Mark Benevolent Fund

The Story So Far
Half Year Review
January – June 2026

Fund Activity Summary

£114,624 - Local Community Focus
£25,000 - Humanitarian Aid
£43,700 - Secondary Emergency Services
£25,000 - Cancer Care
£21,492 - Youth Sector
£110,513 - Disability Support Services
£55,474 - Our Own Brethren and their families
£18,324 - GMKF Bursary Scheme
£186,358 - Wheel Chair Rugby Major Initiative





£55,474

to help 13 petitioners

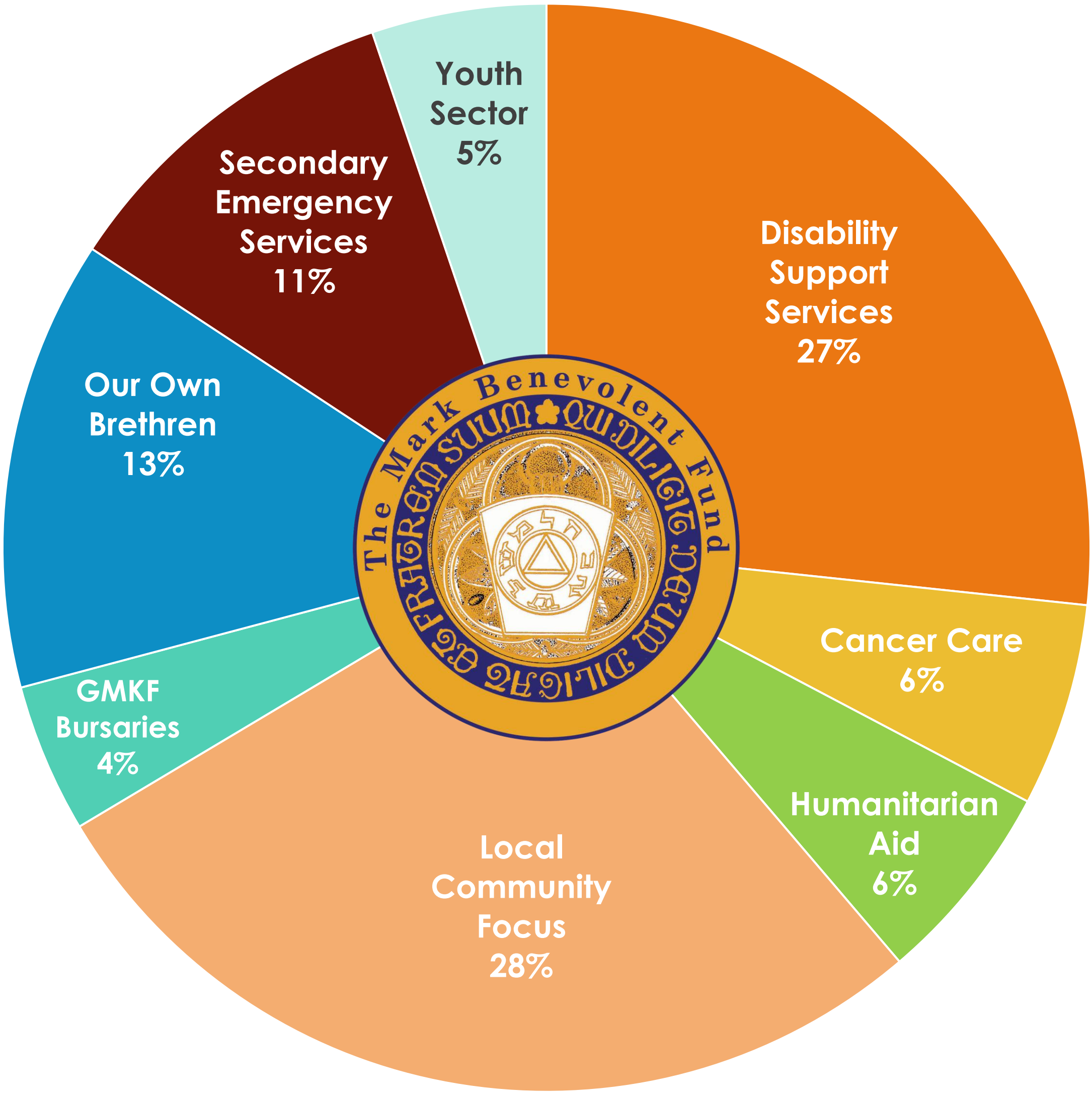
The M.B.F. has assisted our Brethren and their families in need with assistance for rent increases, a walk-in shower, hospital travel costs, repairs to leaking infrastructure and part repayment of a debt that helped put more money back into the household. The M.B.F. can help in many ways. Contact your 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 and home adaptations, your first port of call must be to the Freemasons' Charity to check if they will be able to help you. Contact your Craft Lodge Almoner for further help or the Freemasons' Charity direct either online or by phone.

