

The Wesleyan Foundation.

Annual Report 2017

Prepared by Heart of England Community Foundation



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Community Noticeboard



20 ★ 17
£7,000
AWARDED

FOREWORD

Serious About Corporate Responsibility.



Wesleyan provides specialist financial services for professionals, particularly doctors, dentists, teachers and lawyers. You might not immediately associate a financial services company with philanthropy but we're a different kind of company. We're a mutual. This means we have no shareholders and can focus on running our business in the interests of our members and customers.

As a mutual, we're committed to doing the right thing; the core value of our business is "we care". We launched the Wesleyan Foundation in June 2017 to demonstrate our care and commitment to supporting great causes that are important to our members, customers and the communities in which we live and work.

The aim of the Foundation is to support those grass roots, volunteer and community-led projects that make a real difference across the UK. We fund organisations delivering services around four key themes: promotion of health and wellbeing, education, innovation and social development.

We set ourselves the ambitious target of funding 50 groups when we launched and we're delighted that, so far, we've awarded over £300,000 to 84 causes in just six months. These projects will make a difference to thousands of people across the UK, providing local solutions to meet local needs.

We're delighted that our customers have been getting involved in their droves as we regularly ask them to vote for the good causes they want to see benefit most from larger grants. And I'm incredibly proud to work for an organisation like Wesleyan that takes its commitment to corporate responsibility seriously.

We'd like to say a huge thanks to our wonderful partners at the Heart of England Community Foundation. Tina Costello and her team have been a huge support in guiding us through our first six months. Thanks too, to the sister foundations across the UK for their hard work in identifying suitable groups for grants.

2018 will be a very exciting year for the Wesleyan Foundation and I'm really looking forward to seeing the impact that it can have over the next 12 months.

Vicki Wentworth

Chief Customer Officer
Wesleyan

INTRODUCTION

A Major Step-Change.



From the moment I met with the senior management team of Wesleyan last year, it was clear that corporate social responsibility was embedded throughout their business. They'd recently raised almost £1 million pounds for Birmingham Children's Hospital and were looking to focus on supporting initiatives more widely across the UK with the possibility of setting up their own foundation.

I grasped the opportunity to tell them about our Foundation and how we could potentially work together to make their vision a reality.

Since 1995, Heart of England Community Foundation have delivered over £14 million across the West Midlands, offering a professional service to a range of donors who want their funding to remain local.

As one of 46 Community Foundations in the UK, we have been able to coordinate grant making throughout the country, working with our network of colleagues to deliver national philanthropy on behalf of Wesleyan.

We worked closely together on developing the Wesleyan Foundation, looking at priorities, the types of grants, how it could operate nationally and most importantly what involvement Wesleyan would want in the delivery. As a charity set up to deliver funding on behalf of others, we take away the administrative and legal burden of setting up a charitable foundation leaving donors to focus on the best bit, helping good causes!

A number of Wesleyan staff have visited projects we've supported and have been blown away with some of the amazing work that takes place in our local communities.

This has been a major step change for our charity, securing our largest corporate donor, delivering funding not only in the West Midlands but across the UK. We are really grateful to Wesleyan for having the confidence in us to manage their Foundation. In just six months, over £300,000 has been distributed across the UK to more than 84 projects - what an achievement in a relatively short amount of time!

I cannot express how delighted I am that our partnership will continue in 2018. The Wesleyan Foundation is increasing its investment and from someone who knows and understands the pressures that the voluntary and community sector is facing, this will be hugely welcomed. I'd like to personally thank Wesleyan for their support and I'm really looking forward to working with them again next year!

Tina Costello

Chief Executive

Heart of England Community Foundation

Key Highlights.

CF = Community Foundation



Case Studies.



Riding for the Disabled. Stratford-Upon-Avon

It's a chilly Monday morning when we meet Donna Jenkins, group organiser at Riding for the Disabled (RDA) in Stratford. She's pouring hot drinks for the eager riders.

The charity provides support to adults and children who have a disability, so that they can get involved in horse riding and meet new friends.

RDA were awarded a grant of £6,000 from the Wesleyan Foundation.

Jess, who has been coming to the sessions for over two years, was with her dad Andy. He told us:

"She's gradually improved, and has been able to progress. When she's unsure about a situation her hands go up, but with the constant movement from the horse and the encouragement from the volunteers it's almost been a natural thing for her to take the reins!"

