

30
YEARS
of local giving



*Causes for
Celebration*

HCF
Hertfordshire Community Foundation



“I didn’t realise quite how many voluntary groups get together every week, all throughout Hertfordshire, with the pure intent of helping others. I find the selfless giving of time and energy by so many in our county for the benefit of others to be truly inspiring. If my involvement in HCF can help some of these amazing initiatives to keep on doing what they are doing, or even better expand their work, then I will be very happy.”

Simon Tilley,
Fund Holder and HCF Trustee

A word from
our Chairman

04

Introduction

05

A journey
through time

06

Our story so far

07

**Changing lives –
The organisations we support**

- Mudlarks Community Garden
- Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline
- Colne Valley Special Sailors
- Cancer Hair Care
- Resolve
- Herts Young Homeless
- Penniwells RDA
- Recover
- ADD-vance
- Music24

08

How it all began

30

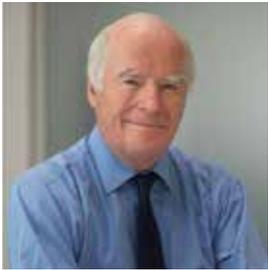
A donor’s story

32

Giving back to
Hertfordshire

34

Our thanks go to the anonymous donor who has generously sponsored the production of this publication.



A word from our Chairman

Thirty years is a significant time for any organisation and for HCF it represents an opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved. From the first Foundation Director, who shaped HCF over an impressive 15 year tenure to the founding Trustees, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and to the staff and volunteers who have followed - I thank you.

From the seed of an idea to establish the Foundation back in 1988 HCF has grown into one of the largest non-statutory funders in the county. In the last 30 years HCF has granted over £11 million to local community groups and organisations, helping to tackle need and deprivation. The difference this funding has made to these charitable organisations and to the people they help is literally life-changing for some.

This support has only been made possible due to the proactive approach HCF takes to fundraising. From a car raffle in the 1990s, to black tie dinners and most recently the launch of HCF's Love Herts appeal. Fundraising methods come and go but securing new pass through funds (through the Love Herts appeal) and building endowment funds remain at our core.

HCF's endowment fund hit £10 million in 2016. This was a landmark moment in HCF's history and an extraordinary achievement. Together these funds are a community resource that gives HCF a stable base to continue to help the communities of Hertfordshire for generations to come.

One of the funds that has grown steadily, making a significant contribution to the county, is the High Sheriff's Fund which was established in 1995. For over 20 years HCF has worked closely with the county's Shrievalty to support their activities. It has and continues to be a huge privilege.

The stories in this book are inspiring and showcase just some of the incredible groups and organisations HCF supports. They also serve as a poignant reminder that the role HCF plays in the community is of vital importance. Thank you to everyone who has helped HCF over the past 30 years.

Gerald Corbett DL
Chairman – HCF



Together we have made a difference and together we can continue to make Hertfordshire a better place for everyone.

Introduction

It is incredible to think that HCF started life 30 years ago based in a small council owned attic. With nothing more than a desk, one employee and some files, it has been on a great journey as it has grown into the charity we see today, and the charity I joined as HCF's fourth Foundation Director.

Thanks to the vision of the founding Trustees who signed the Trust deeds in 1988, HCF set out to help those in greatest need in Hertfordshire. Inspired by the success of community foundations in America, our aims and objectives remain the same today as we continue in our mission to address the inequalities in what is mistakenly perceived to be an entirely affluent county.

Through our continuing 'Hertfordshire Matters' research we know that there are pockets of significant deprivation across the county. With 10% of Hertfordshire's population living in areas of deprivation, the role of HCF has never been more important.

This is our chance to celebrate all that HCF has achieved, and to highlight the incredible organisations who are working in our communities to improve the lives of our neighbours, friends and loved ones. HCF is proud to have helped some of these groups as they started out, and others in more recent years. The breadth of their work is inspirational and their stories illustrate how important HCF's support has been.

This publication is also an opportunity to thank everyone who has played a role in the development of HCF. Whether you are a group or organisation HCF has supported, a fund holder, a donor, a volunteer, a past or present Trustee or member of staff - I would like to thank you. Together we have made a difference and together we can continue to make Hertfordshire a better place for everyone.

Helen Gray
Foundation Director

A journey through time

1988

The deed was signed by the founding Trustees bringing Hertfordshire Community Foundation into being.

1990

Endowment fund exceeds £100,000.

1993

First Community Car Prize Draw raises £37,000.

1995

Hertfordshire High Sheriff's Fund is launched.

1996

The Children's Fund is launched, thanks to volunteer Joanna Mason. 'Causes for Concern' published – HCF's first needs analysis report.

2000

HCF moves from St Albans to Hatfield, thanks to Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust.

