

2015 - News Update



A warm welcome to our 2015 News update

We hope this newsletter gives you some idea of the range of good causes our charity aims to support.

Our main source of income is the profits distributed by TU Fund Managers Ltd (a unit trust company wholly owned by the Charitable Trust).

This year our Board of Trustees has welcomed two new members, Mike Clancy the General Secretary of Prospect the union and Baroness Margaret Prosser OBE, joining long serving members Lord Christopher CBE, Lord Brookman and Michael Walsh.

As well as the charities featured we have also supported the following organisations this past year:-

Brighton & Hove Parents & Childrens Group, Concern Worldwide, Dogs for the Disabled, Lothian Autistic Society, Medical Aid for Palestinians, Mencap- mid Surrey, Sheila McKechnie Foundation, Yes Outdoors.

Support for local community Foodbanks

Over the past 18 months the TUUT Charitable Trust has worked with various Unions at their annual conferences raising funds to support Foodbanks.

The main objective of all Foodbanks is to put themselves out of business; unfortunately none see it happening soon. We have visited Foodbanks from Plymouth to Glasgow and we have heard for ourselves that the changes to the access into benefits in 2014 saw an increase in users caught between the old and new systems. Those who did not understand how the new system would affect them fell through the cracks and some were left with no income at all for a short time. Referrals come from many sources such as GPs, schools, health visitors, the police and benefits offices.

Foodbanks have also helped those with dependency and many with mental issues. They have helped those physically unable to work - sometimes through ill health, or even a major accident. The elderly suffering through fuel poverty, families where the mother has been physically abused by the father, a mother desperate to afford green vegetables for her son because he had not had any fresh vegetables to eat at home for four months. Whatever the circumstances, it is common to hear of a parent who has gone without food in order to feed their children.

In Glasgow Rev. Barr said "this £4,000 donation will go a long way in helping the hundreds of people in Glasgow who would otherwise go hungry. No one should starve or have to suffer the stress of going without food. I thank you for demonstrating your compassion for our fellow human beings."

In Liverpool Paul Edwards of the local Central Liverpool Foodbank was extremely grateful for the £4,000 of support as food stocks at that time were at the lowest level they had seen since opening over three years ago.

At Croydon Foodbank a cheque of £4,000 was gratefully received by Carmen Elvy and Kingsley Ofori "All donations are gratefully received and go a long way towards restoring dignity and reviving hope within our local community".



A helping hand for Croydon Foodbank

In Nottingham Nigel Webster of the Bulwell & Bestwood Foodbank told us "this funding could not have come at a better time as volunteers were feeling rather dispirited at the imminent loss of their warehouse premises. £4,000 will go a long way to helping us find new storage space"

Upon hearing this, Andy Worth Regional Secretary of the GMB – Midland & East Coast Region offered the support of the GMB to pay for fitting out of the new premises with a cheque for £1,000.



Presentation to Liverpool Central Foodbank



Presentation to Glasgow Foodbank



Supporting Bulwell & Bestwood Foodbank



A registered charity

The support of the TUUT Charitable Trust has been crucial in developing the 'Advice & Advocacy Service' of the 999 Club based in Deptford with a grant spread over four years.

The 999 Club service users, have multiple problems and chaotic lifestyles that can be any combination of being homeless, addicted, mentally vulnerable, offending, abused, isolated and lacking esteem.

Members are suspicious of other adults or institutions, have no or poor literacy, numeracy and IT skills and lack knowledge

