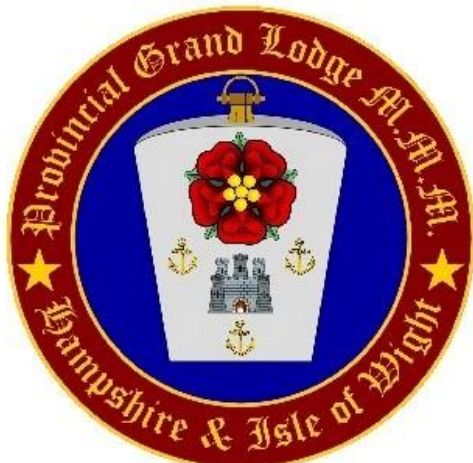
THE HAVEN
at Bridgewater



£49,287

Bridgewater School is a 2-form entry state school in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, providing primary education and nursery for 458 children.

They are demolishing the existing caretaker's house and constructing a new building providing accommodation for school children with special educational needs and disabilities with music tuition, giving staff meeting spaces and space for added wraparound care. Funding will provide a new classroom area including flooring, doors, windows and boiler.



£7,057 + £10,000

Minstead Trust is a charity that supports people with learning disabilities and autism. At their base in the New Forest, they support 84 individuals, healthier and more independent with our support. At its hub are our artisan workshops, with 2 woodwork studios, a weaving studio and vegetable garden. £7,057 will fund specific tools and items to aid those with disabilities. A further £10,000 was made to the Trust following a burglary which saw the devastation of their premises and equipment.

£4,270



The Mayfield School in Cockermouth caters for students with severe and profound learning needs serving those across West Cumbria. Funding was made available for a large shed to enable the neat and accessible storage of the equipment and to provide a small area of indoor workshop space.



SIDE SIDE
Charity Registration Number : 1135723



£4,700

The Cycling Club will allow 10 SEN/disabled young people to enjoy the improved mental health and physical wellbeing, as well as social benefits that come from cycling. The grant is funding 20 sessions for the project.

£52,573



**NORTH WEST
Air Ambulance
CHARITY**



The charity will be able to replace their 'Critical Care Vehicle', imperative in saving lives throughout the Northwest. Based at Barton Airbase, near Manchester, the vehicle can respond to anywhere in the Northwest of England.



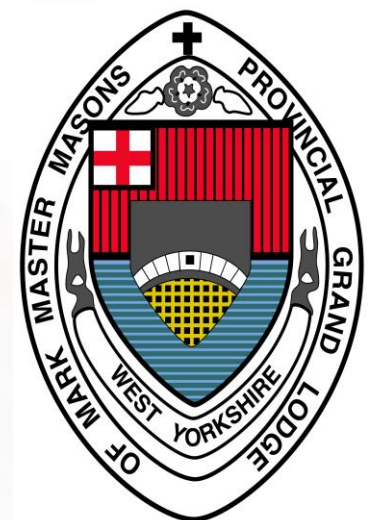
£34,404

This charity provides fully funded physical, mental and emotional support to those with a confirmed diagnosis of cancer. The grant will refurbish the existing conservatory attached to main building.

£69,962



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY CARE
*A culturally sensitive
befriending scheme*



Sheffield Churches' Council For Community Care are working in partnership with St Luke's Hospice on a project that aims to provide reliable transport for older palliative and end of life patients to access St Luke's Day Centres. Funding purchased a fully fitted, disabled friendly minibus for their project.



£68,490

This Community club is based in the Farringdon area of Sunderland. They help youngsters focus on improving healthy living, reducing obesity and helping them cope with mental health issues and offering a signpost for professional help. Their newly adapted 9-seater bus will help improve communications and assist other charities in the area.

£36,544



The Alzheimer Café Isle of Wight welcome anyone affected by dementia including individuals pre and post diagnosis, families, carers, and healthcare professionals to join for informal education about dementia. Funds have replaced their old, condemned lift meaning they have full access to the whole building.



Heads Up

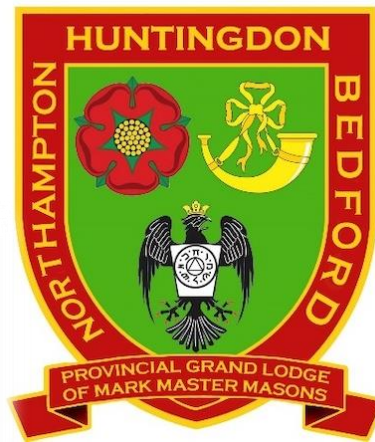
£8,463

Heads Up is a mental health & wellbeing charity, supporting clients with mental health challenges, dementia and learning difficulties. The grant purchased 'The Magic Table 360' which is an interactive light projector featuring a range of games and sensory experiences.