2001

St Albans Fund for the Future is launched by St Albans Mayor, John Peters.

2003

HCF is appointed to manage a Department for Education and Skills Fund.

2006

The Hidden Need report is published – the second HCF needs analysis.

2008

The Grassroots endowment match funding programme is launched. HCF moves to Foundation House thanks to David Laing. Hertfordshire Training and Development Consortium (HTDC) is established (now known as HCF Training & Development).

2016

Hertfordshire Matters is published – HCF's third needs analysis report. Endowment value hits £10 million.

2017

HCF launches its Love Herts appeal, raising over £30,000. St Albans Fund for the Future awards its 50th grant.

2018

Grants awarded exceed £800,000, helping over 150 groups and organisations. HCF celebrates 30 years of local giving.

Our story, so far... 1988

The UK food industry is rocked by a salmonella scare. Young people sit down to take the first GCSEs. Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time' hits the shops. It was against this backdrop that Hertfordshire Community Foundation came into being. In the thirty years since, the organisation has flourished and grown, investing funds, skills and time to help Hertfordshire's community and voluntary sector to thrive.

The total value of grants awarded since 1988 – *in excess of £11m*

The number of grants awarded since 1988 – *over 6,000*

Total number of grant applications received – *over 10,000*

The total number of groups/organisations supported since 1988 – *over 1,000*

Number of grants awarded to individuals, families and children living in crisis – *2,275*

The total value of grants awarded to individuals, families and children living in crisis – *£455,000*

Total number of training courses provided since 2009 – *445*

Total training course attendance since 2009 – *5,680*

Total number of advice & guidance programmes delivered – *294*

Total number of tutors trained (PTLLS/L3 Award) – *686*

Current value of our endowment funds (as at 31.12.17) – *£10.6m*



*Changing
Lives*
Organisations
we support

Mudlarks Community Garden

Vic began her career teaching young people with learning disabilities and it struck her that there weren't many opportunities for students once they left school.

In 2008 Vic secured a piece of land in Hertford and with her love of the outdoors she set up Mudlarks Community Garden to provide regular volunteering for people with learning disabilities. In Vic's words Mudlarks, "gives people a reason for getting up in the morning. Being outside, being out in the elements is good for people, and they get a great sense of achievement at the end of the day."

The first grant Mudlarks ever received came through Hertfordshire Community Foundation, and Vic explains how Hertfordshire Community Foundation was instrumental in making sure people of all abilities can join in.

"Hertfordshire Community Foundation was really significant in the early days when we didn't have the money to buy things. Whether it's buying raised beds for our gardeners who aren't physically able to get down to the ground, or putting in a gridded pathway so that wheelchairs can come down. These are things that we rely on but that are quite expensive. We rely on Hertfordshire Community Foundation as local grant givers to support us."

Since then, they've gone from strength to strength, now with the allotment, gardening teams and a café which takes vegetables from the allotment and provides paid work for people with learning disabilities. These days that original handful of volunteers has grown to number 160.

Summing up the world of Mudlarks, Vic explains that "people with learning difficulties have built it, created it, and they have ownership of it. And of course day to day they're growing their own vegetables, taking good food home with them and are part of this amazing little community."



“There are projects that you want to do as a small charity that you couldn’t do otherwise because you can’t generate the funds yourself. HCF has made this possible for us.”

Vic Hobson,
Mudlarks Community Garden

Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline

Zara has been a victim of domestic abuse. She is also a volunteer call-taker for Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline, a free, confidential and anonymous signposting service which takes calls from anyone affected by the issue.

“I know how much strength it takes for a victim of domestic abuse to ask for help for the first time. I’ve had calls from people who have been enduring abuse for more than ten years, and I am the first person they have told about what’s happening to them.”

Since Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline began in 2010 Hertfordshire Community Foundation has awarded them nine grants. Essential funding accessed through Hertfordshire Community Foundation has meant that the Helpline can coordinate and support an increasing number of volunteer call takers, so they can reach more people and offer longer hours.

Christine Roach, Chair of Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline, explains that the volunteer call-takers “listen carefully and non-judgementally and then suggest services that might be appropriate. The decision as to what to do next lies with the caller – the action is never taken out of their hands.”

Estimates show that around four out of every five victims don’t report domestic abuse to the police, and those affected don’t always fit the stereotype you might first expect. Christine describes the range of calls they take, saying “female victims make up the majority of our calls, but we are getting an increasing number from male victims.”

All this work relies on volunteers who support people at all stages of their experience with domestic abuse, as Zara describes.

“Some people are just starting to recognise that they are in an abusive relationship; others have already been able to leave the relationship. Recently I had a call from a lady who had been able to leave her abusive partner, with help from the Helpline. She was calling to say thank you – and ask for help with the next steps, gaining financial independence and getting counselling.”

