

“ HCF’s vision is a Hertfordshire where all sectors of the population have a good quality of life and are engaged positively within the community. ”

On the front cover:

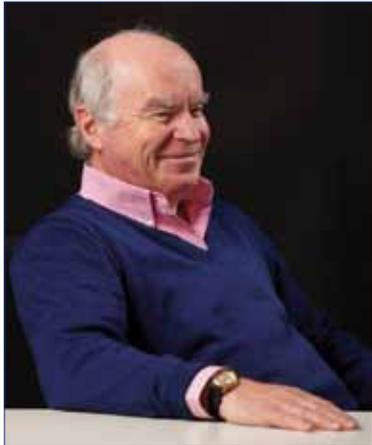
In August 2014, HCF made a grant of £5000 from one of the family funds to Cancer Hair Care to support children and young people in Hertfordshire who have hair loss due to cancer. The photo on our cover features two of the Cancer Hair Care team demonstrating some of the work they do to help people feel good about themselves during their illness and in recovery.

<http://cancerhaircare.co.uk/>

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A message from our Chairman...



Gerald Corbett
Chairman

With the help of local philanthropists and the hard work and dedication of our local voluntary sector, the Hertfordshire Community Foundation continues to be able to make a difference in the county.

From our point of view, there is much to be proud of over the last year. Our endowment is fast approaching the £10 million mark - that's nearly doubled since 2010 when it stood at just under £5 million - providing a sustainable source of income for the future. As of 31st March 2015, we were managing 93 funds on behalf of local individuals, families and businesses all wanting to support their local communities, and there are more on the horizon. Our direct grant aid is also on the increase with a total of £366,671.44 being awarded and HCF led projects such as HTDC and BASIS 2 continued to provide organisations with valuable training and development support.

In 2015/2016, we'll be concentrating on furthering our understanding of the county, the needs of our communities and identifying areas in need of particular support or celebration, with the launch of our "Herts Matters" report.

As well as the official data being gathered and statistics being analysed, we want to hear from all our stakeholders, our partners, the voluntary and community groups who are working on the ground and the communities themselves to establish what today's Hertfordshire really looks like and what we need to do to support those who live, work and play here.

It's an exciting time for us. The results of the report will have a direct impact on our grant making, our fund development and our overall strategic direction for the future. We hope you will take part in the community consultation towards the end of 2015 and look forward to sharing the results with you in the New Year.

Our Foundation is in good shape and we face the future with confidence. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our trustees, our volunteers and our hard working executive team under Jonathan Aves for all their efforts getting us to where we are.

Foundation Director's report

New research Hertfordshire Matters will drive our mission about how we build stronger communities and make our county better.

On the 31st March 2015 the Government's match funding programme Community First came to an end and we are delighted to announce that Hertfordshire's target has been exceeded. Over the course of the programme over £3 million has been raised, enabling the Foundation and its fund holders to continue to build a key resource to support the local community for generations to come. This achievement would not be possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of our supporters and with over 600 local charities across Hertfordshire, with many struggling to find the necessary resources, we would very much like to thank our supporters for making such a difference in the county.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our 12 London Marathon Runners who raised a record £18,000 for the county – we are very fortunate to have Marathon places again this year so please get in touch if you would like to participate and run for Hertfordshire.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we will continue to work in partnership with families, companies and other organisations across Hertfordshire to encourage local philanthropy and build further support for the local community. In addition and as our Chairman describes, we will be working on an important project called 'Hertfordshire Matters' to update our understanding and knowledge of the issues across the county. Supported by the David Laing Foundation, Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner, this new research will help us to target our grant making with maximum impact. In addition, a community consultation will be a key element of 'Hertfordshire Matters' – providing an opportunity for connection, collaboration and a means to engage. This vital diagnosis will help drive our mission about how we build stronger communities and make our county better.

Finally, I would like to thank HCF staff, trustees and volunteers for their hard work and commitment and which has made 2014 such a successful year.



Jonathan Aves
Foundation Director

April 2015 – London Marathon 2015:

Hertfordshire Community Foundation is lucky to have a number of places in the London Marathon each year and the money it helps to raise for the Foundation, and all the groups we support, is hugely valuable.

2015 saw 12 brave runners cross the finish line, raising over £18,000 for HCF making it a record breaking year. Our thanks go to Kit, Chris, David C, Craig, Danny, Alex, Anya, Maurice, Geoff, Ian, David S and Sarah for all their efforts – both physical and fundraising.