We also met one of the volunteers at the project, Jo. She tells us that she has been involved with RDA for 7 years.

"I have a progressive neurological condition, it's untreatable. I suffer constant pain, except when I ride. Riding takes the weight off my spine.

"I've had lots of support from the group, I've been given the chance to do things I used to love. I couldn't possibly have done it without them; I'm part of a community.

"As you get older, living with a disability means there's less and less you can do. But that's not the case at RDA. They've given me so much, it's great to have this opportunity!"



Widening access to technology for older people.

Libre Digital provide IT workshops for up to 30 people in weekly, three-hour sessions. The workshops are designed to support older people allowing them to become more digitally astute. The project hopes to nurture sustainable skill sharing by providing access to free technology.

Jane Watkinson, Project Manager, said: "We are working on engaging some service users in the project as potential long-term volunteers and providers of the Digital Workshops."

Thanks to a grant of £4,910 from the Wesleyan Foundation, the project will be able to continue personalised, flexible training and support in IT basics helping attendees with budgeting, finance and security. Something most of us take for granted.



Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Trust Club.



Belfast



In the Mount ward of inner East Belfast, many children leave school with few or no qualifications. The area is in the worst 5% of educational attainment in the UK. Ledley Hall is trying to change that by giving local children the opportunity to realise a better future for themselves.

A grant of £9,800 was awarded to Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Trust and is currently addressing the low levels of educational attainment through the delivery of a homework club four nights a week.

The project, Junior Members Homework Support Group, gives local children the opportunity to work with a qualified Primary School teacher.

The children can complete their homework and learn through play, getting stuck into age appropriate and educational games which improve their well-being.

Cook 'n' Care.



Glasgow



Supporting 500 people a year in North Glasgow, the charity Possibilities have established a new social enterprise, Cook 'n' Care, serving vulnerable people with hot meals.

Alongside this they have an office providing social clubs and activities while incorporating other services including a community café, a sensory room and a laundry service.

The work aims to support elderly and disabled people in their efforts to overcome issues of isolation, exclusion and lack of opportunity; helping them to live independently.

A grant of £4,250 from the Wesleyan Foundation is supporting a pilot project which will extend the type of support available by introducing a befriending service.

The Life Skills Programme is ensuring that home visits are carried out by volunteers who provide one to one support and advice in areas such as money management, digital access and healthy living.

Michael Park, from Possibilities, said: "We're trying to challenge disabilities, we want people to set goals and achieve their targets. I am confident that following the pilot we will prove it's a funding no-brainer and we can continue to make a difference!"



Pedestrian, a charity providing education and training to young people at risk and vulnerable adults, received a grant of £9,225 from the Wesleyan Foundation to set up 'Drop-in Beats and Bars', offering educational support through the medium of arts.

The project is providing a series of music sessions supporting people aged 14 – 20, helping them develop life skills, improve their education, employability and even capitalise on enterprise opportunities.

Delivered by a team of trained professionals the sessions are engaging, enlightening and empowering young people from across the city.

Project Manager, Kate Rounding, said: "It's exciting to be involved in our new project 'The Drop'. We will be hosting a series of music based drop-ins, supporting young people who are aiming to develop their skills and progress their interests in a creative career.

"Building on previous successful music programmes we are working with Leicester's talented young musicians, producers and professionals of the future!

"Mentoring young artists and providing information about the possible progression paths and career options in the creative industries is one of our key strengths and we are committed to extending opportunities."

A programme participant said: "I didn't know about music production before, or the mixing process. It was a privilege to work with industry professionals and great that you can get a qualification through it!"



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Suited for Success
crucial.





Keepers Coffee & Kitchen, part of the Lighthouse Futures Trust, provides opportunities for young adults with learning disabilities.



Lighthouse Futures Trust offers young people aged 16-25, who are on the autism spectrum or have a learning disability, direct routes into employment.

With a grant of £9,803 the organisation has been able to open two micro businesses, providing ample training and employment opportunities to help youngsters progress towards permanent employment.

The Keepers Create project engages participants with fantastic training opportunities through a variety of social enterprises and supported internships with major companies such as KPMG, Yorkshire Water, and Harewood House.

With only 5.8% of young people with a learning disability and 15% of those on the autistic spectrum securing employment, this project helps to break down barriers and challenge the stereotypes for young people who really need support.