It is, as she says, “a huge responsibility, but also a privilege.”





Colne Valley Special Sailors

Colne Valley Special Sailors is all about making sailing fun and accessible to people of all ages with disabilities. It's run entirely by volunteers, who've been based at the Rickmansworth Aquadrome since 2001. In 2017 they took over 500 individuals out on the water, many of them every week.

Cameron is one of the many people who benefit from regular sailing with Colne Valley Special Sailors. He's thirteen years old, and explains that he has "learnt to sail on my own and then with a passenger which made me feel good."

The volunteers use a range of special boats and equipment to get people with different kinds of disability out on the water.

John Bray is the Chairman of Colne Valley Special Sailors and describes how getting out on the water can help.

"I've seen some people who've started out really very anxious, in some cases I'd say terrified, of going on the water, but if you can reassure them, support them and get them into the boat it's remarkable how going out sailing is extraordinarily calming... they grow in confidence."

HCF first supported Colne Valley Special Sailors in 2002 and was one of the first funders to do so. Seeing the great benefit and impact that being out on the water can offer its sailors HCF's grants have funded wheelchair accessible pathways, accessible boats, sails and volunteer training sessions.

For John, everyone who comes along is an individual who deserves the opportunity to get the most they can from it in their own way, and he says "we try to give people confidence and engage with them."

And would Cameron agree? Absolutely.

"My confidence in everyday life has improved. I am more willing to try new things now. I have really enjoyed my sailing season and meeting so many friendly volunteers who made me feel good about myself."



“Those grants in the early days helped us set up the organisation and pay for the basics, like room hire for us to gather a room of women who were having cancer treatment to offer our service... I've always felt that HCF is the one organisation who've got my back”

Jasmin Julia Gupta,
Cancer Hair Care

Cancer Hair Care

Jasmin Julia Gupta is the founder and driving force behind Cancer Hair Care, a charity which helps people of all ages affected by hair loss. She explains that the trauma of hair loss “takes away someone’s individuality and dignity.” She describes her work as “50% knowing your stuff about hair loss and 50% listening, being there for people, caring.”

“We have four clinics that we run in NHS hospitals and we go into children’s units, to run sessions for children, teenagers and young people. We have a phone support line, we send out thousands of advice booklets a year, and we have a studio where we can do face to face consultations. So we’re busy!”

Cancer Hair Care has received several grants through Hertfordshire Community Foundation since its early days. The first grant came before it made the move to becoming a registered charity and helped with the very basic costs of setting up and getting started. The next grant in 2014 helped the team learn how to do what they call “bedside visits” in hospitals.

Jasmin describes their work with one fourteen-year-old girl from Hertfordshire who’d been in hospital for almost two years and was nearing the end of her treatment.

“She wanted to go back to school but she wouldn’t have a reasonable amount of hair for about 8 months. She didn’t get on with a wig, it just wasn’t for her. So I went in and handmade her a fake fringe and taught her to fix it into any headscarf she chooses. I spent an hour with her, teaching her to put it on and take it off and tie it herself so that she would feel ready to go back to school.”

The girl’s mother contacted Jasmin afterwards and said that after the visit, she’d seen her friends for the first time in a long time, and then had felt ready to go back to school. Jasmin says “the biggest thing was that she didn’t want to walk into her new school with cancer as her story.

She wanted to be a regular teenager, and this fringe, headscarf, and ability to put it on herself, gave her that. That’s huge.”

Resolve

Resolve is an adult drug and alcohol day service based in Welwyn Garden City. The service provides treatment, therapies, support and assistance to adults who have issues relating to alcohol or substance misuse.

All in all, Resolve helps people to recover and move forward with their lives, as Joe Heeney, CEO, explains.

“Ideally we’d like people to move on, to stabilise their lives, go back into employment, find interests. Sometimes people end up volunteering for us.”

He goes on to share Dean’s story. Dean was a client some years ago. After he completed his treatment he moved on for a couple of years, but then volunteered with Resolve and eventually trained as a counsellor. Joe proudly explains that “Dean now leads my team in Hatfield and he’s paid staff – and I can call him a friend as well.”

Resolve’s very first grant was £500 from Hertfordshire Community Foundation back in 2008 and they’ve continued to receive support across the following decade. This year they celebrate their tenth anniversary, and they’ve gone from strength to strength since those early days.

“Hertfordshire Community Foundation was very supportive in assisting us to get the funding we needed to grow from a small community voluntary group to a larger functioning service... When I called back a year after our start-up grant they were genuinely pleased to hear that we were still up and running and doing well. I felt encouraged because it was always ‘how can we help’. That was what somebody like me needed. ”

Another project Resolve is involved with is the Hatfield Night Shelter, which was headed up by Lynne Sparks, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield who sadly passed away in 2018.

