



WE HAVE HELPED

Wednesday's Child specializes in finding and helping small local projects for children and young people in need; typically these projects are well worthy of support but may lack adequate funding or the resources for their own effective fund-raising. They are projects where Wednesday's Child is able to "make a difference".

We have supported projects which help

- **abused and/or psychologically damaged children**
- **bereaved children**
- **brain-damaged children**
- **disabled children and young people**
- **children whose education is affected by deprivation**
- **children from families infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS**
- **children of homeless families**
- **children of immigrant or refugee families**
- **children of impoverished or inadequate families**
- **children and young people with learning difficulties and special needs**
- **children with a parent in prison**
- **children separated from one or both parents**
- **severely disturbed and disabled children**
- **sick children**
- **specialist schools for severely disabled children**
- **terminally-ill children**
- **young people at risk from bullying, truancy or exclusion from school**
- **young people who have run away from home and are at risk of exposure to drugs and crime**

For abused and/or psychologically damaged children

- **£13,300** over a period of 10 years to the **Tavistock Clinic** to fund escorts and transport, enabling children suffering from severe psychological damage (as a result of trauma, abuse, rape, violence, etc) to attend regular therapy
- **£1500** to the **St Christopher's Fellowship** residential therapeutic project **Howard House**, for the purchase of equipment for use with severely damaged and disturbed children
- **£1200** to **St Pauls NEWPIN** for soft play equipment for use in a special play room for young children needing to release anger and tension
- **£1000** to **The Caspari Foundation**, an educational charity based near the Angel, Islington, which provides individual therapy for children - typically aged 6–12 - with complex emotional and behavioural difficulties as a result of acute family problems
- **£1000** to the **Monroe Young Family Centre** providing assessment and treatment for children under 5 where serious abuse and neglect, often from members of the family, are suspected
- **£500** for **The Place To Be** in a school in Kentish Town, a project which provides emotional and therapeutic support to children in primary schools
- **£250** to **Gloucester House**, the Tavistock Clinic Day Centre, to fund outings for disturbed children

For bereaved children

- **£1000** to **Open Door**, a specialist counselling service in Crouch End for young people aged 13 - 25 who have difficulty coping with severe loss
- **£500** towards equipment for a new children's playroom at **St John's Hospice**, NW8, where the average age of patients is 45, bringing the Hospice into contact with a large number of bereaved children

For brain-damaged children

- **£2000** to **Brainwave** for the individual re-habilitation and development of two London children suffering from cerebral palsy as a result of brain damage at birth
- **£1750** to the **Bobath Centre** in East Finchley which specializes in the treatment of children with cerebral palsy; £250 to buy specialist nursery equipment for young children needing physical support to sit upright, and £1500 for equipment for treatment sessions which develop co-ordination and increase independence

For disabled children and young people

- **£2500** to **The Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre** providing riding for disabled children; the centre caters for children from deprived backgrounds as well as regularly using help from young people with learning difficulties
- **£1000** to **Kith & Kids**, a project which uses volunteers to befriend disabled young people who have difficulty coping with the mundane practicalities of everyday life which the able-bodied take for granted - such as travelling on public transport; they also accompany them on outings or encourage art and drama activities
- **£806** for equipment to **Kidsactive**, a project promoting play facilities for children with disabilities and special needs. Their disabled children's Playspace in W10 has been integrated with the adjacent Acklam Adventure playground to form the first fully-integrated disabled/able-bodied playcentre in the UK

For children whose education is affected by deprivation

- **£2000** to the **Kingsmead Kabin** Homework Club for books and equipment for an educational project on a housing estate in Hackney, where 51% of the children are from families affected by unemployment and long-term illness, and 59% from single-parent families
- **£1600** to **Emmanuel CE Primary School**, where children are drawn from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, 30% qualifying for free school meals. Children of the poorest families are disadvantaged by their parents not being able to afford basic requirements such as uniform or school trips
- **£1675** to **Out of School**, one of the earliest organisations to advise after-school care schemes for "latchkey" children
- **£1500** to **Coram Family's Educational Support Service**, a project working from a housing estate in NW1 which offers practical help to young people leaving care. Many have had disrupted educational experiences so that at 16 their literacy and numeracy levels are poor; the project offers one-to-one teaching of basic skills
- **£2853** to the **Winchester Project**, an After School Club project serving deprived children living in the tower blocks round Swiss Cottage. £353 went to a motorbike project, £500 to stock a library of story books for 6 - 11 year olds and £2000 towards costs of a Holiday Playscheme

For children from families infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS virus