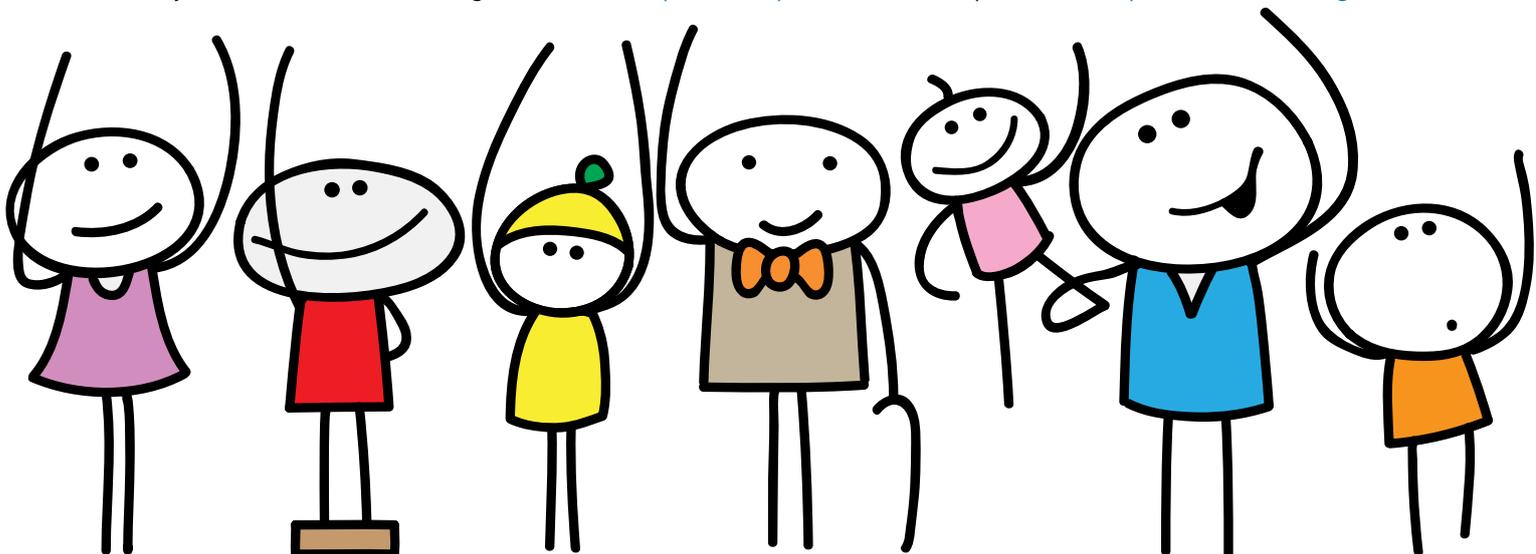
of their rights. They come in crisis, facing eviction and repossession, on benefits sanctions, heavily in debt, desperate and hungry. The recent welfare reforms have only served to exacerbate their problems and their implementation appears designed to trip people up.

Over the past year they have advised over 1,400 people with the following results:-

- 73 Homeless people housed
- 30 eviction prevented
- 15 Home repossessions prevented

- 40 people enabled to manage their debt
- 7 people helped to enter employment
- 207 successful benefit claimants
- 105 Successful appeals of unfavourable benefit decisions
- 304 referrals to other specialist homelessness agencies and healthcare providers
- Numerous referrals to Food Banks

The 999 club are always looking for volunteers, if you can help in any way please contact operations@999club.org



Ashanti Development is a volunteers' charity, set up by Ghanaians living in London, who wanted to do something to improve the lives of people in their home villages. The charity decided to build a technical college to cater for some of the less academic girls. The TUUT Charitable Trust was involved in financing the college's first building and this year has facilitated its fitting out. Dress-making is the first course on offer, but it's hoped that hairdressing and catering can be added later.

Christiana Sarpong's ambition was always to follow in her elder sister's footsteps and become a seamstress. That would be the first step. From there, she dreamed of becoming a successful fashion designer.

"Unfortunately, when I left school the family had no money to pay for me to go to dressmaking college," she says. "They had already spent their savings on my sister. There was nothing for me except to earn my living collecting firewood."

After she had been selling firewood for a few years, Christiana fell in love. She gave birth to three children before the man abandoned her and at that point, everything became much worse. With little help from anyone, Christiana had to support herself and her children. She isn't particularly large or strong, and firewood is only saleable in the market if presented in large bundles of roughly standard size. The standard load was much too heavy for Christiana, and if she had continued this work for a few more years she would have developed severe pains associated with muscular-skeletal compression, which would almost certainly have become crippling in old age.