https://freemasonscharity.org.uk/

Freemasons' Charity

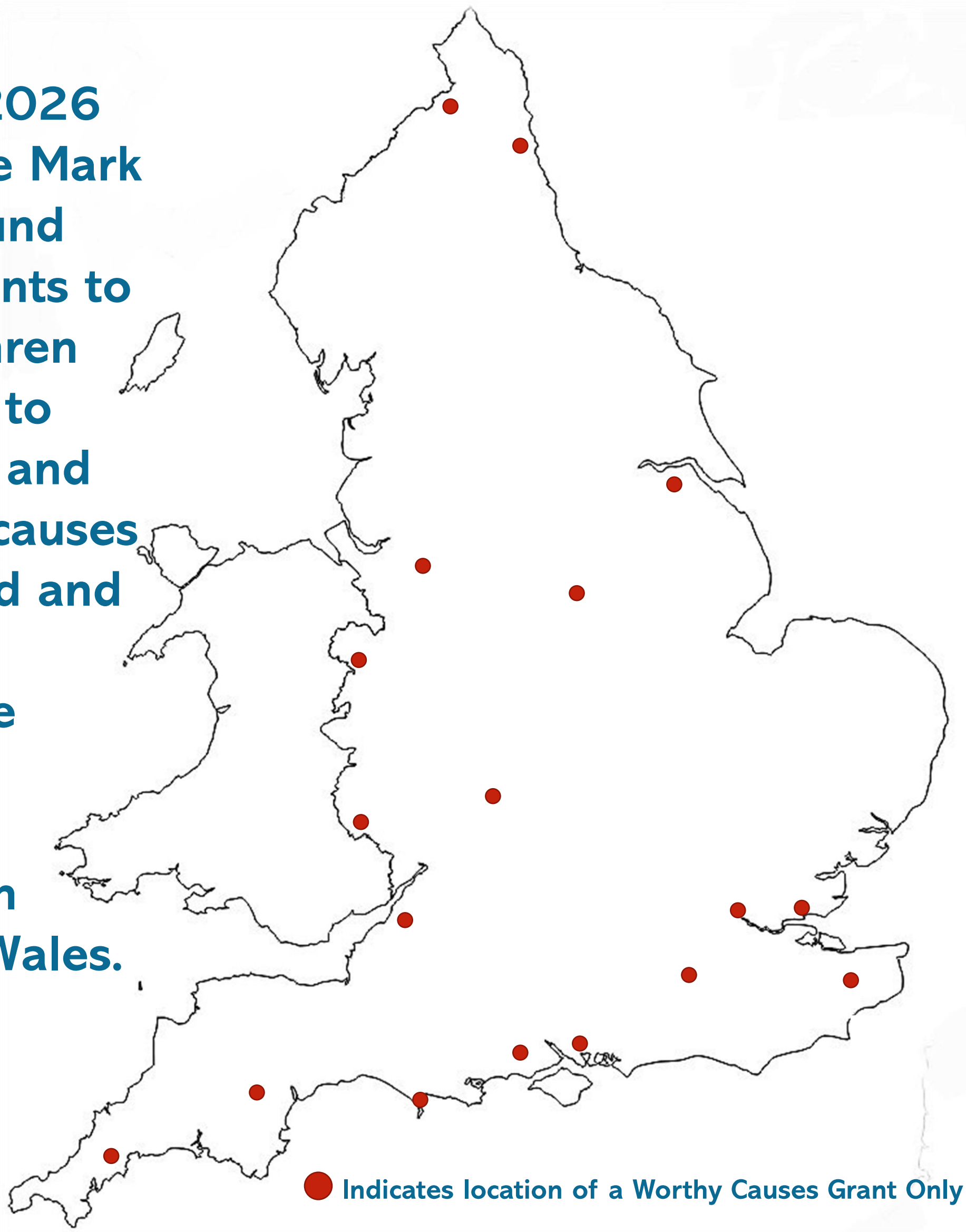
At a Glance…


Youth Sector 5%
Disability Support Services 27%
Secondary Emergency Services 11%
Our Own Brethren 13%
GMKF Bursaries 4%
Cancer Care 6%
Humanitarian Aid 6%
Local Community Focus 28%

£600,485

The story of 2026 so far sees the Mark Benevolent Fund making 13 grants to our own Brethren and 17 grants to local charities and other worthy causes across England and Wales.

14 Grants were made to the Wheelchair Rugby Clubs in England and Wales.



Indicates location of a Worthy Causes Grant Only

KENT NEURO Therapy Centre

£18,159

The Kent Neuro Therapy Centre offers first class facilities to support people affected by MS, Parkinson's and strokes. They also reach out to assist their friends and family who care for them. Funding was needed for urgent repairs to their hydrotherapy pool whereby 75% of the tiles had blown, rendering the pool inoperative and closed until repairs were completed.

VETERANS HUB
Weymouth & Portland CIC

£8,944

The organisation provides support for veterans, serving personnel and their families, to assist in their transition from serving in our armed forces, to coping with civilian life. Special consideration is given to their mental and physical health, employment, housing and financial affairs. Funds were provided for a computerised data recording system so they can store service users' details, actions and activities taken to assist them as well as referrals to other agencies and the outcomes of interactions.

