



Mark Benevolent Fund

Quarter 3 Review
July – September 2026



Fund Activity Summary

- £38,949 - Disability Support Services
- £25,000 - Humanitarian Aid
- £145,483 - Local Community Focus
- £24,784 - Our Own Brethren
- £330,955 - Secondary Emergency Services
- £55,421 - Youth Sector

33%

of funds went to
applications directly
initiated by our
Provinces

67%

of funds went to
direct applications
from charities



£24,784
to help six
petitioners

The M.B.F. has assisted our Brethren and their families in need with assistance for rent increases, a walk-in shower, hospital travel costs, repairs to leaking infrastructure and part repayment of a debt that helped put more money back into the household. The M.B.F. can help in many ways. Contact your Provincial Grand Almoner for further information and details of how to make an application – don't leave it too late!

If you need assistance with medical costs and home adaptations, your first port of call must be to the Freemasons' Charity to check if they will be able to help you. Contact your Craft Lodge Almoner for further help or the Freemasons' Charity direct either online or by phone.

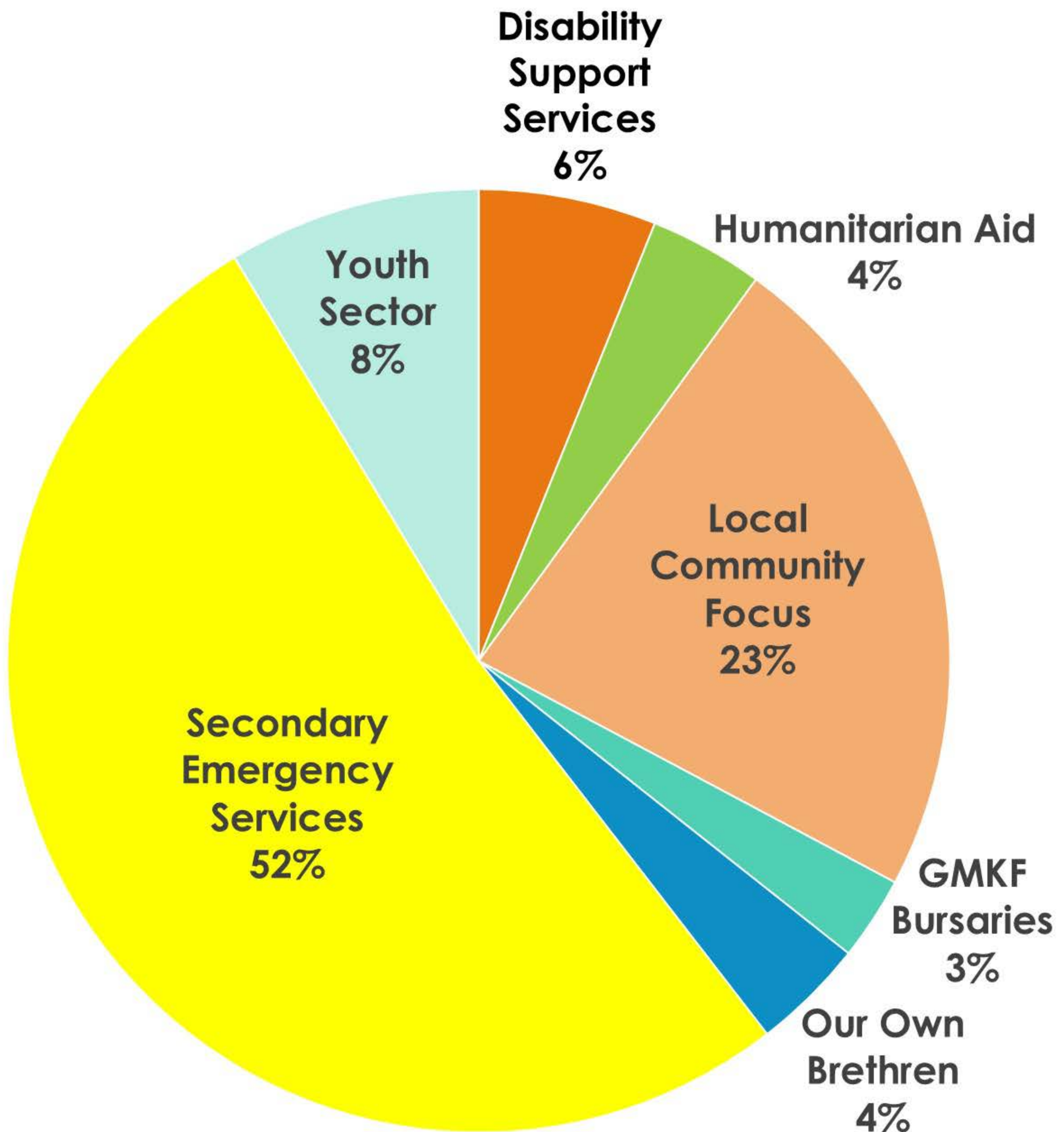
<https://freemasonscharity.org.uk/>



Freemasons'
Charity



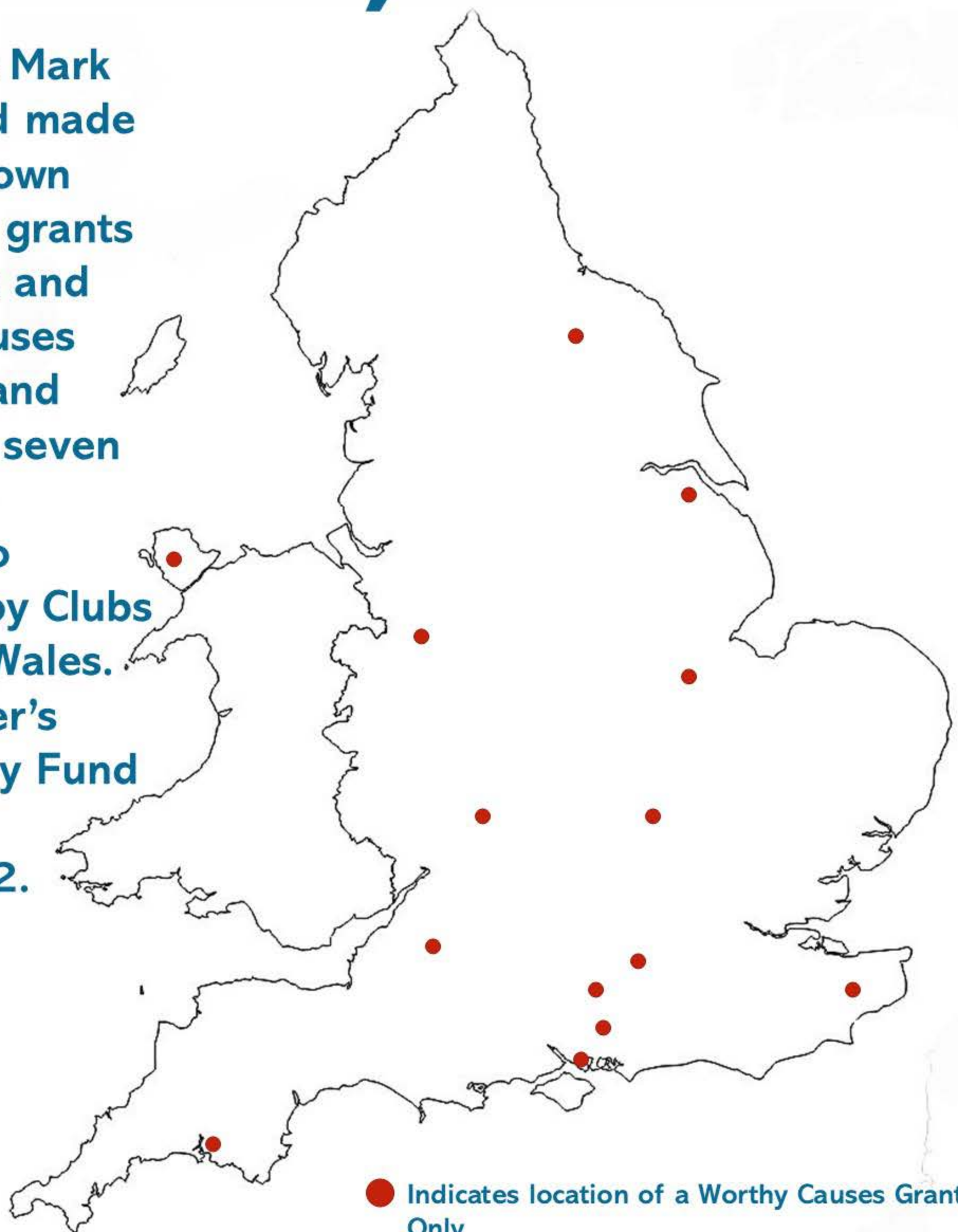
At a Glance...





