

HEALTH MATTERS

The newsletter of **The WPH Charitable Trust** – A charity supporting health related projects for individuals, groups and organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire

PANDEMIC PROMPTS SPECIAL £25,000 AWARD DIVIDED BETWEEN FIVE LOCAL HOSPICES

Hospices serving adults and children in Coventry and Warwickshire have been given a helping hand from the WPH Charitable Trust in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trust has made £5,000 available to each of Coventry and Warwickshire's five hospice services – namely Acorns Children's Hospice, Zoë's Place Baby Hospice, Myton Hospice, Mary Ann Evans Hospice and The Shakespeare Hospice, coming to a massive total of £25,000.

The donations come as hospices across the UK face very serious financial struggles, with many fundraising events cancelled over the coming months due to the pandemic.

Zoë's Place Baby Hospice in Coventry has been awarded £5,000 towards physiotherapy services for babies and children up to the age of five

with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses.

Acorns Children's Hospice will use its money to help support its nursing care for children in Coventry and Warwickshire with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses.

The Myton Hospices were awarded the money towards their home-based services for patients in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Mary Ann Evans Hospice in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire, and The Shakespeare Hospice in Stratford were awarded £5,000 each to fund their Rapid Response teams which provide specialist palliative care, enabling terminally ill patients to be cared for and die at home.

Peter Handslip, Chairman of the WPH Charitable Trust, said: "These are challenging times for charities

everywhere with fundraising efforts put on hold at least for a large part of this year, if not longer.

"We are delighted to be able to award £5,000 to each of the hospices providing care in our area, to help alleviate some of the fundraising pressures and to help them continue in their vital work during the Covid19 pandemic and beyond."



GRANT HELPS KWAME MAINTAIN HIS STRENGTH

A Rugby man who lost the use of his legs following a motorway collision near Coventry now has regular use of life-changing rehabilitation equipment in his own home thanks to a £5,550 grant from the WPH Charitable Trust.

Father-of-four Kwame Nyanyo, aged 54, who lives with wife Lorraine in Old Brownsover, had been in a seemingly minor accident on the M6 motorway near Corley Services in June 2018.

He required surgery but lost the use of his legs and spent seven months in hospital.

He is now full time in a wheelchair, diagnosed with an incomplete tetraplegia, although doctors say there is a good chance he could be back on his feet within

two to three years of the operation.

Kwame, who had previously worked all over the country as a service



engineer for Costa Coffee and Starbucks, said: "The accident for me was life changing. But I am a positive person. I don't get down about things. I just get on with it and try to stay positive.

"Because I was confined to bed for so long I still need regular physio for everything – my arms and my legs. It was my physiotherapist who told me about the WPH Charitable Trust and recommended I apply for financial help for the standing chair.

"I was delighted as there is no way we would have had the chair without the help of WPH. It helps me to work my strength and my core, and I'm using my arms and my legs so it helps with blood flow.

Lorraine said the standing aid had given Kwame and his family more hope of a full recovery in time. She said: "Without it, there was still the determination in us to reach our same end goal – getting Kwame back on his feet – but this has helped increase our chances."

THE WPH CHARITABLE TRUST AWARDS £245,000 TO HELP SICK AND INJURED PEOPLE

The Chairman of the WPH Charitable Trust has recounted the highlights of his first year in the chair after steering almost £245,000 of funds to help make life easier for sick and injured people.

More than 170 grants – medical and non-medical – have been handed out since Consultant Respiratory Physician Peter Handslip took the helm.

All grants were awarded to people with physical or mental health issues living in the Coventry and Warwickshire area.

The smallest grant – for £50 – was used to buy a microwave oven while the largest – for £14,325 – was used for home adaptations to enable the occupant to live downstairs in their own home.

In Coventry, Ezekiah Alphonse, who was diagnosed with glaucoma at the age of 13 and gradually lost his eyesight throughout his teens and 20s, received a new lap top, screen reading software and speech software to enable him to study an access course in social sciences with a view to reading for a degree at Coventry University.

The Trust also donated £2,500 to enable a Warwickshire woman and her special needs son to relocate to a new home after leaving a violent relationship.

Warwick Medical School

received £3,935 to train 200 medical and life sciences students to deliver certified life-saving CPR and defibrillator training to fellow students on the Warwick University campus and to members of the community.

£5,000 bursaries were awarded to three medical students at Warwick Medical School with a connection to Coventry and Warwickshire who would otherwise struggle to finance their degree.

Speaking of his time in the chair Peter said: “Over the past year we have made a number of awards which are not large sums of money but have helped make a huge difference to people’s lives. For just a few hundred pounds we have been able to change people’s fortunes which has been excellent.

“I am proud of our achievements over the past 12 months and we all look forward to continuing to build on this over the year to come.”



Peter Handslip, Chairman,
WPH Charitable Trust



YOUNG CARERS GIVEN A HELPING HAND

A charity which works with young carers has been given a helping hand by the WPH Charitable Trust.

Warwickshire Young Carers project has been awarded £5,000 which will fund group activities and one-to one support for young carers in their caring role, as well as giving them an opportunity to take a break, relax and have fun.

The money will also go towards helping with education issues and career aspirations.

Warwickshire Young Carers currently works with more than 2,700 young individuals aged six to 25 across the county, providing information, advice and guidance on services available to young carers and their families.

The charity also arranges regular breaks, social

events and leisure and educational opportunities to allow carers time out from their responsibilities, enabling friendship growth and confidence in people who can listen and help.

Many supported by the charity have been carers to the detriment of other aspects of their lives, such as their education and social opportunities.

Rachel Faulkner, CEO of Warwickshire Young Carers, said: “We work with some of the most complex families across the county. Every penny we receive, we are grateful for.

“We are thrilled to have been awarded the very generous donation by WPH.”

Do you know someone struggling with health related issues, who could benefit from additional financial support?

See our website for details of how to apply.

www.warwickshirehealthcharity.org.uk