Events/Highlights 2014/2015



April 2014 – The opening of the Nigel Copping Building in Stanstead Abbots

Over the last few years, Hertfordshire Community Foundation have been working in partnership with long standing local resident and ex councillor Nigel Copping to develop a new community resource for both the local community and the wider district of East Herts.

As well as being the new home of CVS Broxbourne and East Herts, other groups and organisations will be able to access the fully equipped meeting rooms and make use of the community hall provided by this energy efficient building. Viscountess Trenchard officially opened the new Nigel Copping Community Building in Stanstead Abbots on 2nd April. A fantastic way to start the year!

May 2014 – McMullen's Brewery Tour

In an event brilliantly hosted by Mr Fergus McMullen, HCF Fund Holders were treated to a private tour of the county's oldest brewery, followed by a tasting at a nearby McMullen's pub.

Events like this are held every year and give us an opportunity to appreciate some of the county's history as well as talk to our fund holders (old, new and prospective) and introduce them to the team and the work of the

Foundation. We'd like to thank Fergus and the team at McMullen's for a thoroughly enjoyable evening!

June 2014 – HCF Summer Drinks Reception at Munden House

HCF's Annual Summer Drinks Reception was held at Munden House, near Watford with the kind permission of our hosts, Mr and Mrs Henry Holland-Hibbert.

We welcomed over 100 people including fund holders, supporters, volunteers and funded groups. Foundation Chairman, Gerald Corbett, took the opportunity to update guests with news of our endowment reaching almost £8 million and we were delighted to be able to show our new film for the very first time. Designed to help viewers understand a little more about HCF and how, together with the groups we support, we are making a real difference in the county. If you'd like to watch it, it's on the home page of our website!

September 2014 - East of England Philanthropy Fellowship Event at Newmarket Racecourse:

The Philanthropy Fellowship East aims to develop a network of philanthropists who act as much needed 'Ambassadors' for their local community foundation to inspire a greater culture of giving. This year's event was hosted at the fantastic Newmarket Racecourse and attended by HCF's Director as well as some of our trustees and fund holders.

"It was an interesting and unique event that not only gave us an insight into the world of racing but an opportunity to hear from Philanthropists from across the region including John Gosden, the Champion Flat Racehorse trainer, about the issues they want tackled and how they are helping."

March 2015 - High Sheriff Awards 2015:

The annual High Sheriff's Awards are always a fantastic event but this year was extra special as they celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Crimebeat Awards.

Almost 150 people including representatives from district and county councils, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue, The Prince's Trust and a broad spectrum of the county's voluntary and community sector joined this year's High Sheriff, Mr Fergus McMullen to celebrate the amazing work being done by Hertfordshire groups and individuals who are involved in projects fitting this year's theme of prevention of offending and the rehabilitation of offenders.

Winners included The Living Room, Resolve, HACRO, Stevenage Boxing Club, Y-Team Project, Emmaus St Albans, Mediation Hertfordshire, The Gifted, BLAST Foundation and Charis Tiwala.

Mr McMullen took the opportunity to reflect on his year, saying, "What an amazing year I have had – it's only when you visit places and meet the people that make an effort do you fully understand how much excellent work is being done. What staggered me more was that a lot of this effort was done on a voluntary basis – good people giving their time to help and support others."



6 On the road with Hertsmere Community Transport...

This independent charity provides accessible and affordable door-to-door transport for people in Hertsmere. The group were looking for support for their Ring and Ride Service, a valuable and well run service that offers transport not just for the health related visits that community transport schemes are so well known for, but to social activities or everyday chores such as visiting the bank. For those who use it, it enables them to maintain vital links with their local communities, stay independent in their own homes and reduces the likelihood of social isolation.

HCF were delighted to be able to provide a grant of £10,000 from the Graham Rowlandson Funds to help the organisation with the costs of drivers, vehicles and the administration required for the smooth running of the scheme.

Mr and Mrs Pressman, pictured here with driver Sue, have been using the service for six months. Mrs Pressman had to give up driving earlier this year and the couple now use the service at least once a week. Mrs Pressman said "The drivers of HCT are very kind and helpful towards disabled people."

Find out more here:
<http://www.hertsmerecommunitytransport.org/>



Making a Difference

As the number and capacity of the funds managed by HCF increases, so does our ability to make a difference in the county.