£714,731

In Quarter 3 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 6 grants to our own Brethren and 15 grants to local charities and other worthy causes across England and Wales. A further seven grants totalling £75,807 went to Wheelchair Rugby Clubs in England and Wales. The Grand Master's Keystone Bursary Fund made 5 awards totalling £18,332.



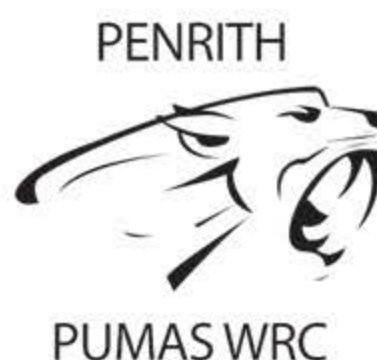
GBWR

Wheelchair Rugby

Major Grant Initiative

£888,413

To Date





£18,332



The Grand Master's Keystone Fund was established in 2023 to celebrate forty years of service to Mark and RAM Masonry by the Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO. The purpose of the fund is to grant bursaries to individuals, to offer encouragement and financial support to those who wish to begin or continue their educational, vocational, or performance studies.

Bursaries of up to £5,000 a year may be awarded for recognised full or part-time programs leading to educational or vocational qualifications, for non-formal or community education programs such as Scouting and Guiding, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or other youth organisations, or for performance areas including sport and the performing arts.

Bursaries are intended to meet costs such as necessary equipment and materials, textbooks and course visits, among other things. Applicants may be a close family member of a mason who is a member of any Masonic Order administered from Mark Masons' Hall or he may be the applicant himself as there is no upper age limit.

This quarter we have helped in a number a ways:

- Providing a talented young sportsman with funds for an international trip and new updated kit;
- Financial support for a student with a gap in her funding to provide a laptop and associated software;
- Supporting a budding young musician with audio equipment to allow her to participate in gigs while attending university;
- To assist a Mark Master Mason with university fees to allow him to retrain following recent redundancy;
- Providing a student with much needed funding for a new laptop & software.



Hamble Lifeboat

Saving lives since 1968

Hamble Lifeboat – £311,107

The Hamble Lifeboat station is replacing the older of two lifeboats, which has reached end of life. The Lifeboat 'Harry Childs' is a Halmatic Pacific 32 RIB built in 1995, fitted out by volunteers and launched in 1996. It has undergone four major refits but is now considered to be beyond economic repair.

The new boat will be named "The John H Prizeman" in recognition of his interest in this project and the generosity of Mark Masons in England and Wales and Districts Overseas.



£25,000 – Anglesey Food Bank

The charity needed to replace their existing refrigerated van which was becoming increasingly unreliable. They give emergency food provision and early intervention support for individuals and families experiencing hardship across Anglesey.



AAFFF - £9,770

The grant was made to All Abilities Friendly Fly Fishers towards the purchase of wheelchair accessible "Wheelyboat" to provide disabled persons access to trout fishing. Following a health and safety review by the local water company, it meant that conventional methods of getting disabled fly fishers into boats was no longer feasible.



£22,703 – Canterbury Rugby Club

The club has requested a grant towards the installation of a borehole which is to be used for the irrigation of the pitches, thereby maintaining them in a usable condition. The project includes drilling a borehole (which has been successful and copious amounts of water has been found), installation of pumps, pipework, storage and irrigation equipment required to maintain safe, playable grass pitches throughout increasingly hot and dry summers.



ShelterBox

ShelterBox - £25,000

The Mark Benevolent Fund has donated £25,000 to support ShelterBox's emergency response in Nepal, where recent flash floods have claimed lives, destroyed homes, roads and critical infrastructure, leaving thousands of people displaced. The donation was received within 6 days of the event and will help ShelterBox to continue to provide shelter and essential household items to families affected, many of whom have lost everything.