“It’s the culmination of two to three years of trying to find a solution to people sleeping rough. It’s something that Resolve was able to be involved in because we have the infrastructure, that legacy from our early investment from Hertfordshire Community Foundation”, says Joe.

“All we’re doing is passing on the goodwill that we’ve had given to us.”



“Small groups sometimes just need someone to have a bit of faith in them and that’s what we got from HCF.”

Joe Heeney,
Resolve

“The breadth of the support from HCF is fantastic, and it’s not just the funding. It’s the information we can get from them, the training they do which enables us to upskill our own staff. They look at the whole picture.”

Helen Elliott,
Herts Young Homeless

Herts Young Homeless

Herts Young Homeless is an independent charity which aims to prevent youth homelessness in Hertfordshire. Beyond that, they’re difficult to slot neatly into any one box, as Chief Executive, Helen Elliott explains.

“We’re not just one thing. We are all about preventing homelessness but we’re working in so many different ways to do that... It’s about making a difference for young people, their futures and their outcomes.”

One of the challenges Herts Young Homeless faces is the complexity of the county. Helen points out that “while we know Hertfordshire is a very affluent county, it has some deep pockets of very real deprivation.” One of those areas is within Broxbourne, where Herts Young Homeless was struggling to find funding for an education project.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation stepped in and is now funding them to get this earliest of prevention messages out across the area.

“We managed to self-fund some work there but we didn’t have the funding to meet the demand. The funding that we got through Hertfordshire Community Foundation means we can go into those areas and deliver a very strong and important message. It really helps us reach into the community to make a difference.”

As well as current funding challenges, demand is higher than ever, with Herts Young Homeless seeing “a 10% increase in people approaching us. It’s a really sad reflection of what’s happening out there.”

In early 2017, at a time when they were facing significant funding cuts, Herts Young Homeless joined Hertfordshire Community Foundation’s nine-month Building Effectiveness programme. Building Effectiveness is a supported development programme for ten high potential, not-for-profit organisations in Hertfordshire, and those in the 2017 cohort were the first to go through the process.

Helen says that “Building Effectiveness came at the best time. It helped us look to the future... We’ve come out with clarity of vision going forwards and with direction. It was very positive for us in so many different ways. We can now look to the future with confidence.”



Penniwells RDA

Penniwells RDA is a charity set up to provide riding and stable management for people of all ages and disabilities.

Sarah Healing, General Manager explains that their youngest riders start "from the age of about two. With physical disabilities like cerebral palsy the younger we start them, the more impact we have on them long term." She adds that their oldest rider was 86 when she finished!

Hertfordshire Community Foundation helped the Penniwells team to access funding to set up their Saddle Club. Sarah explains that, "at Saddle Club they have their riding lesson and then they have a session on horse care, so they can learn how to look after the horses. And then they have some downtime where they can socialise with people of a similar age. It's been really successful."

As well as a grant for Saddle Club, Penniwells also received a grant through Hertfordshire Community Foundation for equipment, maintenance and repairs to their tack room.

"It's really hard to get funding for day-to-day equipment and ongoing costs which is why HCF makes such a difference. It's much easier to find money for the ponies and things people can sponsor and 'see' but that's not always what we need."

As well as being expensive to run a stables, the work the Penniwells team do is labour intensive. They have a very small number of paid staff, and rely on 120 volunteers to help them support the riders.

Despite all the hard work, the world of Penniwells is clearly a rewarding one. "Kids will stay with us from starting therapy at the age of two or three, and they continue to come as adults. We see them flourish and we see how rewarding riding is to them. They gain confidence. They make friendships that will last... It's a family place. You are what you are and we make the best of everybody."



Recover

The word 'recover' has different meanings. It can mean recovering from illness. It can mean rescuing something from the scrapheap. And it can, literally, mean to re-cover something. All of these apply, in their own ways, to the work of Recover in Welwyn Garden City, which takes second-hand furniture and gives it a new lease of life through upcycling and reuse.

When the organisation was first set up it worked with people affected by addiction, but their work has expanded since those early days, and it now takes in people facing all sorts of difficulties.

Ian Block, founder and general manager, explains more. "We provide a work-focused environment for people who have had difficulties. We have a really broad, inclusive range of members... and they're here to gain confidence, feelings of self-worth, learn some skills, and in the main move on into sustainable employment."

Since the start, Recover has helped 66 people move into full-time employment and 31 into education or volunteering elsewhere.

A further 14 people have started their own business in furniture upcycling or upholstery. It's impressive. Ian credits the approach they foster at Recover for a lot of its success.