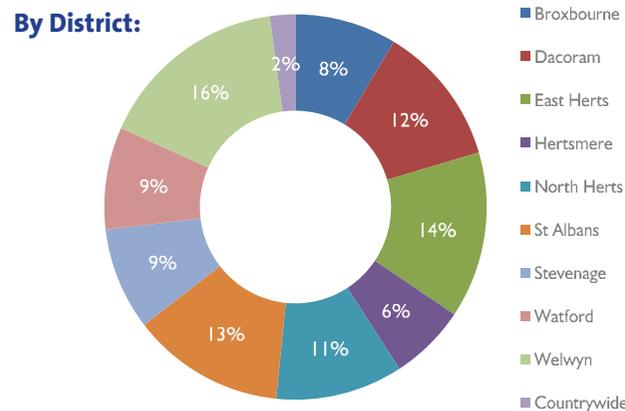
2014/2015 saw HCF increase its overall grant making, allocating over **£366,671** in direct grant aid during the year. Together with the support provided through our partnership projects, that's well over **£500,000** being invested in Hertfordshire communities and the voluntary sector who support them.

Where our grants go:

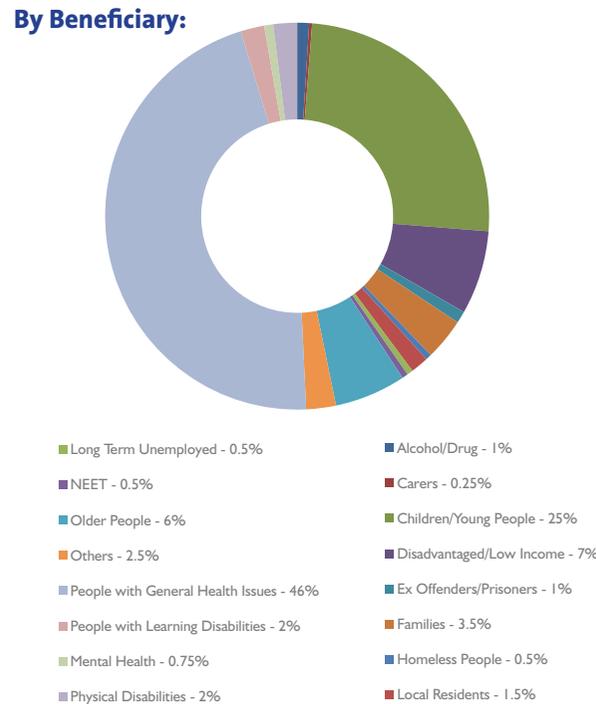
By Applicant:



By District:



By Beneficiary:



Support and Partnership Work

In addition to our grant making, HCF is also proud to lead on a number of projects that support the local voluntary sector by providing training, capacity building and information. In 2014/2015, the total value of this support was **£172,019** and included:

HTDC:

A Hertfordshire County Council Funded Project providing Workforce Development for the Voluntary Sector, Funding and Project Support for Organisations and Support for Voluntary Sector Training Providers. You can find out more about what they've been up to this year on Page 8 or visit their website at www.htdc.org.uk

Herts Get Set:

A Big Lottery funded project that helped to build awareness of the forthcoming European Social Fund Programme for 2014-2020 focused on tackling social inclusion. You can find out more about this programme on page 9.

BASIS 2:

A Big Lottery funded, five year partnership project giving grassroots community and voluntary organisation access to high quality development support. The project finished in October 2014 and you can find out more about what they achieve on Page 11.

Hertfordshire Training and Development Consortium (HTDC)

Hertfordshire Training & Development Consortium (HTDC) succeeded in securing funding for a 7th consecutive year from the Learning & Development department within Hertfordshire County Council Health and Community Services. This is to provide workforce development for the voluntary sector.

- Over 500 people attended the 47 courses on our training programme
- 59 tutors in adult social care organisations gained the Level 3 Award in Education and Training
- 40 voluntary and community organisations received workforce development grants
- All these groups benefited from organisational advice from HTDC's team of 8 qualified advisors
- We established a team of trainers equipped to deliver Level 1 Safeguarding Adults at Risk Training to the voluntary sector
- We secured additional funding from HCC to roll-out safeguarding training to the Voluntary and Community Sector given the new requirements of the Care Act
- Our members event Your Workforce: Your Future 2014 was attended by 39 participants from 30 organisations and was held again in July 2015

HTDC also built its relationship further with HCC by working with the Community Wellbeing team to organise and facilitate a programme of training courses on contract tendering and partnership working for voluntary sector organisations.

HTDC's facilitation of the housing providers group continued into a 4th year – with their community development workers meeting on a regular basis. All are involved in developing projects to improve the skills, employability and life chances of their residents and their families. Twice a year the meetings focus on Financial Capability and Inclusion and this Hertfordshire forum, which also involves the CABs, credit unions etc, remains one of the best attended in the region.