- **£5000** to **Centrepeace** in Kentish Town, to provide kickstart funds one year and then further support the following year for a summer play-scheme for local children, all of whom have had a close family member infected with HIV/AIDS. Many had already lost parents or siblings and the playscheme offered brief periods of normal, carefree childhood play and activities
- **£2000** to **Body and Soul** for equipment for their children's centre which employs professional workers with particular experience of working with children who are HIV/AIDS positive or have an infected family member, and a contribution to costs of the Summer Playscheme
- **£1210** to the **Coram Adoption Service**, **£1210** for the purchase of a computer to help place children orphaned by HIV/AIDS for adoption or fostering
- **£500** to **Food Chain** for special Christmas food for children from a Food Kitchen in Kentish Town which sends weekly hot meals to families suffering from HIV/AIDS

For children of homeless families

- **£4865** to **CARIS Haringey's** Homeless Families project in Haringey, where more than 4,500 homeless households live in temporary accommodation; the project supports asylum seekers and refugees from countries such as Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo and Somalia, housed in hostel accommodation. The **Mobile Toy Library** lends educational toys and bi-lingual books to pre-school age children, to prepare them for integration into the school system; **Summer Playschemes** provide a range of play and educational activities
- **£1000** to **Doorstep**, a project in the basement of one of Camden's largest hostels for homeless families, offering practical support such as children's play sessions, creches and advice to families under considerable pressure

For children of immigrant or refugee families

- **£7575** to **Volunteer Reading Help** – volunteers are recruited to give reading help in primary schools, especially in deprived areas where many children come from immigrant families; many of these children do not have English as their first language and can be isolated and made vulnerable by low literacy skills
- **£3150** to **Home-Start Camden** for training volunteers who offer friendship and regular support to needy families with young children, such as single-parent refugee families arriving in the UK to escape a civil war in which they may have lost many of their relatives
- **£2000** to **The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture**; with many refugees entering this country to escape torture a number of very vulnerable people have come into the UK – this grant helped to cover the travel costs of destitute young people attending the new centre in Finsbury Park for regular help
- **£1070** to buy musical instruments for the music department at **Quintin Kynaston School**, a maintained sector secondary school in Swiss Cottage with a high proportion of low-income immigrant families, to encourage the inclusive experience of musical ensemble playing
- **£500** to **HMP Feltham: Young Offenders' Institution** for young men aged 15 to 21, dealing with foreign nationals from about 40 different countries. This grant provided new foreign language books as a project resource for young offenders in the Induction cells where inmates spent their first few nights

For children of impoverished or inadequate families

- **£4070** to **School Home Liaison** – to establish a contingency fund to provide basic necessities (eg shoes) for impoverished families unable to find a way out of their difficulties
- **£3250** to equipment for **Kingsmead Kabin**, on one of the most rundown housing estates in Hackney with a reputation for vandalism, crime, drug dealing, burglaries and mugging. The self-help Kabin project runs a parent and toddler group, a toy library and a children's clothing shop
- **£3000** to the **Welcare Accord Centre** for their **Toddledum project**, providing focused support for vulnerable and inadequate families with pre-school children - predominantly single-parent families, many from racial minorities, who live in communities where there are high rates of domestic violence, drug abuse and mental health problems
- **£1500** to **Elfrida Rathbone Camden** – for a Mother & Baby parenting course in Kentish Town for young and insecure mothers
- **£450** to **Thrive** – for a summer holiday workshop scheme in a community garden near a tower block estate in Hackney
- **£250** to the **Children's Country Holiday Fund**, organising country and seaside holidays for inner-city children who would otherwise never go on holiday

For children and young people with learning difficulties and special needs

- **£3810** to the **Leighton Project of Elfrida Rathbone Camden** to purchase a computer and support for young people handicapped by learning difficulties
- **£1490** to **Parents & Co (Elfrida Rathbone Camden)** towards a toy library and playscheme expenses for disadvantaged (mainly ethnic minority) families who have young children with learning difficulties
- **£530** to **Action for Kids** – to provide 10 sessions of work experience for young people aged 15/16 with special needs
- **£500** for specialised toys for **Kids**, working with children with learning difficulties due to eg Downs syndrome, autism, spina bifida and hydrocephalus

For children with a parent in prison

- **£1200** to refurbish a welcoming children's play area (named "Wednesday's Child corner") in the visiting hall at **HMP Pentonville**.
- **£1500** towards the expenses of an "All Day Visits" scheme at **HMP Holloway** so that women in the prison can regularly spend several hours with their children
- **£1050** to the **Prisoners' Wives and Families Society** for their Hardship Fund to help children whose fathers are serving long-term prison sentences