Broxtowe Youth Homelessness.



Working to reduce the impact of youth homelessness throughout Nottinghamshire, Broxtowe provide support for young people aged 16 – 25 living on the edge.

The Living Room project will provide a drop-in centre for new and existing clients who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

The project received a grant of £7,854 which will support salary costs and allow the organisation to open a drop in session, three days a week, over the course of a year.

The project is delivered with the client needs very much in mind and issues such as domestic violence, young parenting and mental health are all dealt with by the centre.

One service user, Jade, said: “I’ve been here for three and a half years, and it’s been great! They taught me things I’ve needed help with like independent living and emotional resilience.

“I’ve even been going into schools, helping with workshops and sessions, showing students that the stereotypes of homelessness aren’t always right. If there’s anyone who’s struggling then I’d really encourage them to get in touch.”

Councillor Richard MacRae, of Stapleford North Ward Nottinghamshire, backed the charity: “It goes without saying that Broxtowe Youth Homelessness is a lifeline to so many people. I don’t doubt for one minute that lives have been saved from help given by this great local charity.”



Felix Road Adventure Playground.



Giving children the opportunity to build their community, the Bristol-based adventure playground resides in one of the country's most deprived areas.

Offering a haven for children to express themselves, the charity gives them the opportunity to exercise, build and play alongside some great role models.

The group aims to improve their physical, cognitive and social development.

A grant of £10,000 was awarded and is supporting their 'Play Build Learn' sessions.

The majority of the grant will cover salaries, allowing a year long project aiming to bring families together and improve children's motor skills.

Held over 46 weeks, the sessions focus on teaching children to build using simple hand tools. Using their imaginations to build structures like dens and tree-houses, they'll improve their math skills, problem solving ability and be introduced to joinery.

Eddie Nuttall, Play Development Co-Ordinator, said: "Children help co-create the environment, it's a great opportunity to learn skills for later life.

"Gladly, culture has shifted recently and the values the playground provides are being realised. It's crucial for children to have spaces like this in urban environments as opportunities in Western Countries are limited.

"We want to see positive outcomes for children, affirming that they have a stake in their communities, we want them to say, 'I built that!'"





Race Equality First. Cardiff



Addressing the lower employment rates in ethnic communities, Race Equality First (REF) is providing 10 training sessions for up to 100 men and women in one of the most deprived areas of the city.

The grant of £10,000 is providing employment skills training for unemployed people of an ethnic minority, predominantly in the southern arc of Cardiff.

Addressing the barriers that prevent gaining, or sustaining, employment the sessions cover applications, interviews and presentation skills as well as tackling self-esteem issues.

Through social integration and community cohesion the programme is improving confidence, offering a chance for different minority backgrounds and cultures to mix in a supportive and sensitive learning environment. Working closely with partner organisations in Cardiff, REF identify those in the most need of training.

Aliya Mohammed, CEO of REF said: “In Cardiff the employment rate for ethnic minorities stands at 53%, significantly lower than the city-wide average of around 70%. This is due to additional barriers to accessing work and training opportunities, such as language, confidence and discrimination.

“The grant from Wesleyan is allowing 100 unemployed people to address the issues that prevent them from starting work, teaching them the skills and knowledge needed to apply for a job and succeed at an interview, along with presentation skills, self-esteem, confidence and self-belief.”

Summary of Awards.

Up until November 2017.

Small Grants

Organisation	Amount (£)	Location
Carers Forward	2,000.00	Birmingham
Aspire Sports Trust	1,560.00	Birmingham
Elim Life Church Kingstanding	2,000.00	Birmingham
Northfield Ecocentre	1,500.00	Birmingham
Open Arms Hall Green CIC	2,000.00	Birmingham
Write Here Write Now CIC	1,970.00	Birmingham
Carrs Lane Counselling Centre	2,000.00	Birmingham
New Heights Warren Farm Community Project	1,972.00	Birmingham
Selly Oak Live at Home Scheme	2,000.00	Birmingham
Suited for Success	1,753.00	Birmingham
Villa Rockets Powerchair Football Club	1,000.00	Birmingham
The Real Junk Food Project	1,114.80	Birmingham
Koco Community Resource Centre (formally Koco Ltd)	1,972.00	Coventry
Family Intervention Counselling Service	1,920.00	Coventry
Bardsley Work Club	2,000.00	Coventry
Values Education for Life	1,796.00	North Warwickshire
Lifespace Trust	2,000.00	Stratford
Volunteer Centre North Warwickshire	1,997.00	Warwick
Mentor Link	2,033.00	Warwick
Central England Lipreading Support Trust	2,000.00	Warwick
InterAct Stroke Support	1,937.00	Westminster
Fordhouse Women's Community Group	1,880.00	Wolverhampton
Goodlife Community	500.00	Wolverhampton
Organic Communities Network	1,850.00	Scotland
Edinburgh Interfaith Association	1,645.00	Edinburgh

Continued...