HTDC's membership has grown to over 350 organisations and the website www.htdc.org.uk now has over 6,800 users annually.



Herts Get Set

Hertfordshire Community Foundation applied successfully to Big Lottery for the Programme Development Funding (PDF) for Hertfordshire. This funding was to build awareness of the forthcoming European Social Fund programme for 2014-2020 to tackle social inclusion. Big Lottery as the match funder were keen to maximise the involvement of the local voluntary and community sector in its Building Better Opportunities projects, and that was the aim of PDF.

Herts Get Set was launched in November 2014 at the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in Welwyn Garden City. HCF as the lead body worked with a small steering group of 3 delivery partners – CVS Broxbourne & East Herts, Community Action Dacorum and North Herts CVS. We provided support and information for the voluntary and community sector and issued regular communication updates. In February-March 2015 we ran VCS awareness events in 4 venues across the county – attended by 176 participants overall.

The initial funding for Hertfordshire was £20,000 and we applied successfully for an additional £10,000 to extend the project to the end of September 2015. This enabled us to provide partnership development support and capacity-building training for local employability providers.

Herts Get Set



Myers Clark is proud to continue its support of the HCF and the work that it does. We look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

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*Charity Finance Fund Management Survey 2014

Getting to the Grassroots (basis2)

611 diverse groups in Hertfordshire have benefited from the 'Getting to the Grassroots' small groups development project which came to an end on 10th October 2014. HCF was the lead body for this BIG Lottery funded five year partnership project which has given small voluntary and community organisations access to high quality development support across six districts in the county since September 2009.

In the final six months of the project we provided in depth development support to 38 groups and held 5 networking and information events open to all groups which had been supported by the project. These events also celebrated the progress and achievements of the groups. 12 groups which had been supported earlier in the project took up the offer of exit interviews with the chance to update their action plans. Groups were provided with up to date practical resources and links to further support and guidance.

Our delivery partners during the six months were Broxbourne and East Herts CVS, Community Action Hertsmere, North Herts CVS (covering North Herts and Stevenage) and Welwyn Hatfield CVS. Each of the four CVSs hosted a Development Worker who provided

guidance to grassroots groups and to those wanting to start groups. This included all aspects of starting up, governance, recruiting volunteers, funding and fundraising, marketing, business planning, signposting, training and importantly, networking.

The aim of the 'Getting to the Grassroots' project was to improve the services provided to the community by helping to build the capacity of small voluntary and community groups.

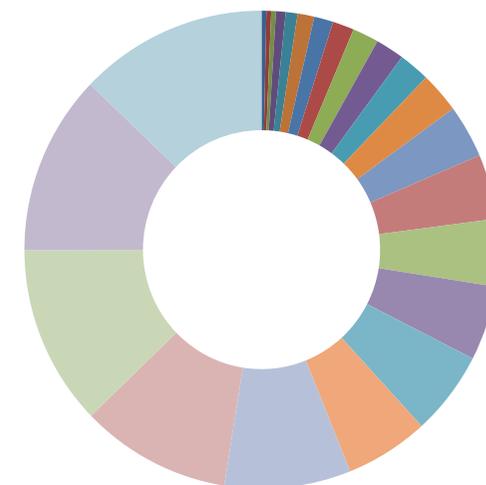
More than 70% of groups surveyed and interviewed in the final year reported an increase and/or an improvement to their services to end user beneficiaries as a result of their use of the Basis2 project.

Over two thirds of groups (69%) said that the project intervention improved their group's financial position and their ability to fundraise and access funding.

Over 80% of the groups helped during the project joined their local CVS organisations for at least a year, which gave them access to services and a few hours face to face support (per year) beyond the project.

The project was successful at enabling the alliance model for small groups. The development workers promoted peer support, making introductions and acting as a catalyst to forge links between groups and partners who have shared resources and given help in kind. In the first two years the project enabled Grassroots groups to become sufficiently well developed to take advantage of the Grassroots Grants scheme (2008 to 2011) and other grant funding. However, a strong emphasis on fundraising strategies rather than grant dependency helped groups to become more sustainable.

The range of groups supported by the project is diverse and reflects the needs of the districts' communities.



■ Crime	2	■ Transport	22
■ Heritage	2	■ Animal	27
■ LGBT	2	■ Faith	28
■ Environment	4	■ Residents Associations	31
■ BME	5	■ Arts	35
■ Disabilities	7	■ Children and Young People	35
■ Domestic Violence	8	■ Carers	53
■ Addiction	9	■ Poverty	63
■ Gender	11	■ Family	75
■ Seniors	12	■ Mental Health and Wellbeing	75
■ Education	13	■ Community	79
■ Sport	17		



Back to nature with Sweettree Farming for All...

