



Mark

Benevolent

Fund

Q1 Review

January – March 2024



Fund Activity Summary

- £38,320 - Local Community Focus
- £60,000 - Humanitarian Aid
- £157,000 - Secondary Emergency Services
- £7,184 - Hospice Care
- £28,878 - Youth Sector
- £87,010 - Disability Support Services
- £110,805 - Medical Support

59%

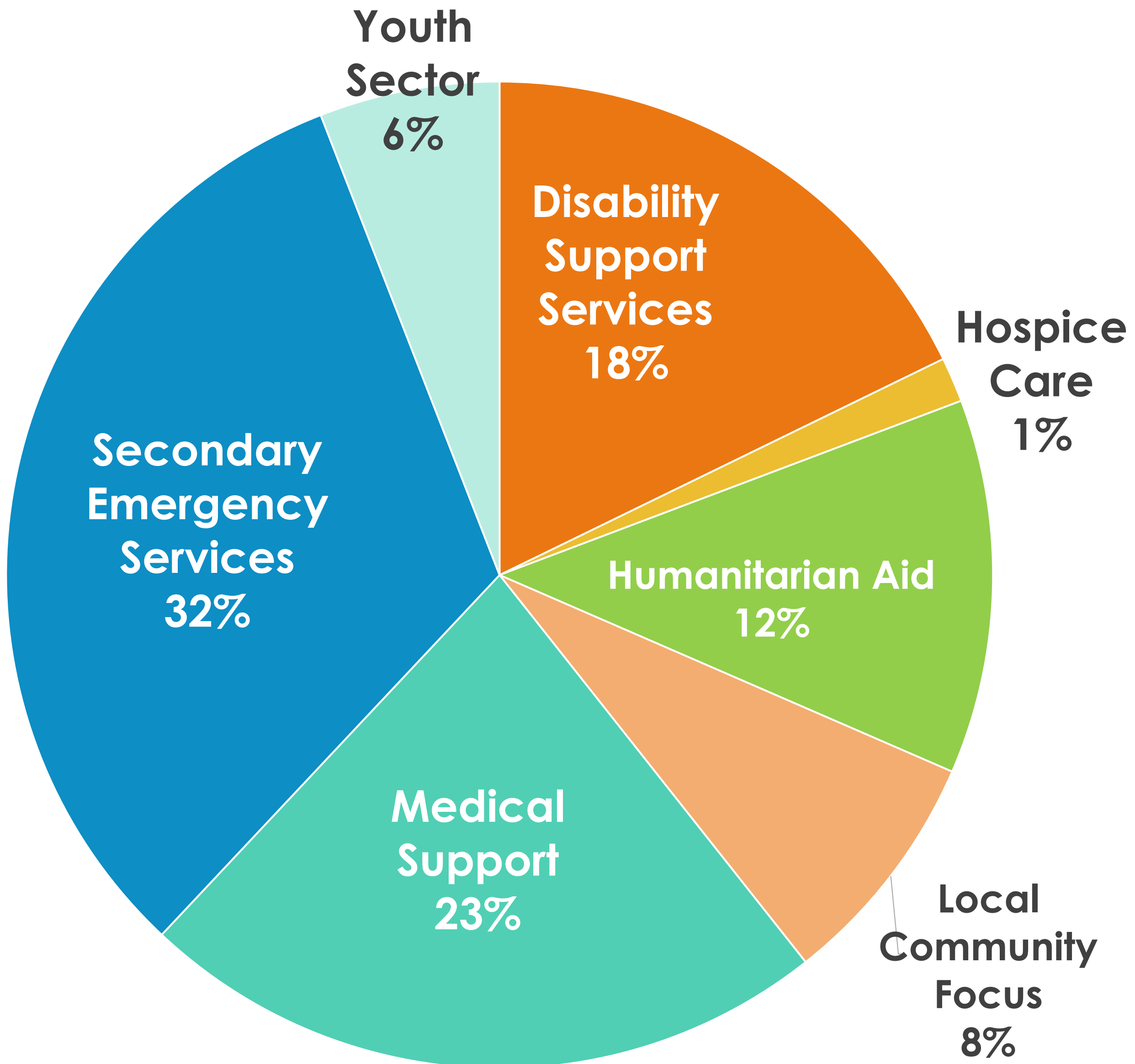
of funds went to applications directly initiated by our Provinces

41%

of funds went to direct applications from charities



At a Glance...