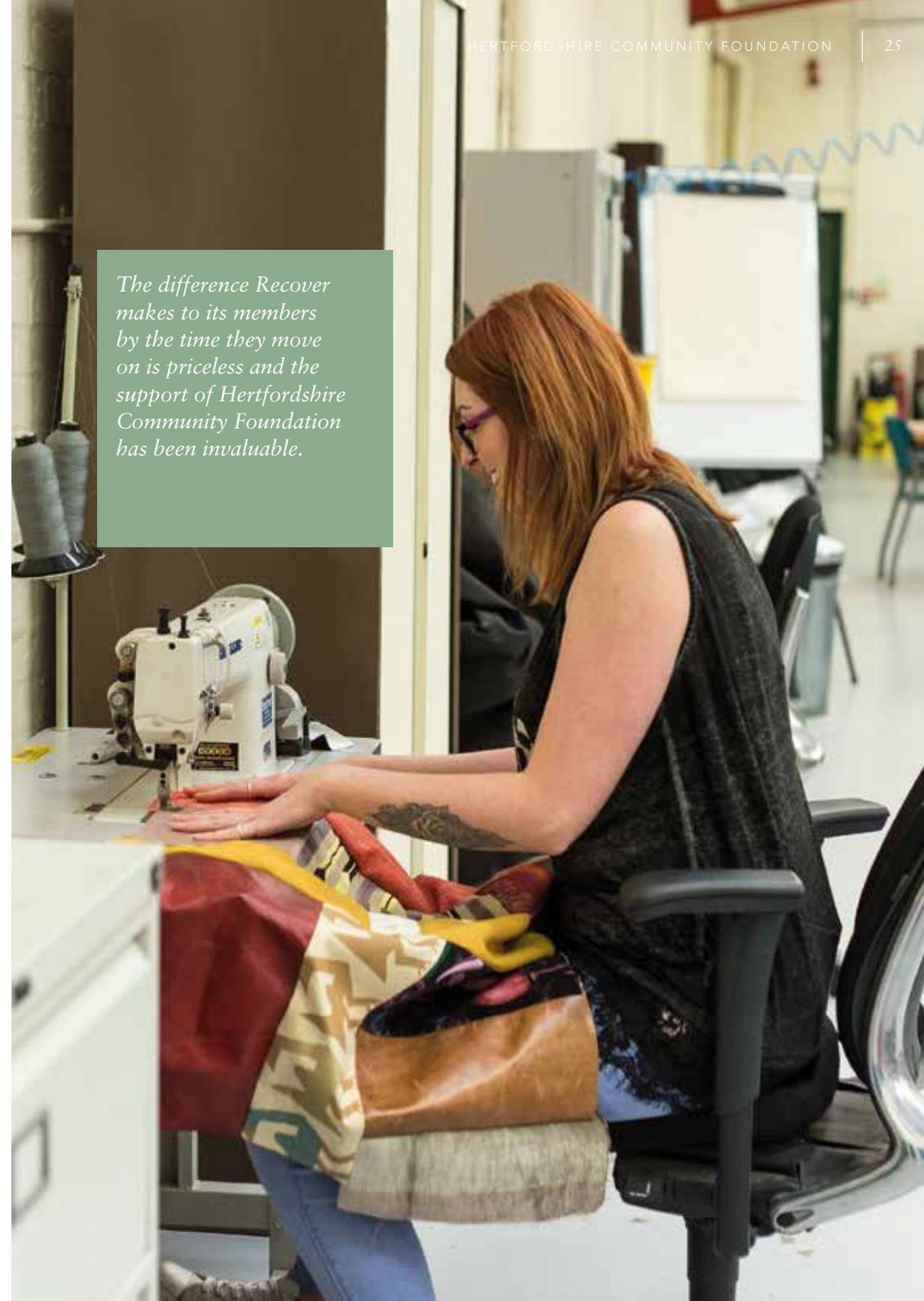
"It's a professional environment, but lots of fun, lots of mutual support. If the person can turn up they don't need to be able to do anything else. The rest will happen."

Recover is now building more structured support for people who are almost ready to move on from the team but need experience of working with customers. Recover welcomes visitors to their showroom in Welwyn Garden City but a market stall, funded by Hertfordshire Community Foundation, provides far more learning opportunities.

"We have several members at the moment who would really benefit from being out on a market stall, face-to-face with members of the public. The confidence to do that is a big part of what it'll take to get them fully independent and to make a living using the skills they've learned here."



The difference Recover makes to its members by the time they move on is priceless and the support of Hertfordshire Community Foundation has been invaluable.





