



PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 20 January 2020

NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP / GANNETT FOUNDATION UK GRANTS 2019/2020

Newsquest, the leading local media group, has announced donations of more than £140,000 to 40 different community organisations across the length and breadth of the UK.

The awards are made through the Gannett Foundation UK which every year supports charitable community projects all over the country, from Scotland and Northern Ireland to London and the West Country. The trustees have now completed their annual task of working through a stack of deserving applications submitted through Newsquest's 200 news titles and magazines. Decisions are made entirely on merit and the extent to which the trustees think an award will deliver a real and lasting practical benefit to the communities served by those print and online services.

Challenging social problems affecting many of our towns and cities have been reflected in some of the successful applications. The trustees were particularly impressed by a project in Bournemouth, Dorset, intended to fill the hole left by the decimation of town centre retailing with opportunities for disadvantaged local youth. "Creative Kids" already runs arts activities in one empty unit in a shopping centre in Boscombe and is moving into another where they are creating a community cinema. The trustees are paying for the projector, screen and theatre curtains they need to get started.

Chairman of the trustees, Simon Westrop, said: "It really is a pleasure for us to find and help people who are giving up their own free time to help others in inventive ways that answer very specific local needs in the community, because this is where our newspapers are too and we want to support what is good about the places we live in and make them even better if we can."

In Newport, South Wales, a charity called "Amazing Grace Spaces" offers accommodation for homeless women, and the trustees have awarded them funds to buy bedroom furniture. Over in Wiltshire, the town of Salisbury is noted for the grandeur of its cathedral rather than the blight of poverty, but look more closely and a slightly different picture emerges. Funds are also going to furnish a house run by Salisbury Trust for the Homeless.

The hospice movement rarely misses out in the annual round of awards. This time money is granted to hospices in Workington, Cumbria and Renfrewshire in Scotland.

Another theme that tends to repeat itself in succeeding years focuses on community construction projects, typically involving gardens or historical structures revived and brought back into recreational use. Grants are being made to a project restoring the Montgomery Canal in North Wales and a similar canal project based in Stroud in the Cotswolds. And then there are the Erlas Victorian Gardens in Wrexham, North Wales, bringing activities for disabled volunteers, fruit and vegetables for sale and a delightful place to visit for the general public. In Glasgow and the Isle of Wight grants from the trustees will help turn unused spaces into flourishing gardens for the pleasure of local residents.

And children too are being encouraged into more challenging outdoor adventures. Thanks to money from Newsquest, youngsters are now better equipped to go sailing on the River Stour in Essex, and girl guides in Surrey will find their campsite lodge in the woods a lot more comfortable with its new boiler and heating.

Many more grants were given across the UK for a wide variety of good causes, including support for the disabled, the elderly and those just down on their luck. A full list of grants is attached.

If your application missed out in 2019, you can try again later this year. Awards are made on merit and applications are invited by advertisement in your local Newsquest Media Group newspaper in print or online from the end of July. Look out for the notices.

The Gannett Foundation UK, which makes the grants, retains a modest reserve to cater for urgent applications in cases of real need until the next round of awards are made in December 2020. Such ad hoc applications can be made through any local Newsquest Media Group editor.

Special awards went to a number of charities connected with the news industry. The trustees gave £10,000 each to the Journalists Charity (for journalists or former journalists in need), the Journalism Diversity Fund administered by the National Council for the Training of Journalists, and the Newstraid Benevolent Fund (for people from retailing and distribution businesses who have fallen on hard times).

Simon Westrop, said: “If your application did not succeed this time, please don’t be discouraged.

“Bear in mind that most of the successful applications are not necessarily big projects or headline-grabbers, but rather smaller ones that meet a particular need and instantly improve daily life. For instance, that new fridge or kettle the community centre has been wanting for ages. So think practically.

“Look out in your local Newsquest title, in the newspaper or on the website, for the announcement of the next annual round of Gannett Foundation UK grants sometime in the summer. “

Name of Organisation	Region	Request summary	Amount awarded
21st Warrington West Scout Group	Warrington, North West	To be a disabled access ramp to improve access to the Scout hut.	2500
Age Concern Southend	Southend, Essex	For activity equipment and art supplies for a new dementia day care centre at The Haven Older People’s Community Hub.	1200
Age UK Enfield	Enfield, North London	An interactive whiteboard for activities for people with dementia and their carers at a day care centre.	6550