Sweettree Farming for All provide meaningful experiences in a natural environment, usually allotments, gardens or farm based, helping people with a variety of issues to build their self-esteem, break down barriers to inclusion and often provide the first step back into education, training and becoming a contributing member of their local communities.

For one of their projects, they are working in partnership with Westfield Children's Centre which serves some of the most deprived wards in the Watford area including the Holywell and Vicarage estates.

They wanted to provide 25 weekly gardening sessions aimed at struggling families who have very limited access to the outdoors at home. Many live in flats or multi-occupancy homes so it was hoped the opportunity to interact together through gardening would help them access the outdoors, explore where food comes from and, by growing their own, encourage healthy living, improve inter family interaction and encourage good parenting skills.

HCF were able to provide a grant of £3795.50 from the Quercus Fund to support the sessions, which were a great success.

The Children's Centre staff noted an increase in parental engagement with their children during tasks that were completed together. They also noted a more tolerant approach to parenting as both parent and child were attempting something new together.

For more information visit:
www.sweettreefarmingforall.org.uk/

Quotes from some of the 274 adults and children who attended the sessions include:

"Me and my son really enjoyed the Farming for All session today. Making the hanging baskets was great fun and who knew you could make butter by shaking double cream! A different kind of activity for children, would love to do it again!"

"Good session, good messy fun, learnt lots of handy tips. Would definitely do it again."



Building Dreams with The Gifted...

Award winning charity The Gifted use technology and participatory techniques as a way of engaging with disengaged and hard to reach youngsters with important health and wellbeing information.

They applied for funding to run their “I have a dream” project – a series of structured education and training sessions in photography and podcasting encouraging the young people taking part to create images and podcasts around the theme of “I have a dream”.

The aim was for the young people to develop and build key skills include working with others, self-motivation, communication and helping them build their aspirations. They also hope the final images and podcasts will help raise awareness of the young talent in the area and improve the perceptions of local young people.

The grant was made in March 2015 and the programme has been running since May 2015. So far 19 young people have taken part attending an average of 10 sessions and achieving an average 27 learner hours each. The young people are predominately aged between 16 and 19 with a few from the 14-16 age bracket. The majority live in the borough of Broxbourne with the most common postcodes being EN8 and EN9.



Co-Founder of The Gifted, Jermaine Julie said:

“This programme is really needed for young people as it enables them to think about their dreams and how they are going to reach them. It helps to unlock their potential and believe in themselves. The group have created 3 podcasts and held a mini event in July and are working towards a bigger event in November.”

The Gifted monitor the young people’s progress through a tool called the “The Gifted Star”, a guided self-assessment tool, to track impact and measure progress of participants in 8 areas of their lives including harm, health, relationships, coping, future, support, engaging and identity. The project is still ongoing but already they can see that most of the young people have improved in one or more areas and all of them have learnt at least one new skill.

Find out more at:
www.thegifted.org.uk/

Surviving Winter 2014/2015



Surviving Winter is a UK wide campaign, involving 38 Community Foundations, that raises and distributes money in small grants to help older people and vulnerable individuals and families stay warm and well during the winter months.

The campaign began as a vehicle for generous pensioners to 'recycle' their Winter Fuel payments and has now developed into a giving portal for anyone who wants to help support vulnerable people survive the winter. UKCF, the Community Foundation's umbrella body, takes central donations which are then distributed out to participating Community Foundations. This is then added to any funds raised by the individual Foundations themselves and distributed to local people to help them Survive Winter.

The UK wide campaign has been running since 2011 and has raised over £5.2 million in total. Hertfordshire have only actively been involved since 2013 so our fundraising achievements are more modest at the moment but we know the need is there and while it remains, we're aiming to grow the campaign year on year.

Why? Because there are parts of Hertfordshire where people are struggling to pay their bills, having to choose between HEAT or EAT, where parents are going without an evening meal in order to make sure their children eat and some of the more isolated members of our communities are left alone with no one to check they are warm enough, have something to eat or someone to talk to about the challenges they are facing this winter.

We want to make sure we can help as many people as possible this winter, but we need your help. If you'd like to donate to the Surviving Winter Fund, hold a fundraising event on our behalf or simply help us spread the word we'd really like to hear from you.

The more money we raise, the more help and support we can provide.

2014/2015:

- 31 Grants Approved
- £6,810 Awarded
- 66 people supported
- Average Grant £219

With thanks to:

UKCF, The Graham Rowlandson Foundation and the Savage Family Fund for their support.

