



WESLEYAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

WESLEYAN
we are all about you


heart of england
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Front Cover: Wild in Art's *Gratitude* exhibition in Birmingham. Wesleyan were the official location sponsors for Birmingham and supported the project with a £35,000 donation.
Photo credit: Daniel Graves Photography.

Introduction

The Wesleyan Foundation is proud to have awarded over £3.9 million to deserving causes since its launch in 2017. As a mutual, Wesleyan is committed to doing the right thing for our members, customers, colleagues and for the communities in which we all live and work. In 2021, as we celebrated our 180th anniversary, we were again able to demonstrate our culture of care through the Wesleyan Foundation and truly bring to life the difference we can make as a mutual.

We were delighted to restart our large and small grants programmes in the year - put on hold for much of 2020 because of Covid-19 - and provide support for many grass roots organisations who have faced unprecedented pressures on their services as the pandemic continues to impact.

We donated over £900,000 to good causes that support our customer base of doctors, teachers and dentists, as well as providing much needed aid to local communities. Given the impact the pandemic has had on mental wellbeing we put a focus on mental health, supporting organisations like Doctors in Distress, Dentist Health Support Trust and Education Support. The Foundation also partnered with the National Literacy Trust to launch its new Teacher Wellbeing website - a platform dedicated to supporting and improving education professionals' mental and physical wellbeing.

To recognise the incredible services delivered by key workers throughout the pandemic we were proud to support Wild in Art's Gratitude project, a public art installation of 51 uniquely painted sculptures displayed in four UK city centres, including our home city of Birmingham. It was a memorable way to celebrate our 180th anniversary by helping to bring art to the streets and enable thousands of people to enjoy the statues and reflect on their own thoughts on the pandemic.

We also ran a competition linked to our statues and welcomed applications from schools to receive a share of £30,000. This funding was awarded to four schools across the UK to help improve indoor and outdoor spaces for pupils and staff.

We further enhanced our commitment to sustainability through by donating £25,000 to Telford-based Small Woods Association to fund the creation of four new sustainable woodlands across the UK. We believe projects like these that create a lasting legacy are in the true spirit of the Wesleyan Foundation.

We also opened a 180th anniversary 'mutuality fund' and awarded over £19,000 to organisations not usually eligible for Foundation funding due to geographical location or the nature of their activity. This included local running clubs, football teams and organisations supporting our professions.



Sincere thanks to our wonderful partners at the Heart of England Community Foundation. Tina Costello and her team continue to work tirelessly to make every penny of Wesleyan's investment into our communities count. This year has been no different and they have supported the distribution of funds which will impact over 45,000 individuals across the UK.

Thanks also to the internal grants panel at Wesleyan who have to make difficult decisions in order to fund the most impactful projects and to the partner foundations for their great work in supporting applications.

2021 saw us get back to some sort of normality with the Foundation and we look forward to building on this in 2022 when we have again committed another £1 million to support great causes across the UK. We will continue to support organisations that go above and beyond for the professions we serve as well as those helping people and communities to rebuild in a post pandemic world.

Nathan Wallis - Chief of Staff, Wesleyan

2021 Summary

TOTAL REGIONAL GRANTS: £481k*
TOTAL WESLEYAN IDENTIFIED CAUSES: £478k
TOTAL WESLEYAN FOUNDATION: £959k

*Map below shows distribution of regional grants only.



Wesleyan Identified Causes

In addition to the grant requests we receive from charities and community groups directly, the Wesleyan Foundation also makes a number of donations each year based on suggestions and requests from Wesleyan colleagues, members and customers. This was particularly pertinent in 2021 as many of our customers were working on the front line during the pandemic and required our support more than ever. The following case studies show just a snapshot of the huge number of projects supported.

To read more about our case studies, please visit: www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wesleyan-2021/

Dentistry

TOWN HALL FOUNDATION

The Town Hall Foundation (THF), based in West Yorkshire, is the charitable arm of Town Hall Dental, providing essential oral healthcare treatments and education for at-risk individuals. Wesleyan donated £10,000 towards their mobile dental van. Rachel Dilley, Director at THF shared:

"I have a passion for helping other people and it became really apparent that there's a lot of people that can't access dentistry, such as people in care homes, children and adults with learning disabilities, refugees, women suffering domestic violence, homeless, and ex-homeless."

The donation from Wesleyan will go towards their £150,000 project of building a mobile dental van. Rachel continued:

"Since the pandemic we've probably seen 2,000 unregistered patients. The mobile dental van will support our work to look after the homeless and refugees. By working with sports clubs we want the dental van to go to football grounds and other sporting grounds to do free oral cancer checks there and then."

"The van will also support children that are autistic as it's hard to get them to the dentist so the mobile van can go to them or to their schools instead."

"During the pandemic there's been a massive impact in people getting diagnosed with oral cancer, a lot of people say they haven't got time to get a check-up so this is a solution to preventing or diagnosing oral cancer early."