ADD-vance

Anne Ross knows what it feels like to be a parent of children affected by ADHD and Autism. She also knows how much the right kind of support can mean for parents in her position. 22 years ago her four-year old was being thrown out of nursery, and then out of school, almost daily.

“My husband and I felt very much on our own, there was no one else around. As parents, you become ostracised ... because no one understands. Often they blame the parents.”

Anne decided to do something about that lack of understanding. She established the organisation ADD-vance, which gives parent carers and professionals the tools they need to support young people affected by ADHD and Autism.

“One of the things I realised early on was that so many of the parents coming to our first support group had a huge amount of experience but very low self-worth ... It’s very much about finding out what the parent wants to do, and helping them do it.

“I trained our first specialist coaching team to coach families through their issues and make positive changes - and Hertfordshire Community Foundation has continued its support by funding our third cohort of this!”

What is striking in listening to Anne speak, is how powerful it can be when they help someone to change their attitude towards ADHD and Autism.

“Parents will call us and say ‘if I do get this label for my child what will happen to them?’ and actually nothing will happen to them.

The diagnosis is the start, the beginning of understanding. Will it stop them getting married? Getting a job? No. But people think it will.”

That shift isn’t only seen in the attitudes of individuals. Anne says she’s seen a huge cultural change over the years.

“A lot of parents come to us saying they can’t access any help. 20 years ago there wasn’t any help to get. At least now there is help out there, even if there isn’t enough to go around. That’s a huge difference.”

“We have a great link with HCF and they’re very easy to communicate with. We can ask if it’s possible if something might be funded and they will look for funds that might help.”

Anne Ross,
ADD-vance

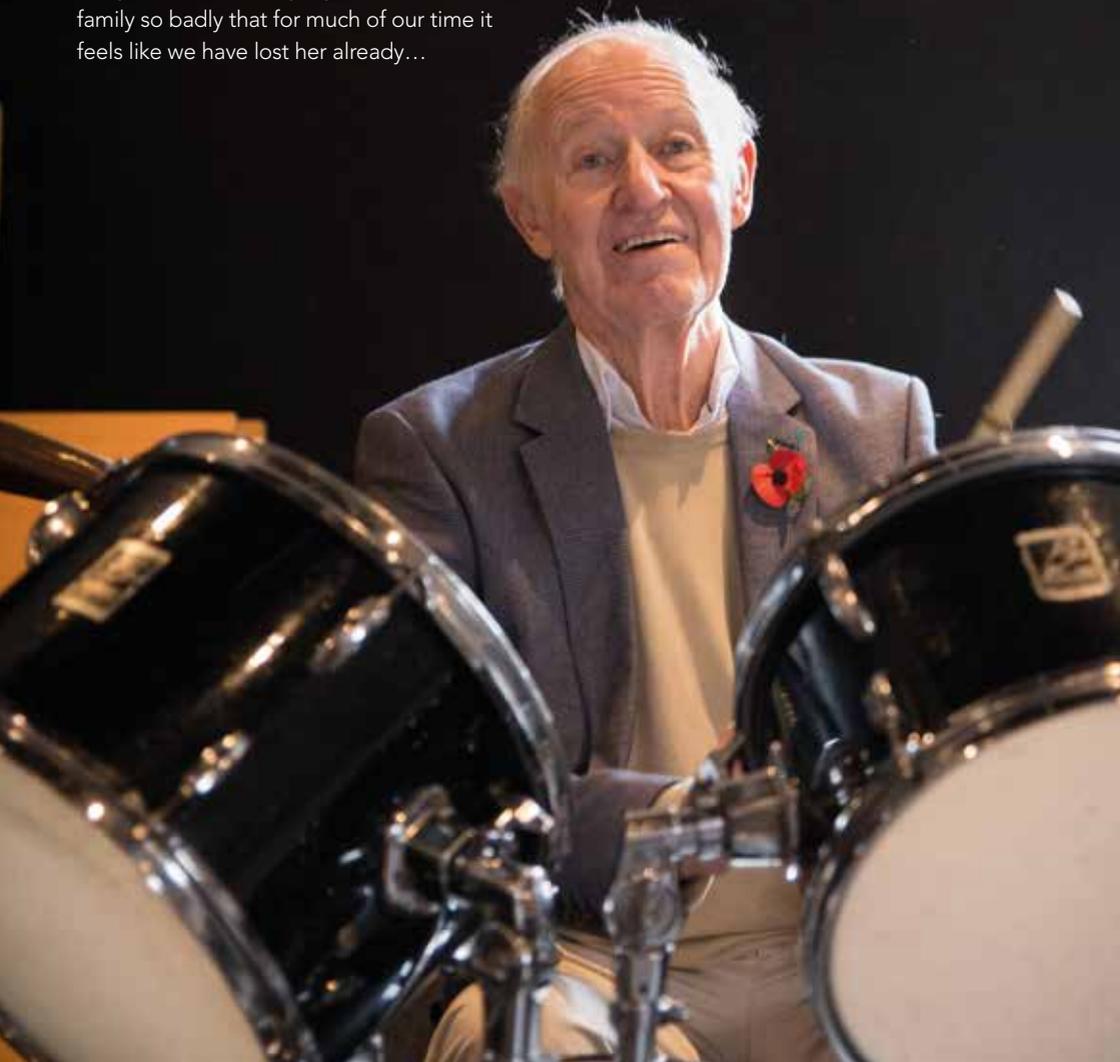
It’s a difference which ADD-vance has no doubt been a part of, and one which they will continue to drive forwards.

