



Mark

Benevolent

Fund

Q2 Review

April – June 2023



Fund Activity Summary

£46,945 - Local Community

£17,100 - Individuals

£20,000 - Humanitarian Aid

£8,000 - Secondary Emergency Services

£39,636 - Youth Sector

81%

of funds went to applications directly initiated by our Provinces

19%

of funds went to direct applications from charities



At a Glance...

**Our own members
and their families**

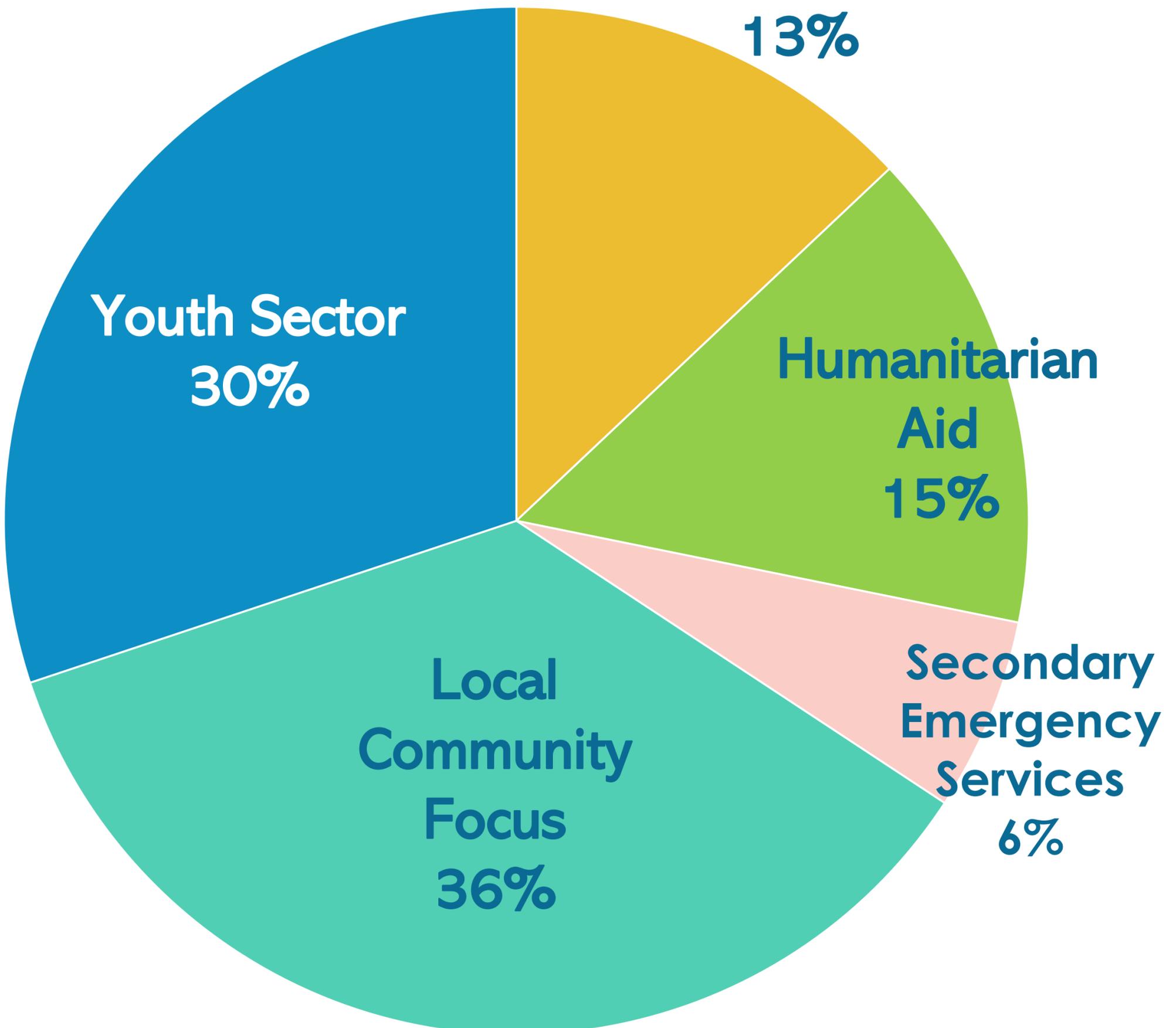
13%

**Youth Sector
30%**

**Humanitarian
Aid
15%**

**Local
Community
Focus
36%**

**Secondary
Emergency
Services
6%**

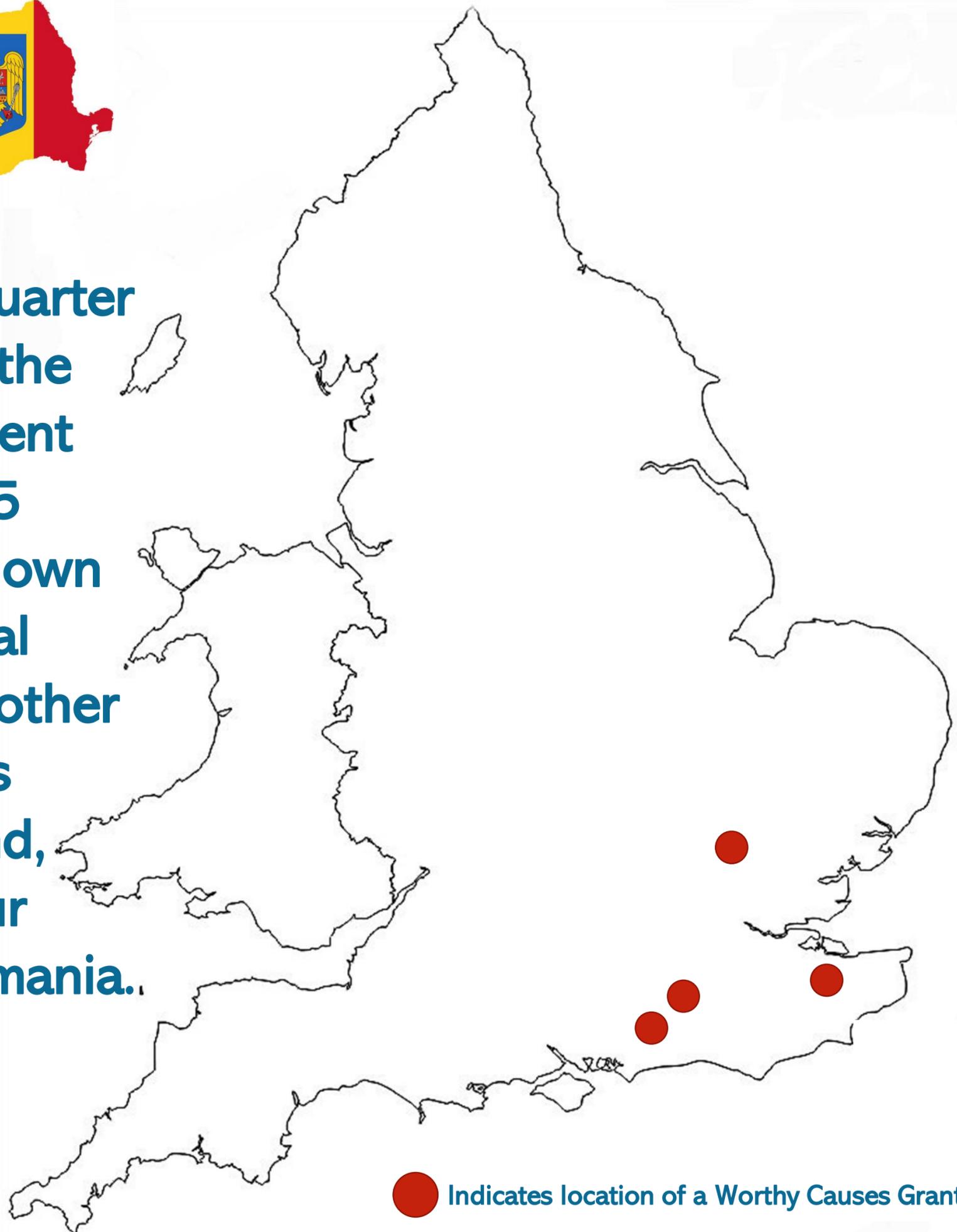




£131,681



The second quarter of 2023 saw the Mark Benevolent Fund make 15 grants to our own members, local charities and other worthy causes across England, Wales, and our District in Romania.