For children separated from one or both parents

- **£12,000** to the **Welcare Accord Centre** in Kilburn, working with families where breakdown has been due to domestic violence, drug/alcohol abuse, mental health problems or religious differences. This is one of very few secure contact centres in the UK and deals with complex cases. Grants have been applied to expert training for staff working with families whose difficulties are so extreme that it is unlikely they will ever be able to have unsupervised contact
- **£2500** to **Coram Family**: £1750 for garden play furniture, and for re-stocking the play equipment and purchasing some musical instruments, for their **Meeting Place**, which provides a safe contact area for children and other family members; also £750 to **Coram Adoption Service** for staff training on the subject of abuse
- **£600** to the **Post-Adoption society**

For severely disturbed and disabled children

- **£1800** to the **East Side Educational Trust** to fund a storyteller during the summer holidays for severely disabled children being treated at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
- **£1500** for recording equipment for the **Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre** - an innovative therapeutic project in NW5 which uses music to communicate with severely disabled children. Many are unable to speak and music can offer them their first means of communication with the outside world

For sick children

- **£2500** to the **Theodora Children's Trust** to fund visits by **Clown Doctors** to local hospitals, bringing laughter and fun (which have a positive impact on recovery and rehabilitation) to 300 – 400 children and their families
- **Donations** to the **Antony Nolan Bone Marrow Fund (£100)**, the **Child Leukaemia Trust (£750)**, **Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (£200)**, the **Royal Free Hospital Paediatric Dept (£575)** and the **Royal London Hospital Children's Unit (£445)**
- **£1049** to the **Neonatal Unit** at the **Whittington Hospital**, to purchase equipment for vulnerable babies in the neo-natal unit, of which a significant number are born of mothers who have a drug addiction; these babies can suffer withdrawal symptoms for up to six months and require considerable attention

For specialist schools for severely disabled children

- **£5500** to **TreeHouse Trust** – a flagship school for autistic children. This grant bought classroom resources and outdoor play equipment for children with severe autism and communication disorders, £1000 of which was for musical instruments and puppets to stimulate interaction with others.
- **£2000** to **Jack Taylor School** – a contribution to a hydrotherapy pool fund for another unusual and stimulating specialist school in Swiss Cottage (the only school in Camden for children with severe or profound multiple learning difficulties)
- **£2000** to **Swiss Cottage School** for equipment for a multi-sensory room for children in this excellent Camden specialist school for children with learning difficulties and a variety of special needs

- **£1486** for **Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children** to provide a hi-fi system for a vibro-tactile floor in the new sensory room. This inspirational primary school in Swiss Cottage is bilingual, using both English and British Sign Language; it follows the mainstream curriculum, but also provides speech and language therapy for its profoundly deaf pupils

For terminally-ill children

- **£2150** for **Jessie's Fund at Richard House**, the only children's hospice in London, to purchase musical instruments and fund a training day for the care team. Jessie's Fund was set up by two musicians in memory of their daughter who died of a brain tumour at the age of nine: it aims to provide music therapy to all children's hospices in the UK
- **£250** to the **Children's Hospice in the Eastern Region**

For young people at risk from bullying, truancy or exclusion from school

- **£12,500** to **Youth At Risk**. This organisation helps some of the most damaged and difficult young people in the UK. Its *Coaching for Success* programme has been designed for schools where some of the pupils are significantly underachieving - because of truanting and involvement in violence and street crime. £3000 went to the scheme in Holloway School, N7, and £9500 to another project at the Phoenix School in west London
- **£5040** to **Gospel Oak Action Link**, part towards funding a residential course at an activity centre for a challenging group of children, many of whom were playing truant or excluded from school; and part to fund additional hours allowing youth workers to focus on work with a group of youths on the Gospel Oak Estate who are excluded from school and have a history of involvement in violent incidents and drug trafficking
- **£1490** to **The Fairbridge Society** to fund two residential adventure courses at one of its special centres, offering challenging developmental opportunities to disadvantaged young people

For young people who have run away from home and are at risk of exposure to the drugs and crime culture on London streets

- **£8000** to **St Martin of Tours** – for equipment in a unit for homeless and vulnerable youths aged 16 to 17 who need some level of mental health support, the unit offering temporary housing and on-site assistance with future training for employment; for equipment in a short-stay housing project in Islington for young teenage mothers, many of whom have little or no support from ex-partners or families; for further equipment for short-stay crisis homes for young women aged 16-17 who are sleeping rough as a consequence of escaping sexual abuse, often from near relatives
- **£5000** to **New Horizon Youth Centre** – to provide food for the Centre (which provides shelter and hostel accommodation) and also equipment for a new music project, to engage and motivate vulnerable young people found on streets around Kings Cross and other areas of central London
- **£1500** to **Centrepoint** for their Berwick Street Shelter in Central London, to train volunteers who offer short-term shelter and hot food to homeless young people

For further information about the projects supported

email us at goodworks@wednesdayschild.org.uk