ASHBURTON SWIMMING POOL

£25,000

Ashburton Swimming Pool is a community run open air pool dating from 1936, in the centre of Ashburton on the edge of Dartmoor in Devon. The grant will allow the charity to change the main drains outlets to be compatible with a new liner. This will give the pool another 25-30 years of life serving the residents in the local area.

Plato Trust

£20,000

The grant will assist in the purchase of a multi-purpose van to directly support adults with mental illness by enabling timely move-ins, access to medical appointments, and faster responses to welfare needs.

£3,591

MusicSpace is dedicated to enhancing health and well-being through music therapy, providing vital support for individuals with disabilities, complex health needs, mental health challenges, and life-limiting conditions. The grant purchased musical instruments and equipment for music therapy sessions to be held throughout the region.

£21,533

This centre based in Openshaw, Manchester needed a replacement adapted minibus to replace a failing one. Funding cuts from the government and NHS have meant that reserves could not be used and have reduced access to members.

£25,000

Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team provides a vital life-saving, emergency search and rescue service across the whole of the Northumbria Police area. This grant will go towards the replacement of a 10-year-old Land rover, with a specially converted Iveco Daily 4x4 Van.



Lily

"The whole family are thrilled and grateful for the financial help."

"My thanks and deepest appreciation for your support. This award will enable me to achieve my Master's qualification and provide tools to enhance my skills and improve my professional development."



Scarlette

"I am extremely grateful for the award. It is going to make such a positive difference on my studies and overall wellbeing while living in Swansea."

"I am truly honoured and deeply grateful to the Awards Panel of the GMKF, for their generous decision to grant me this award. It will make a very real difference."



Shaun

"We are so appreciative and it will really help out."

"I just want to express how thankful I am for this opportunity. The financial assistance is very much appreciated."



Frankie

GBWR
Wheelchair Rugby
Major Grant Initiative

£827,707
To Date

supportdogs
For Autism, For Epilepsy, For Disability

£26,147

This charity provides life changing support for children and adults affected by epilepsy, autism and physical disabilities.

Funding goes towards a Community Training Arena and Education Rooms which is part of an ambitious project to develop a new national centre for Support Dogs in Sheffield.

£18,700

This grant has purchased a "Zoll" critical care monitor and defibrillator. The equipment will be used for the critical care of infants, children and adults both on the ground and when on board the helicopter.



The Royal National College for the Blind

£28,892

The Royal National College for the Blind is a co-educational specialist residential college of further education based in the city of Hereford. They are the UK's leading college for further education and training for the visually impaired. This grant has part funded a new 9-seater accessible minibus to replace an older vehicle that has seen better days.

£9,702

Formed in 1976, Kathleen Davis Stage School has developed from a successful dancing school into a highly reputable centre for the performing arts, covering all forms of training connected with professional theatre, such as dance, drama, singing and musical theatre. The grant has purchased a portable performance stage and dedicated performance area within the studios in Sunderland.

£26,000

Canvey Island Transport Museum is operated by Castle Point Transport Museum Society. Funding goes towards a wheelchair accessible stairlift and staircase. As part of a major project to create better access to the museum.

£7,000

This grant will supply seven hundred pairs of new school shoes to children whose families are struggling with the cost of living. They will be distributed through the network of fifteen Sal's Shoe Shops, which are embedded within established community hubs in areas of high deprivation, from Plymouth to Greater Manchester, London to Peterborough.

ShelterBox £25,000

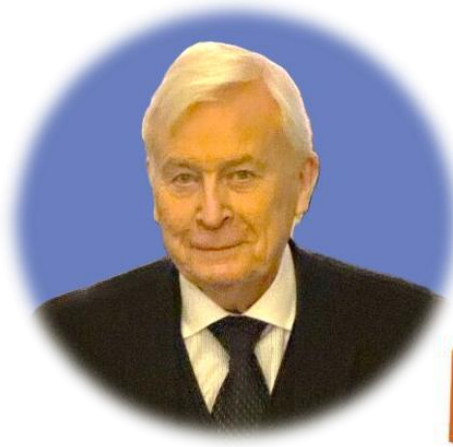
This Emergency Grant was made in response to the devasting earthquake in Venezuela. ShelterBox continues to be our preferred partner to act towards the relief of suffering of natural disasters and other events.

£39,871

Southall School in Telford needed to replace its minibus. The vehicle will enable the pupils to take part in offsite activities, allow greater inclusion and improve attendance.

£25,000

The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund made this award to the Maggie's Cancer Charity at their centre based in Southampton. This is an organisation that was very dear to our late Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, his wife, Kay and their family.



MAGGIE'S
Everyone's home of cancer care

Scouts
North Lincolnshire

£11,790

This Scout unit desperately needed to install two additional toilet units at the opposite end of their camp site to improve accessibility, dignity and overall site functionality. The M.B.F. made this possible.



MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

2027

159th M.B.F. Festival Banquet

will be held at the

Aloft Birmingham Eastside Hotel

Woodcock Street,

Birmingham B7 4BL

Saturday, 3 July 2027

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

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Issued by
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