£7,900

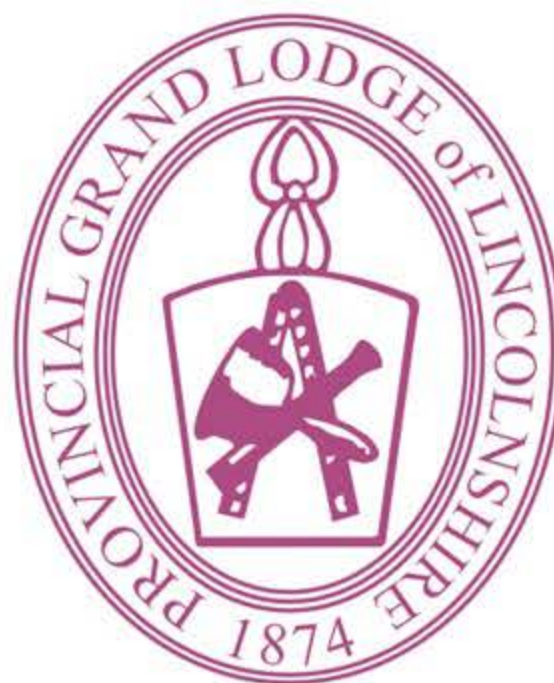
City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club

Funds will go towards the purchase of a new van which will be used to transport staff, volunteers and equipment to outreach sessions across the city to reach many vulnerable young people who, with the right support, can reach their potential in basketball, education and their community.



Pennyhooks Farm Trust - £25,182

The charity provides work-based training and support for autistic children and young adults. The majority of those attending the farm live in Oxfordshire, however a number come from the adjoining counties of Wiltshire and Berkshire. Funds will purchase three pieces of equipment: a ride-on mower, specialist sanitaryware, and communications equipment. The equipment will greatly improve both the wellbeing and working environment for the students attending the farm.



£10,672 – Immingham Sea Cadets

This request is for the renewal of an existing minibus which has come to the end of its working life. Without reliable transport, many of these young people are unable to attend events, training weekends, competitions, camps, community activities and experiences that would otherwise help shape their confidence, discipline and prospects.



£31,182 – Melksham Community Transport

The award is for a replacement wheelchair accessible bus. The existing vehicle is ageing and unreliable. The bus provides essential transport for the elderly and those with limited mobility in Melksham and the surrounding villages to attend social clubs, shopping trips and other events that would otherwise be inaccessible to them.



Gingerbread Family Support – £8,698

The grant application is for the purchase of Beacon CRM software and laptops. CRM is an acronym for Customer Relationship Management. It is a strategy, process, and software tool used to track, organise, and manage interactions with current and potential customers.



£19,848 – St John Ambulance – Hampshire & Isle of Wight

This funding is for first aid training equipment, in particular defibrillators that require replacement due to age and inability to get replacement parts or supplies for them to be active and deployable.



£44,749 – Cann Bridge School Fund

The Cann Bridge School Fund aims to provide specialist equipment and support for pupils with severe learning difficulties who attend the Cann Bridge Special School. The grant is for phase 1 of the development works of the external play area at the school.



Back and Forth Men's Mental Health - £25,000

Back & Forth Men's Mental Health was established following the tragic death by suicide of a close friend of the founder. Since then, the mission has been simple: to create safe, welcoming spaces where men can connect without pressure, judgement or expectation. The Mobile Hub will be a professionally converted vehicle providing a warm, welcoming and informal environment where men can stop for a coffee, have a conversation or simply take some time out.



£25,000 – Lifeline Community Action

The charity supports individuals and families across County Durham and Darlington who are experiencing poverty, crisis, isolation or disadvantage. The grant goes towards the purchase of a suitable delivery vehicle to support Lifeline Community Action's emergency aid and community support services across the area. The vehicle will be used to collect, transport and deliver essential goods, including food, clothing, hygiene items, household goods, baby equipment, school uniform, emergency support packs and donated stock.



Cardiac *Rehab*

Basingstoke & Alton *Cardiac Rehabilitation Charity Ltd*

£3,997 – Basingstoke and Alton Cardiac Rehabilitation Charity

The grant is for funds to replace ageing gym equipment with two new elliptical cross trainers to provide medically led exercise programs. The charity predominantly works with those over 65 years in the local community who are suffering from or at the risk of developing serious long term health issues.



159th M.B.F. Festival Banquet

will be held at the

**Aloft Birmingham Eastside Hotel
Woodcock Street,**

Birmingham B7 4BL

Saturday, 3 July 2027

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)





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Issued by
Mark Benevolent Fund
Registered Charity No. 207610

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