Largely through the generosity of the TUUT, Christiana's problems have now been resolved. She has enrolled as one of the first students in the new technical



school Ashanti Development has opened in Ghana's Ashanti Region. Her mother has agreed to look after the children while Christiana studies.

I would like to send my thanks to everyone at the TUUT Charitable Trust who helped give me a new life," says Christian, "I wish Ashanti Development would bring them all to Ghana so that I could thank them in person".

www.ashantidevelopment.org.



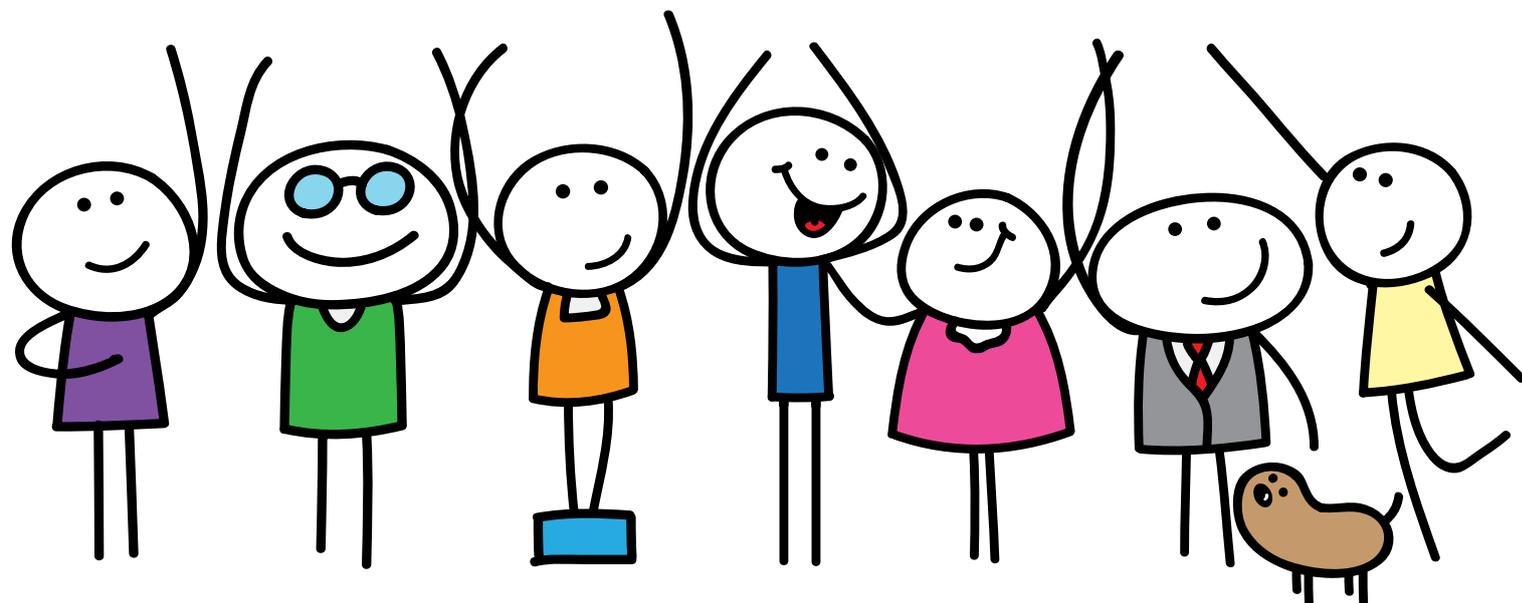
The Karuna Trust - compassion in action

Inspired by Buddhist values, we are a charity working with local community groups to help South Asia's poorest people escape the hell of poverty and discrimination. The donation from the TUUT Charitable Trust helped to fund the Green Tara Foundations empowerment project for marginalised girls. A needs assessment by local project staff had identified discrimination against girls to be a major problem in the area. Parents see no value in educating girls who will traditionally be married off at around 13 or 14. Until that time they are restricted to their homes.

After marriage, they enter their new homes with very low self-esteem and very poor communication skills, and routinely experience domestic abuse.