Amazing Grace Spaces	Newport, Wales	To purchase bedroom furniture at a centre providing short term accommodation for homeless women.	3560
Bradford Thorpe Edge Community Project	Bradford, Yorkshire	To develop a 'Roots and Fruits' Community Garden project within a housing estate in North East Bradford.	4400
Butterwick Hospice Care	Stockton-on-Tees, North East	To purchase a floor based mobile hoist for use throughout a hospice in Stockton that allows the comfortable movement of patients.	3000
Carlisle Mencap	Carlisle, Cumbria	To purchase sensory equipment at a charity working for people with learning difficulties.	4360
Community Solutions North West	Blackburn, Lancashire	To renovate part of Elmfield Hall to bring it into community use.	4500
Cotswold Canals Trust	Stroud, Gloucestershire	Contribution to purchase of heavy duty lifting and tractor vehicle for help with canal digging, restoration, lock building and bridge construction.	2500
Creative Kids	Bournemouth, Dorset	To transform a former empty shop unit into an art gallery and community cinema.	3500
Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres	Reading, Berkshire	Towards improvements to a sensory room and outside play area at a centre for children aged up to 5 years old who have special educational needs.	4410
ECHO Hereford	Hereford	Towards equipment and furniture at a centre for people with additional support needs	2500
Erlas Victoria Walled Garden	Wrexham, North Wales	To purchase a defibrillator and other equipment for people with disabilities at a restored walled garden.	1170
Essex Basis	Basildon, Essex	Towards equipment, fixtures and fittings for an accessible kitchen at a resource centre supporting visually impaired adults.	5200
Friends of Appleford	Salisbury, Wiltshire	Towards a wooden forest gazebo for children with special needs to participate in forest school and play.	4850
Girlguiding Epsom Division	West Ewell, Surrey	To install radiators and a boiler at a campsite lodge for girl guides.	5500

Herts Inclusive Theatre	Watford, Hertfordshire	To purchase a new PA system.	380
Hospice at Home West Cumbria	Workington, West Cumbria	Towards internal alterations to the ground floor to create a drop-in hub for parents and families to receive support and information.	8710
Learn to Love to Read	South West London	Towards books to encourage reading among primary schoolchildren in South West London.	2400
Learning Through Horses	North London	Lightweight jump poles and horse agility equipment at a charity providing an alternative education programme for children, centred on horse care.	1100
Montgomery Canal	North Wales	To construct a stairway as part of a bridge reconstruction project on Montgomery Canal at Llanymynech.	2000
Oasis Down to Earth Farm	Southampton, Hampshire	To purchase personal protective equipment, garden equipment and farming equipment for running daily education sessions at a community farm.	2000
Oldham Sea Cadet Corps	Oldham, Cheshire	Towards ICT equipment including a server and PCs.	2470
Pan Together	Isle of Wight	To convert an outdoor space into a garden for local residents.	3180
Playskill	Watford, Hertfordshire	To purchase specialist therapy equipment to be used by disabled children for developing fundamental life skills.	2280
Prout Bridge Project	Beaminster, West Dorset	Towards digital sound equipment for a youth band.	2000
Salisbury Trust for the Homeless	Salisbury, Wiltshire	To furnish a house for homeless people with white goods, bedroom furniture, kitchen supplies and communal area furniture.	3240
Sight Advice South Lakes	Kendal, Cumbria	To purchase a Synapptic TV box and an Orcam My Eye for use in a resource centre for people with visual impairment.	2080
St Vincent's Hospice	Renfrewshire, Scotland	Towards kitchen equipment at a hospice.	3140
Stour Blue Water Pass	Manningtree, Essex	Towards dinghies and storage racks for delivering sail training	2950

		sessions to young people on the River Stour.	
Trafford Domestic Abuse Services	Old Trafford, Manchester	To provide starter/welcome packs to families/single people moving into refuge accommodation due to domestic abuse.	3500
Trowbridge Community Area Future	Trowbridge, Wiltshire	To purchase a publicly accessible community fridge at a community hub for distributing donated food.	1350
Tynedale Talking Newspapers	Hexham, Northumberland	Towards purchasing memory stick players at a charity providing access to audible newspapers for the blind and partially sighted.	1140
Unity Enterprise	Glasgow, Scotland	Towards equipment for transforming unused green spaces into gardens for people with learning disabilities and the local community.	3490
Watford Workshop	Watford, Hertfordshire	To purchase ergonomic chairs and foot-rests for adults with disabilities.	2560
Winchester Go LD	Winchester, Hampshire	To purchase a new printer at a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities.	500

SPECIAL AWARDS

Journalists Charity	To help journalists in need	110170
Journalism Diversity Fund administered by the National Council for the Training of Journalists	For the education and training purposes	10000
Newstraid Benevolent Fund	For the welfare of those who are, or have been, employed in the distribution, wholesale and retail of newspapers and magazines in the UK.	10000

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