£7,660



The 4th Workington Scout Group will replace doors and windows at their headquarters in Horsley in Workington. The existing wooden doors and windows were replaced in the 1990's with second hand goods from a demolished nightclub.



£44,583

The hospice is refurbishing its kitchen at their site in Corby. The new kitchen will enhance the layout, health and safety requirements and provide more working and preparation space.

£6,659



Harriet Davis suffered from a rare degenerative metabolic disease. The charity's objective is the provision of properties in seaside locations suitably constructed or adapted and equipped to enable disabled children, their families and carers to enjoy the benefits of seaside holidays. Funding has purchased Flexcare adult seating to support adults which will support wheelchair users when out of their chair.



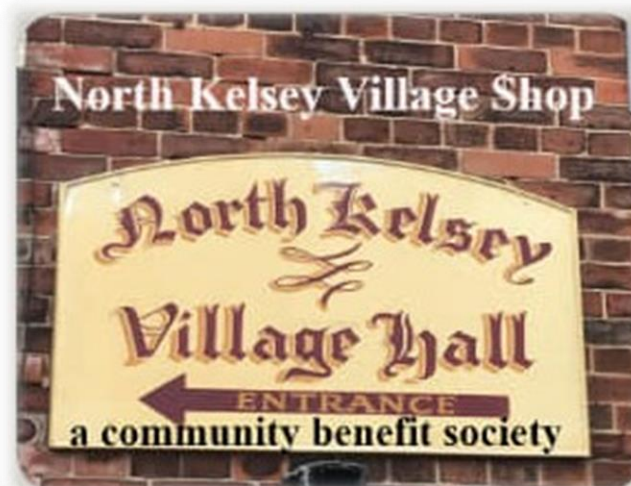
West Mids Ski Group



£14,982

This is the largest Special Olympics Ski Group in the country, and currently have 50 skiers (all with an intellectual disability) training throughout the year. They are now able to buy new Ski Jackets, Ski Trousers and personalised helmet covers.

£7,594



Funds are to provide equipment for this not-for-profit Community village shop. It also act as a social hub for the village and support those without travel options helping them benefit from increased social interaction.



£5,422

This Air Cadets Squadron can now purchase new laptop computers for cadets' exams and training courses. Everything is now done online via RAFAC website and simultaneously (so no cheating!). Some cadets have been waiting to take their initial exams since February 2024 and some cadets come from families who do not possess a laptop.



£103,035

The Children's Heart Unit Fund can now bring seven brand new state-of-the-art echocardiogram machines to the Northeast. The new equipment offers the latest medical advancements, bringing benefits to medical teams in the region that speed up services and ultimately save lives. This grant has been made in recognition of the service given to Mark Masonry by R.W.Bro. Gordon Craigs, P.Prov.G.M. (Northumberland) – a staunch supporter of the charity.



£20,314 + £10,000 from West Lancashire

The North West Blood Bikes are purchasing 2 new motorcycles costing £30,314. The M.B.F. awarded £20,314 and the Province are supporting the project with an additional £10,000.



Scouts
1st Nanpantan



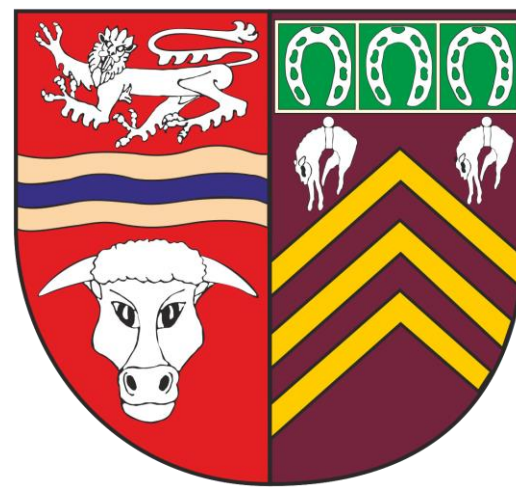
£21,007

This Scout Group needed funding for a kitchen in their new building. The kitchen is a critical space, providing life skills to members (160 members attend each week) in terms of food preparation, cooking, nutrition and food hygiene. It will also support the wider community and other local community groups and residents have shown interest in using the facility. This will generate a regular, secure income for the charity, enabling them to continue and grow the support that they provide to local children.



Herefordshire
RDA
Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving

It's what you can
do that counts



£21,810

The charity needed funding for the building and fitting out of a new equine therapy centre. The centre will offer existing and new service users modern accessible facilities, longer opening times, an expanded programme of activities, and long-term security. The M.B.F. purchased a fully accessible toilet and shower, arena mirrors for training purposes and mirrors in our mechanical horse room.



The 157th Mark Benevolent Fund Festival will be hosted by the Province of Oxfordshire over the weekend of Friday 18th and Saturday 19th July 2025.

The Banquet will be held in the magnificent Oxford University Examination Schools.



BOOK HERE





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Issued by
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