Cllr Joan King, Cllr Morris Bright and Cllr Malcolm Cowan for the support from their Locality Budgets.

And to all the individual donors who helped make this year's grant possible.

Who we helped:

An elderly gentleman who had recently undergone a hip replacement which went wrong leaving him immobile and housebound but too afraid to put the heating on for fear of not being able to pay the bill.

A mother and her three children, rehoused after fleeing domestic violence, but with no bedding to keep warm at night and no way of affording carpeting and curtains to help keep in whatever warmth they had.

A widow who had been caring full time for her terminally ill husband until his death in November. While she had secured a job (as a carer) that would start in the New Year, she found herself with no income and no way of covering the bills in the interim.

Start a Fund

Start a fund:

We manage over 90 different funds. Some were started by individuals, some by families or companies and some as the result of releasing money trapped in dormant trust but every single one of them is aimed at making a difference to the residents and communities within Hertfordshire. If you're interested in starting a fund, there are a number of options for you to consider:

Endowed funds – these are for the long term and provide a valuable grant making resource for the county for the future. The money donated to the fund is invested and generates an income. Each year, that income is used for grant making while the bulk of the capital remains so that process can be repeated year after year.

Pass-through Funds – these are for the short term and are attractive to those who want to make an immediate impact. Any money invested in a pass-through fund can be donated and distributed within the same year using the expertise of the Foundation to direct it where it needs to go with the same reassurance that all the administration and monitoring requirements can be handled by the Foundation and fed back to the Fund Holder. Maximum impact, minimum hassle.

Contribute to an existing fund:

Not everyone is in the position to start their own named fund, but most people do want to make sure that any money they give is going to be managed well, targeted effectively and makes a real impact and that's not always easy to do. By making a donation to one of the Foundation's own funds, whether it goes in to the main pot or one focused on a specialist area e.g. the Hertfordshire Children's Fund or the Fund for Older People, we'll help your donation make a difference.

Help release money from a dormant trust:

Across the UK, there are a large number of dormant trusts which have become inactive over the years. It could be because the original charitable objectives have been fulfilled or are too restrictive, the administration had become too time consuming or the Trustees had retired or passed away. Whatever the reason, the result is that funds which were originally intended to make a difference sit untouched and unused. Hertfordshire Community Foundation is working hard to identify any dormant trusts that could benefit the county and bring them back into use, through an agreed procedure with the Charity Commission but we need your help to find them. If you know of any, get in touch!

Volunteer:

And if you're more interested in making a personal contribution rather than a financial one, then we're always looking for volunteers. From helping in the office to running the London Marathon, if you want to help then we'd be happy to hear from you!

Fixing social isolation in the Repair Shed...

The Repair Shed is a Community Action Dacorum led environmental social enterprise aimed at keeping older men healthier for longer by bringing them together to make, mend and learn. Their aim is to bring the traditionally hard to reach demographic of older men together around practical tasks such as repairing and refurbishing furniture, giving them a sense of purpose, an avenue for new friendships and a source of peer support.

The project was being run from a corner of the warehouse at the Sunnyside Rural Trust's Hemel Food Garden. However, while the warehouse was ok in the warmer weather, it was completely unsuitable for colder conditions becoming cold and damp. As a result, the Trust applied for the costs of building a new extension on the same site, which would be weather proofed, double glazed and provide a warm and comfortable place for the activities all year round.

HCF were able to make a grant of £12,000 from the Graham Rowlandson Funds to cover the cost of the new building enabling the two well established charities to work effectively in partnership to reach out and support a new client group. The new and improved Repair Shed is now up and running and already changing people's lives.

Find our more here:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheRepairShed>



Introducing our newest corporate fund holders, UIA Insurance...

UIA is a mutual insurance company based in Stevenage. They have over 100 years' experience of providing great value, high quality insurance to members of selected trade unions and other not-for-profit organisations.

In 2001 they established the UIA Charitable Foundation, with the aim of providing financial support to charities where that help would make a positive difference. Concentrating on causes that would be of specific interest to members of their partner trade unions, their customers and their staff, they focus their giving on projects which challenge the root causes of injustice, oppression and abuse. Over the last 14 years, the Foundation has made grants in excess of £450k to projects across the UK and Internationally.

But while their international and national giving was going well, knowing which smaller, local projects to support was proving more challenging. So, in 2013, they approached HCF.