£489,197



The first quarter of 2024 saw the Mark Benevolent Fund make 14 grants to local charities and other worthy causes across England, Wales, Romania and Natal.



● Indicates location of a Worthy Causes Grant



£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 seeking fund for the conversion of a care takers bungalow which is on the site of a local school that has been identified as a Community Hub. The house needed work and the M.B.F. has 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.



DougieMac

£7,184

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



£7,796

St Lukes, founded in 1945, is located in 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 can care for up to 27 residents. The youngest is a child of 13 and the eldest 87 years old. They have 10 residents with cerebral palsy, 12 with various types of autism, 3 with dementia and 2 with mental disability. A number of these residents have no family and are reliant on a disability grant to fund their stay.

The home needs many repairs but the District is supporting the repair of the roof to make the home watertight.



£8,800

This branch of cadets is raising funds to develop a marching pipe and drum band. The Squadron provides training which will be of use 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 will allow them to move various items of water kit to searches that take place on many of London's waterways. The vehicle chosen will also give the flexibility to transport up to six members of the team around to different locations in the search area.



£100,805

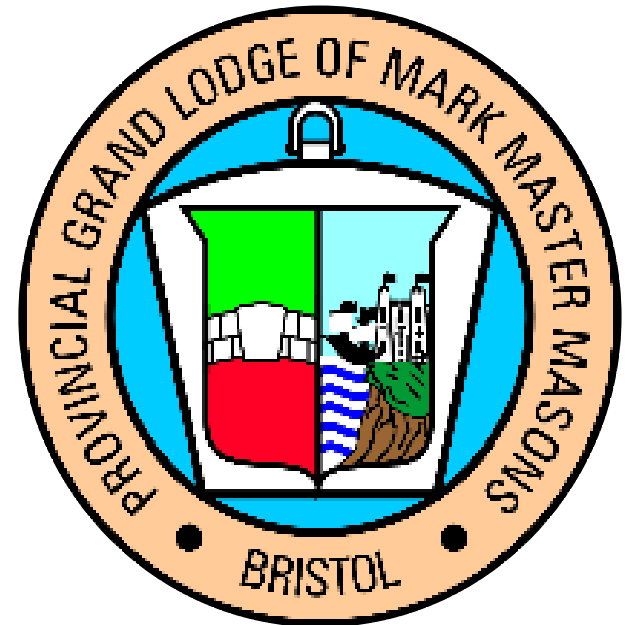
The charity needed funding for a cutting-edge piece of equipment for the Paediatric Neurosurgery department at Bristol Children's Hospital.

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 impact on young tumour patients will be transformational, giving many the opportunity to live a life free from debilitating seizures and providing a treatment option for children with tumours previously thought to be inoperable.

The total cost of the project was £220,805 and the charity had committed £120,000 to it. The Mark Benevolent Fund was pleased to be able to make up the difference in funding for this life changing piece of equipment.



sense
for deafblind people



£6,010

This national charity has hubs throughout the UK. The focus of this request is for the Sense Woodside Centre in Bristol.

a sensory room for children and adults with deaf blindness and complex disabilities in and around Bristol and the M.B.F. have awarded the final funding needed to make the project happen.



£10,000

The Mark Benevolent Fund 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.



£100,000

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 two replacement state-of-the-art helicopters. I now invite the Grand Director of Ceremonies to present to me Worshipful Brother Sir Michael Snyder, the Right Worshipful Metropolitan Grand Master.