The project identified five outcomes to be achieved over the next three years:-

- 1,500 girls to attend Life skills classes, increasing their confidence and ability to complete their education to the highest level.
 - 340 girls from the slums who have dropped out of school to receive vocational training enabling them to establish secure livelihoods and access decent jobs.
 - Through nutritional cookery demonstrations, street plays and Haemoglobin check-up camps to decrease the levels of anaemia among adolescent girls leading to a reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality.
 - Run a program of gender awareness raising and sensitisation leading to a reduction in gender inequalities within slum-dwelling communities.
 - Assist 1,000 girls to benefit from educational support classes enabling them to complete their secondary schooling and even access higher education.
- www.karuna.org





The Jan Foundation

The Jan Foundation works in South West Birmingham focusing on equipping and enabling the community to take a major role in tackling one of its most severe problems – Domestic Abuse.

It aims to support people affected by domestic violence, protect children and help parents to create better family environments and futures.

The donation from the TUUT Charitable Trust was used to support the SWEET Project for New Start.

www.janfoundation.co.uk



Giving depth to short lives

React provides basic, essential assistance to terminally ill children throughout the UK whose families are struggling financially. The charity is powered by the belief that every child should have comfort, dignity and the opportunity to participate in life as fully as possible.

Our most recent application for funding to the TUUT Charitable Trust has enabled us to purchase a Masimo portable SATS monitor for the family of two year old Maggie. She is unable to walk or sit unaided and is registered blind, as a result of Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy.



The previous monitor provided by Maggie's local health authority was large, heavy and designed only for use at home. This meant the family was unable to spend extended periods away from home with Maggie as she needs to be monitored regularly in case of an emergency. Unfortunately, though Maggie's father is in employment, they rely on a very limited income and could not cover the cost of a more portable unit.

The new monitor makes it far easier for the family to access the local community with Maggie, visit friends and family as well as tackle the long journeys to hospital appointments.

www.reactcharity.org

LOVE MUSIC HELP MUSICIANS^{UK}

Help Musicians UK is the leading charity for professional musicians of all genres, from starting out to retirement. The TUUT Charitable Trust gave a donation to help the charity's 'Later in Life' project.

The unpredictable nature of many musicians' careers means that retirement is not a fixed point, and it can often be prompted by illness which prevents playing rather than being a timely informed decision. Many performers are unable to save properly for their future – 65% of musicians do not regularly pay into a pension, over double the national average for self-employed people and over three times the figure for all working adults. When health, physical or financial challenges arise for elderly musicians, this can have a drastic impact on their lives.

Sonny (pictured) a conga player, is one of the musicians that has benefited from the donation made by the TUUT Charitable Trust. Sonny is widely respected as one of the world's great conga players and has featured on hit albums by the Rolling Stones and performed, amongst others, with James Brown and J.B.'s. Sonny had a stroke in 2010 which dramatically changed his life. He came to Help Musicians UK in 2013 when he needed some help. Since falling ill, Sonny has limited stamina for playing and was unable to afford to travel to gigs because he finds public transport too exhausting.

The charity provides Sonny with a small quarterly grant payment, which allows him to afford the occasional taxi so he can keep in touch with other musicians. As well as financial help, they visit Sonny so they can hear about his fascinating career and make sure that he is getting the help he needs.

www.helpmusicians.org.uk



Happy Days – helping children with special needs experience what life has to offer

Many of the children we support face early death, sometimes the death of a friend at a special needs school or their own impending death. When you are trying to give children a lifetime of happiness in a few short years, every positive experience is invaluable.

A most welcome donation from the TUUT Charitable Trust gave 44 children and 26 carers from Kent the opportunity to see the pantomime Aladdin at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury in January 2015. A wonderful time was had by all!!

www.happydayscharity.org



The TUUT Charitable Trust
Congress House, Great Russell Street,
London WC1B 3LQ
Tel: 020 7637 7116 · Fax: 020 7637 7087
Email: Stephanie@tufm.co.uk
www.tufm.co.uk

A Registered Charity Number 258665