**Emergency Funding provided to our local communities to help them support the most vulnerable.**

Heathrow Community Trust has set aside £95k of our unrestricted reserves towards providing rapid **Emergency Covid19 response funding** to organisations who have a current active HCT-funded project and are providing vital support to the most vulnerable at this time.

I'm delighted to announce that Round 1 of this fund awarded funding of £23,260.00 as set out below.

Round 2 of the Covid19 Emergency response Fund will take place this Friday and we will continue on a weekly basis until the funding is used up.

In the meantime all our business as usual grant programmes have been temporarily paused until we know more about future funding.

£2500 to East to West to provide care and support for vulnerable children, young people and families via phone and online;

£3000 to ESDEG Southall to support for elderly and isolated members of the community, to continue befriendly services where our project worker and volunteer engage vulnerable and isolated services remotely and provide support.

£2500 to Our Lady of Sorrows and St Bridget of Sweden, Isleworth to provide help, advice and emotional support to via telephone, conference calls, social media briefings, including support for those with loved ones in hospital and those needing funeral arrangements.

£1250 to the Baby Bank to purchase, nappies, formula, baby food, wipes.

£2500 to the Vineyard Community Centre, Richmond to deliver food parcels to vulnerable people in their homes. £1000 to Beat Routes in Slough to move their music workshops for young people to online delivery.

£2050 to Manor Friends for provision of 10 tablets to care home residents to enable Skype/Facetime contact with relatives unable to visit.

£5000 to Thames Hospice to care for two of the most vulnerable groups: existing patients whose underlying medical conditions make them very high risk, and the most seriously affected COVID-19 patients for whom they are providing palliative care in their inpatient unit (IPU).

£2500 to EDT for developing STEM engagement activities for use in schools for children of key workers, and online for home schooling.

£960 to BEE for purchase of hardware to move education engagement programme online.

**Background**

**Q. Where does Heathrow Community Trust funding come from**? HCT receives an annual donation from Heathrow Airport Ltd; we also receive donations from other companies involved in the airport, income from sponsored events which HAL colleagues take part in like the Midnight Marathon, and income form airline noise fines when they break the regulations. Currently we have paused our grant programmes for this year as we are not yet sure what donations we might receive. However, in 2019 we were very lucky to receive lots of support form Team Heathrow companies such as Fujitsu and Balfour Beatty, more noise fine income than we were anticipating, and a good amount of income form HAL colleagues’ fundraising This has meant that we have £95k which we have put to immediate use to fund our Covid19 Emergency Funding.

**Q. Has the Round 1 funding been given out?** Yes, recognising that charities need to move quickly to respond to the crisis we have awarded these grants very rapidly (within 3 days of receiving applications). Charities have been very grateful –

**Thames Hospice,** who have had to set up an emergency isolation ward for Covid19 patients, in addition to their usual palliative care work, have used our funding for emergency PPE and equipment, they said: ‘We really appreciate the Trust's support at this very difficult time.  It will make such a difference to our doctors and nurses as they support patients in the coming weeks and months.  Please pass on our thanks to the trustees.  Their support is heart -arming.  Thank you.’ Frances Greany Fundraiser, Thames Hospice.

**Business Education Events** who work to support young people in making their career decisions for the future will be using our funding to help purchase new computers and equipment so they can develop new online programmes for young people stuck at home. They said: ‘I have been dancing around my kitchen with joy 😊 Wow thank you so much for awarding us these funds it is much appreciated. These young people are incredible and so engaged with the activities’ Karen O’Connor Director BEE.

**The Manor Friends Care Home** will be using our emergency funding to purchase tablets so that residents can Skype or Videophone their worried relatives who have not been able to visit them. They said: ‘This is wonderful news indeed.! An immense THANK YOU to the review panel for granting us the funds. Over the past weekend, we experienced a greatly increased number of phone calls coming from relatives anxious to speak with their loved ones: This tied up the phone lines significantly and limited staff’s ability to attend to essential care matters.  Having the android tablets means multiple contact can be made simultaneously, free up the main phone lines for administrative calls and ease up demand on staff for non-care tasks.  Dedicated staff will be allocated to facilitating the tablet calls. It will be accessible and utilised by 62 residents, approximately 300 relatives / ward / key friends and ease up the additional work demand for 65 nursing and care personnel.’ Sue Litton Treasurer Manor Friends.

**The Baby Bank** will be using our funding to purchase emergency items like nappies and formula, they said ‘thank you so, so much for this funding. We simply don’t have a pot of money to sustain the purchase of food, formula and nappies. We need nappies size 0-7, as well as pull-ups, night time pjs pants. We normally get food donations of Baby food and formula from the food Banks but at the moment their supplies are being depleted or people are simply not donating as much. This is turn is causing us to ration packets of wipes and nappies, we would normally give a person either one large packet or two small packets we have had to halve this. We provided 90 food parcels, 190 nappy packs, 79 lots of formula, 67 buggies in the past three months. In the last two weeks of March we had a 40% increase in requests for help. To date we have supported 810 individuals. '

**Q. Will there be more funding available? How are you deciding what to fund?**

We will be running weekly funding rounds until the available funding is sued up – there will be another round on Good Friday (recognising that even though it’s a bank holiday this important work doesn’t stop!). This week we have already received 7 new applications. The Grant Review Panel is made up of the Chairs of HCT’s 4 Grant Review Panels, and their deputies, who normally help us to decide what to fund in our day to day grant programmes – they are very experienced at reviewing funding applications but it is very tough. We are focussing on awarding funding to those organisations who are most in need, and are helping the most vulnerable at this time. Heathrow Colleagues Julie Dunn (People). Michael Murphy (Environment) and Dave Cottrell (T5 Security) sit on the panel, and the remaining panel members are volunteers from the local community who have extensive experience running charities.