Music24

Music24 uses music therapy to help people affected by dementia to express themselves and to have fun. It's a relatively new organisation to Hertfordshire, and Jackie's mum goes along to one of the groups.

"My mum being diagnosed with dementia has really affected not only my mum but all of our family so badly that for much of our time it feels like we have lost her already..."

This music group is unique and very well run... the whole emphasis is on helping everyone try something new, building confidence and having a great time. Bringing my mum along to this group has, without doubt, been the best thing I have done."



Teela Hughes, one of Music24's Directors, explains why their work is so important.

"I think what's really important is that we're working with people who are really disabled and a lot of the time carers or their family around them are thinking about what they can't do any more. When they come to us we focus on things that they can do."

Hertfordshire Community Foundation first funded Music24 as recently as 2017, helping them to continue work that a local authority grant had started.

"It's harder for smaller organisations to establish their services. If you're new or it's a new idea, you need to create enough evidence to show that people are benefiting from what you're doing".

They're well on the way to creating that evidence base now, with groups running in Hoddesdon, Stevenage and Watford.

Funding from Hertfordshire Community Foundation makes the Watford group possible and is enabling Music24 to set up a new group in Welwyn Garden City.

If all goes to plan, this is just the start. Music24 has plans to reach more people with a broader range of needs, but they're committed to growing in a sustainable way.



"...there's a lot of potential because music is so beneficial – music is the amazing thing here and we just want to keep driving it forward."

Teela Hughes,
Music24's Director



How it all began

“I’m delighted to see how successfully HCF has emerged from that original idea, and that it’s still going strong.”

Lady Anne Parkinson,
Vice Chair of HCF (from 1988)

Thirty years ago, Hertfordshire Community Foundation was just an idea, about to be turned into a reality by a team of dedicated local people who laid the groundwork for what it has become today.

Philip Groves, the first Chair of Hertfordshire Community Foundation, has sadly now passed away, but Lady Anne Parkinson, who was Vice Chair, kindly spoke to us about how it all began.

“I was invited to become involved by a man named Philip Groves, who was an architect. He obviously knew a lot about community foundations in America, and it was from them that we got the idea that Hertfordshire, as other counties were doing, should set up a community foundation.”

Deciding on a Director

After a temporary Director, John Robinson, had been seconded in for 18 months before his retirement, the Trustees decided to appoint someone permanent to the role.

“I always thought it was one of the best jobs in the county.”

Tony Gilbert,
Foundation Director (1989-2004)

Lady Parkinson remembers interviewing Tony Gilbert, and that the Trustees “were incredibly impressed mainly because he was such an enthusiastic man, and also because he was a young branch manager for one of the big banks, and he was living in Hertfordshire.”

Tony explains that he was looking for a new opportunity and was “drawn away from banking towards doing something more than my efforts to help bank customers to get richer.”



1990: Director, Tony Gilbert, handing a grant cheque to HAD (Hertfordshire Action on Disability)

Finding the Funds

One of Tony’s first tasks was to establish a regular grant-making process and encouraged charities to apply. He also kept an eye on the long-term picture and is proud to see that the endowment funds established in the early days are still part of HCF today.

“We had some grant-making capability and after 15 years the endowment stood at £3-£4m. Grant-making had reached £1m, of which the European Social Fund had been a major contributor.”

A relatively unusual way of raising funds early on was a car raffle, which sold 37,000 tickets in its first year. Proceeds were split between HCF and the charities selling the tickets, and Tony remembers taking a car around the county to publicise it.

“On one occasion I drove the car onto a pallet in Safeway and I recall having to avoid tins of beans. It was worth it for the publicity and it brought us to the attention of a lot of charities.”

As well as this, he remembers Lady Parkinson making use of “her contacts for black-tie dinners, usually held at Knebworth. We had guest speakers John Birch from the BBC, Lord Weatherall, Speaker of the House of Commons and Jeffrey Archer.”