Bernie Stewart from UIA explains:

“With a new Chair at the head of our Charity Committee, we decided that we wanted to change the way our Foundation worked. We wanted to be involved with more local charities, where we could not only provide financial support but also have the opportunity to meet and get involved with the people and projects we were supporting, where appropriate.

We turned to HCF because of their in depth knowledge of the local charitable sector and their ability to provide

a professional and personalised service tailored to our specific requirements and criteria.

HCF have made it so easy for us to get involved, undertaking all aspects of the grant making process, from assessing the applications through to making the awards and keeping us informed of progress so that we could in turn report back to our staff.”

Over the last two years, UIA have channelled over £32,000 of grant aid for local charities through their fund at HCF, working with local organisations such as TRACKS Autism and Stevenage Haven.

In addition to the financial help, UIA staff have also got involved in their own right, helping to fundraise and support the charities in other ways. For example, last Christmas they were able to take sacks of gifts and food to the residents of Stevenage Haven. Staff also gave up their free time to help strip an old building which was later to be transformed into TRACKS new premises.

“It’s always enjoyable to work with an organisation like UIA who are so engaged and committed to their charitable giving. In this case, they were quite clear about the what, why and where of their giving, they just needed a bit of help to find the who. HCF are delighted to have been able to introduce them to some great local charities and we look forward to helping them develop their local giving in the future.”

Caroline Langdell, HCF Fund Manager

More information about UIA and their charitable foundation visit: www.uia.co.uk

Details of the grants available from the UIA Fund at HCF can be found on the “Funds Available” page of the website when the programme is open to applications.

“Without UIA’s help we would have had to cut some facilities out of our current project of renovating a building for TRACKS autism. This would have been a serious blow for our state-of-the art centre for autistic children, probably the best in the county. Many thanks!”

Mervyn Terrett, Chairman TRACKS Autism

“On behalf of everyone at Stevenage Haven, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the kind donation of Christmas food and gifts that you recently delivered to us for our residents. The donations that we receive are put to very good use for our residents, both at the hostel and in our move-on properties, and also to the homeless people who call at our door, sometimes who are very obviously in need.”

Frankie Packard, Stevenage Haven



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The Hertfordshire Children's Fund

For nearly 20 years, Hertfordshire Children's Fund has been providing effective, practical support to disadvantaged children and their families in Hertfordshire by providing grants of up to £300 for household essentials such as washing machines, cookers and beds to ensure they could keep their children healthy, safe and clean.

It all started back in 1996 when families who didn't need their Child Benefit wanted to donate it in order to help those who did, and the Hertfordshire Children's Fund was created to be a holding pot for those donations and a central point of contact for those applying.

The Fund works alongside health visitors, social workers and other professionals to step in where most other sources of funding have been exhausted, making sure that each family's needs are properly met.

Applications come through the professionals who know of the children and can verify their situations. During the assessment and decision making process, consideration is given to the applicant's ability to finance the item themselves, whether a grant for the item is the most appropriate way to help and whether they need to be signposted to other organisations for further support e.g. budgeting, benefits advice, advocacy services etc.

Times, and the benefits system, have changed and while we no longer receive donations of unneeded Child Benefit, the Fund does still rely heavily on contributions from individuals, groups and businesses in order to continue to support those in need. If you would like to donate to the fund, take part in a sponsored event or organise your own fundraiser in support of the Hertfordshire Children's Fund, we'd love to hear from you!

2014/2015 Stats:

- 98 Applications Received
- 59 Grants Approved
- 126 children and their parents helped.
- £12,469.32 spent
- Average Grant: £211
- Most requested item: Beds and bedding for the children

"The family are thrilled and cannot wait to get the bed in and X is particularly excited for her new bed covers too."

Outreach Worker, Children's Centre

"I can confirm that X did buy a new cooker ... this has made a huge difference to X and his family."

Tenancy Sustainment and Resettlement Officer

"X was delighted with the grant. Between her and her partner they have managed to decorate their son's bedroom ready for the cot-bed. They asked me to express their gratitude for helping them finally being able to settle him into a proper bedtime routine, in his own room, in his own bed."

Tenancy Support Officer

"Thank you and HCF for all the help you provide in supporting our most vulnerable clients, it is greatly appreciated."

Welwyn Hatfield Community Housing Trust Worker

With huge thanks to...

All our regular individual donors – your continued support is invaluable to the fund.

All the organisations who have fundraised and donated to the fund during the year including Kingshott School (Hitchin), Rothamsted Research, Fields Accountancy and Book-Keeping, Twin Systems PLC, the Abbey Bowmen and HCC's Childhood Support Services Staff.