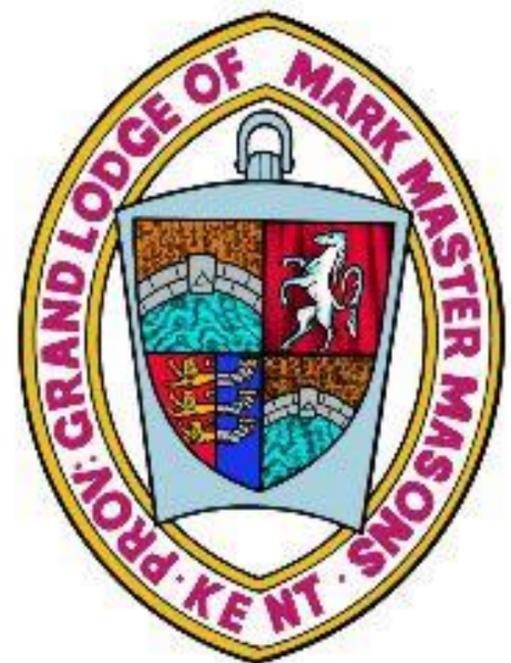


 Indicates location of a Worthy Causes Grant



£39,636

This scout group based in Wallington has over 80 members and the group needed to upgrade its ailing 18 year old minibus and trailer. The youngsters will benefit from new modern and reliable transport that complies with the current ULEZ legislation. They will be safe in the knowledge that the minibus will get them where they need to be with the minimum of fuss.



£45,582

The Canterbury Umbrella Centre is an important social support centre for adults with mental health and learning difficulties, and giving help and support to those who feel isolated in the community. Urgent repair were needed to facilities at the centre and funds have been made available to completely refurbish the kitchen and toilets.



The Therapy Garden

£1,363

The Normandy Community Therapy Garden is a horticulture and education charity, working to have a positive and significant impact on the lives of people facing challenges in life. Whether by giving a sense of purpose to children with special needs or by reducing the isolation of a young person living with autism or someone older living with dementia. The Therapy Garden changes lives for the better by creating a safe place to enjoy the power of gardening and to connect with nature. They have a 'Field to Fork' ethos where members can grow fruit and vegetables on a 2-acre site and then cooked in the centre building to produce delicious meals and treats for them to enjoy. Funds have been made available for new kitchen equipment to give a better experience for its patrons.



St John Ambulance



£8,000

The Province of Hertfordshire have been working hard since last November to raise funds for a specially designed vehicle with four-wheel drive so most outdoor locations can be reached. 'The Community Support Unit' will contain facilities essential to enable rapid and safe response to an emergency. As well as being just right for the job, it means they will be able to 'retire' a number of older and less suitable ambulances from their fleet. This fully equipped Support Unit costs £65,000 and the Province raised a magnificent £57,000 for the project. The Trustees of the MBF were happy to make up the difference.



£20,000

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.



Sweetpea SMALL HOLDINGS



Down on the farm with the Sweetpea Small Holdings Charity

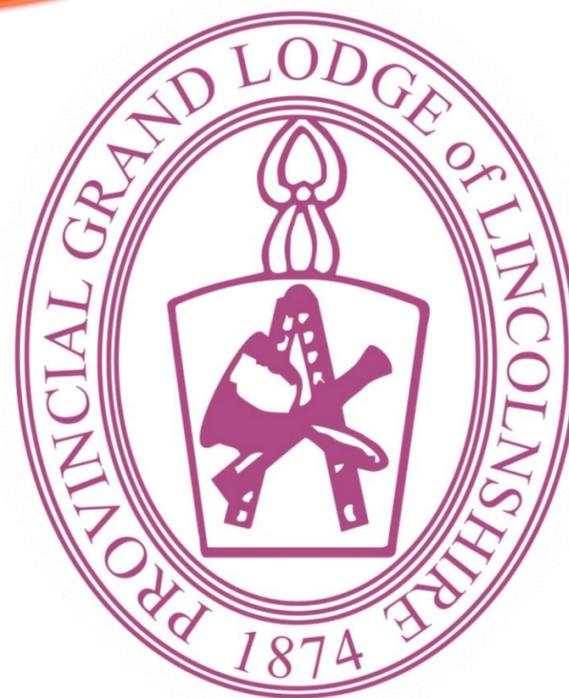
Nestled in the rolling hills of Devon just outside of Exeter sits a sleepy parish that is home to the Sweetpea Small Holdings charity and its new site at Winkleigh Farm. A grant from the MBF of £1,871 has enabled the charity to begin work at the farm site giving more space for producing fruit and vegetables that will be donated to foodbanks across the area. The founder of the charity, Mike Baker, said they grant would be invaluable to such a small organisation. The funds have already enabled them to purchase a poly tunnel to help protect vulnerable plants and to construct raised beds to help give disabled volunteers better access. They have eleven volunteers at the moment with a huge bank just waiting to visit the site and help out once the site is confirmed as safe for disabled access.