Whilst raising the rest of the funds for the van, THF will be setting up oral cancer screening at sports events and supermarkets for their outreach work supported by the donation from Wesleyan. Rachel concluded:

"It's just so heart-warming to know that we're actually giving back to somebody and reducing suffering, it's a free gift and I'm just so pleased we've been able to provide support thanks to Wesleyan."



Education

SMALL WOODS

Small Woods, a national woodland charity, received a £25,000 donation to create four sustainable woodlands across the UK. Julia Gaskell, Development Officer at Small Woods, shared:

"We've developed this idea by involving community woodlands and schools so we hope it will grow from just planting 60 trees. The first event we've planned is in England at a secondary school to plant the trees to create a micro woodland. We planted different species within that area and that's just the start, we hope we can provide an outdoor learning area."



"The students are so passionate about being outside and connecting with nature, you just think how fantastic that we've been able to work with Wesleyan to give them that opportunity. It's great to really ignite that passion and hope that they'll take that forward either to future careers or just having that connection to the environment that will help them in the future with their mental health and physical health."

NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST



National Literacy Trust, a charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed, were awarded £70,000 to fund their 12-month campaign to offer online resources for school staff to improve their wellbeing.

Tim Judge, Head of School Programmes has been leading on the Wellbeing programme:

"The funding has developed our teacher wellbeing area on our website supporting school staff across the UK in their wellbeing, such as improving social connections, physical activity, healthier eating, we also have free mindfulness and yoga courses."

A teacher benefitting from the online resources, shared:

"Looking through the site I've found it easily accessible, concise and quick to use. It's been compiled with teachers in mind, there's a range of resources and support. I've set myself a small challenge to spend 10 minutes each week on the site to see if there's anything I could be doing to make life easier. After all, it's the little wins that often end up being the biggest victories."

Tim concluded: *"Without Wesleyan's support we wouldn't be able to support the wellbeing of our teachers."*

Medical

DOCTORS IN DISTRESS

Doctors in Distress, a charity dedicated to reducing stress and burnout in healthcare workers, received £20,000 from the Wesleyan Foundation to support their wellbeing webinars for foundation doctors.

Founded in 2018 by Amandip Sidhu after the suicide of his brother, cardiologist Dr Jagdip Sidhu, he wanted to ensure any doctor does not feel like suicide is the only option when stressed or burnt out with the pressures of work. The funding from Wesleyan has enabled the charity to run four webinars on different issues that may affect the mental wellbeing of a foundation doctor. Susannah Basile, Head of Programmes, explained:

"Foundation doctors are fresh out of medical school being thrown in the deep end where everything is alien. We're seeing quite a few stats out there about how foundation doctors are really mentally struggling at the moment. We want the webinars to encourage participants to talk, our first panel discussion was 'Self-care is health-care', the second webinar 'Navigating the bumps in the road' and another webinar on Financial Wellbeing and with Wesleyan being a financial organisation they'll be sharing financial tips and why it's good to look after finances for your mental health."

"We're so grateful to Wesleyan because foundation doctors are such a hard bunch of people to reach, and these webinars are really helping to initiate and continue these lifesaving conversations."

WILD IN ART: GRATITUDE



Wild in Art's Gratitude was an outdoor public art exhibition touring across the UK showcasing 51 sculptures all designed by individual artists and sponsored by different businesses. Its aim was to acknowledge key workers and pay tribute to the NHS. Wesleyan awarded £35,000 towards the project and were the official location partners in Birmingham. Julie Gaskell, Head of Partnerships at Wild in Art, explained:

"The installations were to honour and to show gratitude, sort of a nation's thank-you to all key workers, so not just doctors, nurses and health care workers, but to recognise delivery drivers, people in the financial sector and all sorts of other people. The exhibition saw over 500,000 people visit."

The Covid-19 pandemic marked a major historical event, a unique but collective experience explored through the artworks while the world was in several lockdowns. Wesleyan asked colleagues to put forward their own community heroes and two of these people were painted on two of the sculptures. Charlie Langhorne, Co-Founder and Managing Director at Wild in Art, said:

"Wesleyan was an integral part of Gratitude and we were proud to work with their team. As an organisation with its heart in Birmingham it was great that Wesleyan became location sponsor. Wesleyan was able to celebrate its 180th birthday and say thank you to its colleagues and members, many of whom are frontline doctors, dentists and teachers, for their contribution during the pandemic. We're very grateful for their kind support in making Gratitude something that was accessible to members of the public and gave some much needed light and colour to the city in the summer of 2021".



Self Care is Health Care: Panel discussion

Launch webinar in a series of four unique wellbeing webinars for FY1&FY2's

Led by keynote speaker



Professor Subodh Dave



Tuesday 5th October,
6-7.30pm

www.doctors-in-distress.org.uk

Covid-19 Response

BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL RESEARCH

BVSC Research collaborated with several organisations, including charities to investigate the Covid-19 vaccine uptake in Birmingham amongst those with multiple disadvantage. The Wesleyan Foundation part funded this project with a £13,000 donation.

