



 Dorset Community Foundation

Newsletter

Winter 2024

Welcome

As we bring down the curtain on 2024 and plan for 2025, it's good to reflect on a hectic year. What has stood out for me are the partnerships we've forged over the last 12 months. We've had productive collaborations with the NHS and Community Action Network on our Community Wellbeing and Mental Health Fund, with Dorset and BCP councils on our Dorset Welcome Fund and also with the latter on our BCP Food and Energy Support Fund. Just between those we have seen more than £2 million flow into our communities. There has been great support from many other quarters too. It's been a brilliant year. I would like to wish everyone a very peaceful Christmas and an exciting New Year.

Grant Robson, Chief Executive

14th Surviving Winter appeal launch

This year's Surviving Winter appeal faces the twin challenges of rising fuel poverty as energy prices dial upwards and a risk to our fundraising because of the reduction in who gets the government's Winter Fuel Payment. Previously, before it was means tested, we had wonderful support from those who felt they didn't need the payment. This year we are hoping people will still feel they can support our appeal with whatever they can spare because we know from our appeal partners at Citizens Advice, who help distribute our £200 energy grants, the need is greater than ever. Here's some of the feedback they've shared with us.

"It was such a relief to receive help as my living budget is very limited."

"We were very grateful to receive help during a very difficult period of my life."

"I felt I had to send a thank you card but it doesn't even begin to cover the peace of mind their help afforded me."

"This grant helped me pay some of the high winter energy costs, bought me a small electric heater and helped with rising food costs."



Our trustee John Young, centre, with Project Manager Ros Dignan and members of Citizens Advice East Dorset and Purbeck's Energy Team

"The lady I saw was brilliant and helped me through a really bad time when I didn't know which way to turn."



MORE ABOUT THE APPEAL AND HOW TO DONATE [HERE](#)

HEAR US ON BBC DORSET [HERE](#)



Fund helps with warm welcome

Our Dorset Welcome Fund, which is supported with contributions from Dorset Council, BCP Council and community foundation fundholders, has awarded more than £53,000 to 12 voluntary groups and charities across the county to help refugees and asylum seekers of any nationality arriving, residing or settling in the county.

This was the second round of grants this year, with more than £100,000 being awarded in total.

Among the recipients is AsOne Theatre Company's Growing Grains of Hope project (below, right) supporting Ukrainian Families using art-therapy and Options Wellbeing Trust in Bournemouth, whose trauma stabilisation programme helps relieve anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Our funding also helped Shaftesbury Refugee Group (above, right) run inclusive cultural events, visits for refugee families to understand our culture and summer schools for English development. All this work can only happen thanks to the support of our partners and donors.



SWEF grantee zooms in on success

Richard Koburn from Swanage scrimped and saved to buy himself a film camera to fulfil his ambition of becoming a videographer but he needed more equipment to take his work to the next level. A SWEF Enterprise Fund grant of £800 allowed him to buy the stabilising gimbal he needed and the difference it made to the quality of his work led to commissions from Rick Stein and Moto GP. Our SWEF Enterprise Fund offers grants of up to £2,000 to young business people. Read more about Richard and the fund via this link.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Leaving a bequest is an enduring legacy that benefits county

We have recently been a beneficiary of the late Helen Hain, a Dorset lady who bequeathed us £231,000 in her will, to be used to go towards our work. Her generosity and love for the county will help us to continue our support for charities and voluntary groups in Dorset. We can help you create a unique and lasting tribute to your community that reflects your wishes, supports the causes you care about and benefits future generations in the years to come.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

Neighbourhood Fund for small community projects is open

Our Neighbourhood Fund offers grants of up to £5,000 to grass roots community groups delivering services and activities that address social issues, problems, poverty and disadvantage. The fund is open for applications until midday on January 17. Follow the link below for eligibility details and how to apply.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

BCP Food and Energy Support Fund Impact Report published

The BCP Food and Energy Support Fund's Summer 2024 grant round distributed £225,000 to grass roots groups and charities helping people face the future with confidence as well as staying well fed and healthy, thanks to our partnership with BCP Council.

The monitoring feedback from the groups we funded have been collated by our Grants Manager Ellie Maguire and published on our site. The full report is available via the link below but here are the headlines.

£225,000
awarded

31 groups
supported

Involving
666
volunteers

Helping
16,131
people



New stock was delivered to Bournemouth Foodbank thanks to the BCP Food and Energy Support Fund



READ THE FULL REPORT [HERE](#)

WATCH OUR SHORT FILM [HERE](#)



From left, our visits to Prama in Christchurch, STARS in Poole and Pavilion Dance South West in Bournemouth

Meeting groups improves our knowledge – and donor services

We've been out on the road again since our last newsletter visiting voluntary groups and charities we have funded. We often take our trustees and other guests, such as Mark Smith from the NHS, because it is uplifting for them to see the work our donors fund. It's also invaluable for us to be able to relay what we experience back to donors. We'd like to thank Vita Nova, STARS, Emerald Ant, Prama, Safe and Sound Dorset, DorPIP, Pavilion Dance, and Access Dorset for their warm welcome over the last couple of months.



Safe and Sound Dorset's The Well Cafe in Boscombe and Emerald Ant's creative group at Poole Community Clinic



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