Organisation	Amount (£)	Location
Dundee United Community Trust	700.00	Dundee
Hillhouse	2,000.00	Kilmarnock
ReMake Up	1,400.00	Glasgow
Arabic Community Support Group	1,490.00	Sheffield
ISRAAC Community Association	2,000.00	Sheffield
Space4u	1,500.00	Cardiff
Pentrebane Zone	1,975.00	Cardiff
Little Fishes Nursery	1,128.00	Cardiff
Harmless	2,000.00	Nottingham
OASIS Community Centre (Worksop)	2,000.00	Worksop
SHE UK (Supporting; Healing; Education;)	2,000.00	Mansfield
The Urban Worm	2,000.00	Nottingham
Kith & Kin Financial Solutions CIC	2,000.00	Belfast
Drake Music Project Northern Ireland	2,000.00	Newry
Northern Ireland Disabled Drivers Association	1,000.00	Belfast
Suffolk Community Forum	2,000.00	Belfast
Lagan Valley Youth & Community Group	1,000.00	Belfast
Opportunities Inspiring Learning (OIL)	2,000.00	Leeds
Farsley Live at Home Scheme	2,000.00	Leeds
Pavillion	2,000.00	Leeds
Middleton Park Equestrian Centre	2,000.00	Leeds
Clash	1,500.00	Leicester
Pink Lizard Developing Youth and Community	2,000.00	Leicester
Snow Camp	1,500.00	Leicester
Streetvibe Young People	2,000.00	Leicester
Strides	2,000.00	Leicester
Small Grants Total:	£ 89,592.80	

Summary of Awards.

Up until November 2017.

Large Grants

Organisation	Amount (£)	Location
Race Equality First	10,000.00	Cardiff
Yoga Mobility	6,667.00	Cardiff
Cook 'n' Care	4,250.00	Glasgow
Furniture Project (Stranraer) Limited	7,000.00	Stranraer
KEFW Community	8,300.00	Birmingham
Brandwood Community Centre	8,920.00	Birmingham
Gospel Oak Community Centre	4,650.00	Birmingham
Recre8now	7,698.60	Birmingham
New Heights	5,000.00	Kingstanding
St Vincent de Paul Society	3,000.00	Redditch
Carers Advice and Resource Establishment Sandwell	9,680.00	Sandwell
Northern Star Community Arts	5,412.00	Solihull
Achieving Reults in Communities (ARC)	9,944.00	Warwick
The Women and Families Resource Centre	8,124.64	Wolverhampton
Black Heath Initiative	5,197.00	Leeds
Lighthouse Futures Trust	9,803.00	Leeds
Pedestrian	9,225.00	Leicester
The Carers Centre	5,775.00	Leicester
Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club Trust Ltd	9,800.00	Belfast
Broxtowe Youth Homelessness	7,853.71	Nottingham
Wild Things Ecological Education Collective	4,379.00	Nottingham
Compass Project 2012	5,000.00	Bristol
Felix Road Adventure Playground	10,000.00	Bristol
Libre Digital	4,910.00	Sheffield
Sheffield Young Carers Project	7,690.00	Sheffield
Large Grants Total:	£ 178,278.95	

Summary of Awards.

Up until November 2017.

Vote Donations

Organisation	Amount (£)	Location
Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer	7,000.00	Birmingham
The Ups of Downs	5,000.00	Birmingham
Sunshine and Smiles	8,000.00	Leeds
Books Beyond Words	3,000.00	National
Pets as Therapy	5,000.00	National
Knoticat	5,000.00	Poole
Riding for the Disabled	6,000.00	Stratford
WRAP	3,000.00	Stratford
Vote Donations Total:	£ 42,000.00	



Partner Foundations.

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







LOCAL GIVING CHAMPIONS.

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