She also sourced ten marathon places, which Tony describes as being “like gold dust”.

“We bought tickets 12 and 13 and we were one of the earliest charities to do it. I was even interviewed by the Telegraph asking why we were doing it. I said it was a no-brainer. One year we raised £25k.”

Building reputation

In the mid 1990s Hertfordshire Community Foundation commissioned ‘Causes for Concern’, which Tony describes as “one of the first reports of its kind.” It was a needs analysis which shed light on specific challenges in the county and it was something that needed saying. It made people sit up and take notice. It showed HCF as a great organisation to engage with if you wanted to get philanthropic money to where it was most needed.”

Tony stayed for 15 years and was followed by David Fitzpatrick, Jonathan Aves and then by today’s Director, Helen Gray.

Looking back

Asked what really stands out from her memories of the early days of HCF, Lady Parkinson recalls “how enthusiastic everybody was about the new venture, and how we were all committed to the same idea.”

“You can start something and it can collapse, but in this case it didn’t. Now it’s 30 years on and Hertfordshire Community Foundation has gone much further down the road of adding other elements to HCF’s work, including training and other aspects that were not in our remit. I’m delighted to see how successfully HCF has emerged from that original idea, and that it’s still going strong.”

As for Tony, he looks back on his time at HCF “with great fondness... I always thought it was one of the best jobs in the county.”

A Donor's Story

“Hertfordshire Community Foundation has been excellent... It relieves a donor from the administration associated with philanthropy.”

John Peters,
St Albans Fund for the Future

John Peters founded the St Albans Fund for the Future in 2001, during his tenure as Mayor of St Albans, and in 2017 it awarded its 50th grant. The fund is focused on helping “small groups who need small amounts of money to let them concentrate on helping their client group rather than on fundraising.”

“When you become Mayor you always choose a charity to support, so I took the opportunity to set up my own through Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

We put all the donations that came to me in my role as Mayor together to make the St Albans Fund for the Future. I also wrote to a few friends who I thought might help out!”

Since it was set up the fund has become well established, supporting a range of different groups. “Some, like Growing Roots, are relatively new groups. Others are much more established, including groups like the Trinity Community Project and Wacky Wheels.

We also support a hostel for the homeless, which I’ve been involved with for a long time, and which is now called Open Door.”

John is a firm believer that “small local charities need small amounts of money, without strings attached”. While some funders prefer to give grants for projects, the St Albans Fund for the Future supports “the sort of thing that you can’t ask bigger funders to give you money for.

We like to cover those little costs that are needed really to keep a group active and going, such as insurance, telephones or hall hire.”

John credits Hertfordshire Community Foundation with taking a lot of the hard work out of setting up and running a fund. “We didn’t have to set up any of our own administration, register with the charity commission, all those boring things you have to do – HCF did it all.”

Giving back to Hertfordshire

“Thanks to Hertfordshire Community Foundation, Mark and I can give to charity in a smart and simple way.”

Sally Burton,
Burton Family Fund

We have invested in the community thanks to people just like you. People who love Hertfordshire, believe in its future and want to be a part of making it a better place for all. Your giving can be part of it.

Whether you want to set up a named fund, or join with others to support our Love Herts appeal, there are options for everyone which enable you to support causes in the way that suits you.

Named funds - You can set up a named fund to give now, or build over time. Creating this personal fund is an effective way for you to get directly involved in local giving, without the administrative and legal costs of setting up a separate charitable trust. Your gift can either be invested within our endowment to provide revenue for grants each year, or used as ‘flow through’ funding with the amount given used for grants annually.

Love Herts - You can make regular or one off donations to support our ‘Love Herts’ appeal. Donations to the appeal are used to support a wide range of deserving causes and community initiatives across Hertfordshire which may otherwise go unsupported. We also welcome donations that are made in memory of loved ones.

A gift in your will - Leaving a legacy in your will to Hertfordshire Community Foundation is a simple way to go on helping your community for generations to come. You can decide to have a fund named after you, your family or in a way that reflects something important to you.

Herts100 - Through the Herts100 Club we aim to build a group of 100 businesses to support small, grassroots community organisations that work hard to improve the quality of life for people across the county.



If you would like to become involved in anyway, or would like any information on the work of Hertfordshire Community Foundation please do get in touch or visit our website:

Helen Gray,
Foundation Director
E: helen.gray@hertscf.org.uk
T: 01707 251351
www.hertscf.org.uk



Hertfordshire Community Foundation,
Foundation House, 2-4 Forum Place, Fiddlebridge Lane,
Hatfield Hertfordshire AL10 0RN

T: 01707 251351

E: office@hertscf.org.uk

www.hertscf.org.uk

Company Registration No: 8794474 | Charity No: 1156082