During the growing season in 2022 the charity was astounded to have produced over 1.5 tonnes of produce, all going to local good causes, hence the need for expansion. Another example of a small charity doing great things in their community.

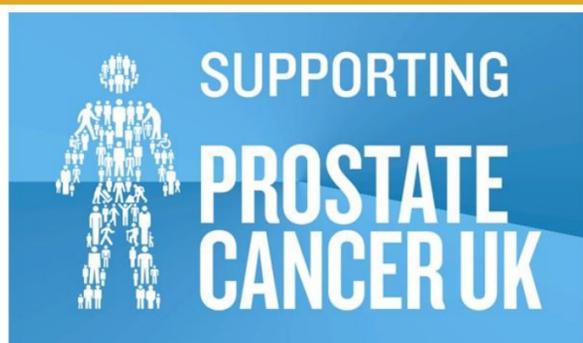
Mike Baker was joined by the Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire, R.W.Bro. David Purdie, W.Bro. Chris Elliott, P.A.G.D.C., Provincial Grand Secretary, Mark Masons' Hall's Charities Manager & Gordon the Donkey!



**Lincolnshire
Mark Benevolent
Association**



PROSTATE CANCER UK



£500

R.W.Bro. Steven Hallberg
*Provincial Grand Master
for Lincolnshire*

*@ProstateUK
@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry*



The MBF Supporting Prostate Cancer UK

Mark Masons' Hall's Charities Manager, W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., joined Jade Dyer at the Prostate Cancer UK offices with the President of the MBF, R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, P.Prov.G.M., (Kent) and his wife, Maggie. Earlier in the year W.Bro. Darren was gifted £500 by the Lincolnshire Mark Masons after delivering a presentation at their Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly in Skegness. The only request was to donate it to his choice of charity. With so many friends and colleagues going through the terrible experience of this sometimes-aggressive cancer there was really only one choice.

It was encouraging to hear of the work of the charity and the strides they have made in recent years, but also to know first-hand of the obstacles that they encounter on a regular basis. Such a worthwhile and necessary charity to support. W.Bro. Darren's thanks to the Brethren of the Lincolnshire Province and their Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Steve Hallberg for their very kind gesture.



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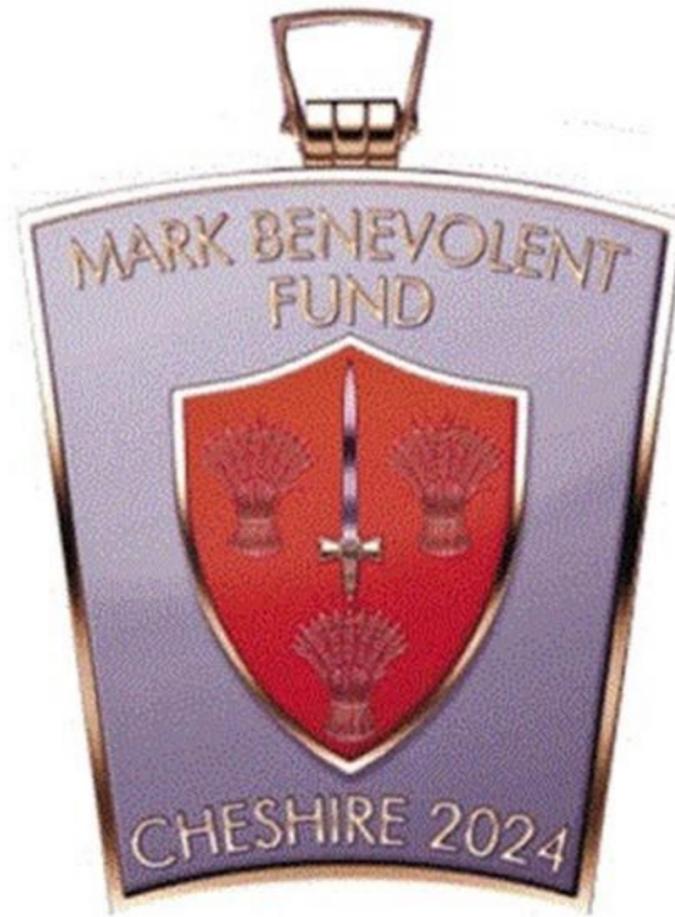
Grants totalling
£17,100 were
made to
Individuals

**Who
did we
help?**

- 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 as always check first.



156th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Concorde Conference Centre
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham

WA15 8XQ

Saturday, 6 July 2024

BOOK HERE





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Issued by
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