Sophie Wilson, Director of BVSC Research, shared:

"We've been hearing from people with multiple disadvantage that there was resistance amongst that cohort of people with the vaccine uptake. Given the disadvantage faced by that group of individuals, we wanted to make sure whether a) that was the case and b) if it was the case then what was driving some of that behaviour."

"If we didn't have the funding we wouldn't have been able to do this research. What I think is unique about our work and the way we've delivered this research is that we've had real, intrinsic involvement with people with lived experience. It's so important that through our work we're so giving a voice to this really disadvantaged group who often get excluded from lots of things, and we can actually raise their profile to help reduce some of the barriers they face."

Lauren Bennett, Evaluations Manager at Revolving Doors, added:

"These findings will have an ongoing impact on how we approach the issue, especially in terms of boosters. We wanted to flag for the need of partnership between the NHS and these organisations."



Supporting Additional Needs

SENSORY KIDS

Sensory Kids, a charity, based in Northern Ireland, support children with disabilities and their families. The donation from The Wesleyan Foundation funded their Lego therapy and mindfulness sessions with a £5,060 to meet the needs of 60 young people with autism. Mary Connor, Founder of Sensory Kids, explained:

"Lego Therapy is all about a child being able to build and create something. In the group with the three year olds they're all at the same level and they have a builder, they have an architect and they make things by working as a team. It's really inspiring to watch it. Six Bricks is using Lego bricks of different colours, each colour represents an emotion, so it's a way for them to communicate through the bricks and it's fun, it's not just about a therapy."

"We work from babies upwards, working with parents whose children have autism, to give them that little bit of respite. We've found that more parents since the pandemic haven't got a job at the moment and their money is used for food and clothing for their children and there's no spare money for therapy for their autistic child, they know the therapy is beneficial but they just can't afford it so this is why we want our service to be free."

"Schools and teachers are desperate for these kind of therapies, parents especially. The funding from Wesleyan is a dream come true!"

Impact

PASIC



Parents Association for Seriously Ill Children
Awarded: £7,170
To fund a project supporting young people with cancer.

"I'm currently in hospital with my 17 year old daughter, she's just had one of your cinema packs... thank you so much, we're here for six weeks so the little things really help and make her smile."

- Parent of beneficiary

"After our first few practices with the group of children lots of them explained that they felt calmer, more awake, they noticed the room seemed brighter and clearer."

- Amber Crockett, Learning Mentor at Broomhill Junior School

EACH AMAZING BREATH



Awarded: £8,910
To fund *Take Five* - School Resilience Building Programme to support emotional wellbeing.

BRIDGEND FARMHOUSE



Awarded: £2,770
Towards the compost-toilet community build.

"We're grateful for the vision that Wesleyan saw in supporting our project, and its value both to trainees, to the local community after being built, and to the environment by encouraging natural sustainable composting processes."

- Will Golding, Director/Trustee

RECRE8



"I got better every week and didn't want it to end. This is the first female only programme we've had in our area and it became like my family. "

- Participant, aged 16

Awarded: £9,960.20

To fund the HerSpace programme to up-skill disadvantaged, Black, Asian and minority ethnic young females.

GUY'S GIFT



"When students don't want to talk or are trying to process their emotions it's been so beneficial to have the resources to read about how they are feeling from a beautifully illustrated book rather than formal literature that isn't relatable. It gives both parties an opportunity to talk about feelings around the storyline from the books."

- Coventry school teacher

Awarded: £2,000

To support bereavement resource kits in 20 Coventry schools.

BLOOMIN DEMENTIA



"Bloomin Dementia's highly trained staff offer a very satisfactory service; everyone is lovely and friendly, and they do so much for my mum."

- Child of beneficiary

Awarded: £4,969.98

To train volunteers, the families and carers of the person diagnosed with dementia.

Partnerships

The Wesleyan Foundation is managed by the **Heart of England Community Foundation** and delivered in collaboration with eight Community Foundations across the UK.



Wesleyan Foundation

At Wesleyan, we're committed to creating brighter financial futures for our customers. With Wesleyan Foundation, we're giving back to the organisations that create brighter futures for your communities. Since 2017, we've awarded over £3.9 million to deserving causes across the UK.

Apply for a Grant

We're here to help your mission go further, by providing financial support when you need it the most. You can apply for a grant for projects on education, health, innovation and social development.

www.wesleyan.co.uk/foundation/apply-for-a-grant





LOCAL GIVING CHAMPIONS.

Wesleyan Assurance Society
Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham, West Midlands

t: 0800 092 1990
w: wesleyan.co.uk/foundation

Heart of England Community Foundation
c/o Stellantis, Pinley House, 2 Sunbeam Way
Coventry, West Midlands, CV3 1ND

t: 02477 800 520
w: heartofenglandcf.co.uk
e: info@heartofenglandcf.co.uk
Reg Charity No: 1117345