‘Worshipful Brother Sir Michael Snyder, it gives me very much pleasure, on behalf of Most Worshipful Brother 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.’





£500

This charity was established in 1995 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.



ShelterBox

£50,000

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.





**Kidney
Cancer UK**

The UK's leading kidney cancer charity

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 ten years from 2013. 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 and we were able to reduce annual dues by ten pounds during the pandemic, returning only to pre pandemic levels this year. The Most Worshipful 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 Mark Benevolent Fund agreed that a grant of £5,000 to Diabetes UK and £5,000 to Kidney Cancer UK be made in memory of R.W.Bro. John Howitt.

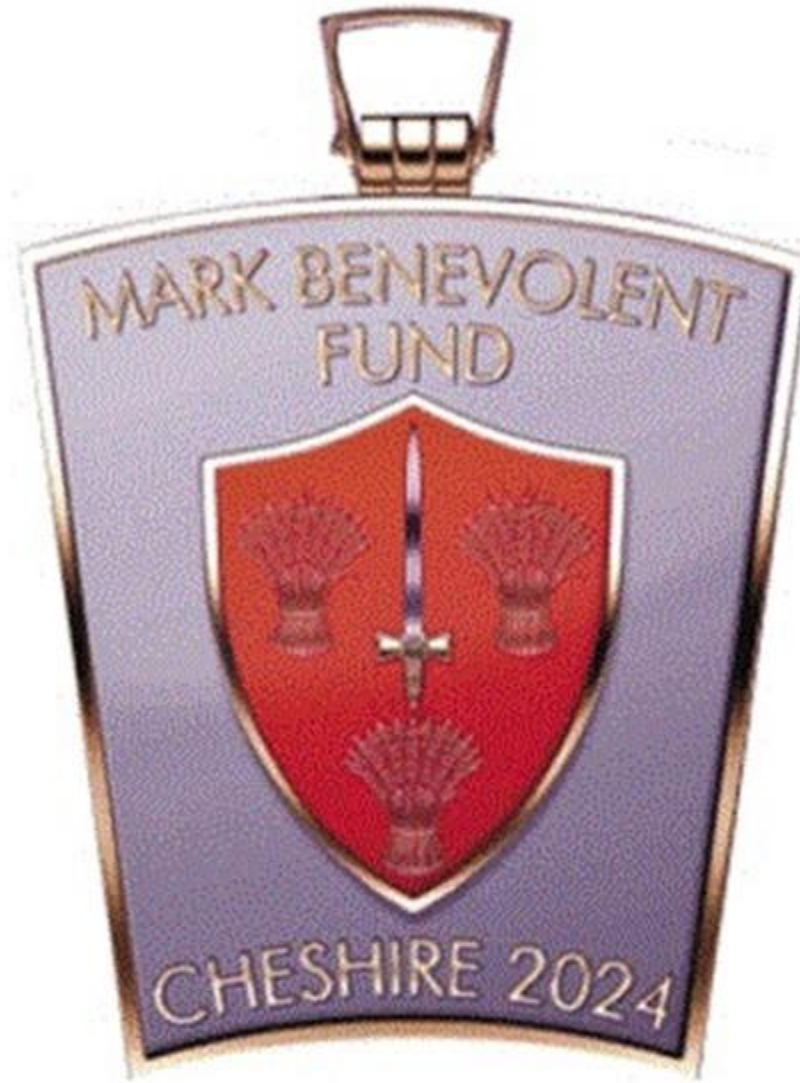


Help with medical costs

- 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/>

- You must contact the MCF before engaging with any consultants or undergoing any private examinations.
- It is very rare that the MCF will take on any retrospective applications for assistance so always check with them first.



156th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Concorde Conference Centre
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham
WA15 8XQ
Saturday, 6 July 2024





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Issued by
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