We'd also like to say a special thank you to Redbourn Golf Club who adopted the fund as their Captain's Charity for 2015 and raised a fantastic £9,515.61, ensuring the 2015/2016 grants get off to a flying start!



Opportunities are brewing at Pod53...

Pod53 is a CIC that was started up in September 2012. Based in one of the most disadvantaged areas of Stevenage, their aim is to create a sustainable social enterprise which increases community cohesion and provides opportunities for disengaged young people to increase skills, improve their self-esteem and wellbeing.

They run a community based coffee shop in Broadwater which provides practical hands on work experience and training opportunities for young people. They also use the café as a host for Vibe, their music café for those with special educational needs and disabilities, and for Tea and Swing, an intergenerational project where the young people provide afternoon tea and entertainment for older people in the area.

HCF were able to make a grant of £4800 from one of the family funds to help towards the cost of their ReShape project, providing work experience opportunities and life skills training through the community coffee shop for vulnerable and disengaged young people.



Accounts

Hertfordshire Community Foundation Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Incoming Resources					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Voluntary income	23,756	232,118	749,312	1,005,186	829,964
Activities for generating funds	10,886	232,079	-	242,965	400,473
Income from Investments	229	-	246,210	246,439	220,230
Other incoming resources	31,272	-	-	31,272	30,193
Total incoming resources	66,143	464,197	995,522	1,525,862	1,480,860
Resources expended					
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>					
Costs of generating voluntary income	109,252	-	2,204	111,456	109,847
Charitable activities	128,116	475,403	113,168	716,687	938,573
Governance costs	51,959	-	-	51,959	66,769
Total resources expended	289,327	475,403	115,372	880,102	1,115,189
Net incoming resources before transfers	(223,184)	(11,206)	880,150	645,760	365,671
Gross transfers between funds	220,133	14,425	(234,558)	-	-
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses	(3,051)	3,219	645,592	645,760	365,671
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	646,252	646,252	215,858
Net movement in funds	(3,051)	3,219	1,294,844	1,292,012	581,529
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2014	5,253	87,971	7,989,927	8,083,151	7,501,622
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2015	2,202	91,190	9,281,771	9,375,163	8,083,151

Hertfordshire Community Foundation Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		758,336		774,389
Investments		7,963,637		6,700,506
Programme Related Investments		602,043		595,894
		<u>9,324,016</u>		<u>8,070,789</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	57,052		42,058	
Cash at bank and in hand	65,502		83,872	
	<u>122,544</u>		<u>125,930</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		71,407		113,568
Net current assets		<u>51,147</u>		<u>12,362</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>9,375,163</u>		<u>8,083,151</u>
Net assets		<u>9,375,163</u>		<u>8,083,151</u>
The funds of the charity				
Endowment funds		9,281,771		7,989,927
Restricted income funds		91,190		87,971
Unrestricted income funds		2,202		5,253
		<u>9,375,163</u>		<u>8,083,151</u>

These summarised accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 October 2015 and signed on their behalf by Gerald Corbett, Chairman.

Independent Auditors' statement to the Trustees of Hertfordshire Community Foundation

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustee's Annual Report. We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustee's Annual Report of Hertfordshire Community Foundation for the year ended 31 March 2014.

14 October 2015

Myers Clark

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Iveco House, Station Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD17 1DL

With thanks to...

Personal Donors:

Lawrence Alpren
 Geoffrey Ashmore
 Claire Austin
 Anthony & Mary Baker
 Michael Baker QC, DL
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 Peter & Jane Bennett
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 Connell Family Fund
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 Harpenden Building Society Fund
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 Watford FC Charitable Fund
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David Fryer
Mike Master
Brig. John Palmer DL
Henry Holland Hibbert
Penny Williams JP DL
Cllr Teresa Heritage
James Williams
Simon Tilley
Maggie Turner OBE
Jill Burridge (appointed September 2015)

Staff:

Jonathan Aves
Foundation Director

Alan Clarke
Finance Manager

Helen Doubal
BASIS 2 Project Manager

Caroline Langdell
Fund Manager

Sarah Tisdall
Office Manager

HTDC/TLI:

Sarah Elliott
Development Worker

Ana Siewniak
Administrator

Simona Lissner
Administrator

Volunteers:

The Foundation's activities are enhanced by the help of numerous volunteers for which we are hugely grateful. We would especially like to thank:

Johanna Mason and Caroline McCaffrey JP for their work on the Hertfordshire Children's Fund.

Bob Woods for his help with the Herts Healthy Homes grants programme.



*Thanks for
your support*

Hertfordshire Community Foundation

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