

50 electronic tablets to three Children's Hospices 9/5/2020

MCF supports Yorkshire, West Riding bringing help to Children's Hospices

Martin House at Boston Spa, Bluebell Wood at Rotherham and Forget-Me-Not in Huddersfield. 50 Samsung electronic tablets, complete with cases and software, for the use of children and families being cared for by these hospices.



The tablets are part of a consignment paid for by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) through its £1m Covid response fund, developed and delivered in conjunction with United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) the 48 Provinces across England and Wales.

Times are challenging for all of us at the moment, but all the more so for those needing the help and support of these highly specialised services.

The tablets will be put to a variety of uses including better communication and contact with children and families still at home but receiving support to enhancing family and visitor contact with those receiving care in the hospices where visiting can be more difficult than normal.

We are delighted that these tablets can help to make things just a little bit easier for children and their families at this challenging time and to assist in easing their burden.

“We are deeply grateful to the MCF for helping us to provide this much needed and highly appreciated assistance as part of our on-going support to hospices across Yorkshire, West Riding.”

West Riding Masonic Charities Limited

Your Charity working in the Community

Brethren your Charity has continued to work on your behalf for those in need within the Province both Masonic and non-Masonic,

Since our last update [13 April 20] the PGM's Fund has made grants to the following charities;-

£2500 -

The Howarth Foundation, Leeds and Kirklees. The primary activity of this Charity is to prevent or relieve poverty in respect of individuals who are or have recently been homeless.

£3000 -

Swinnow Community Centre is a community centre run by volunteers and accommodates various community groups. From the beginning of the pandemic they have been providing hot food and sandwiches to 200 local children and 100 elderly persons every day.

£3000 -

Homeless Street Angels, Leeds City Centre. The charity provides support for the homeless with hot food, clean clothes and toiletries.

£2000 -

Thorne & Moorlands Community Hub is a food bank assisting families, children and single people in the community. All those involved in its organisation are volunteers. Local families already relied upon the Hub for assistance and support. Because of the Covid19 pandemic and its effect on the local community the Hub is having to increase the number of food parcels to help those in dire need.

£2000 -

FaithNet is a self funded food bank run by local volunteers who normally cover the areas of **Featherstone, Sharlston, Streethouse and Ackton..** However, closure of other food banks within the area due to COVID-19 has increased the need for assistance considerably whilst voluntary donations have diminished.

£1200 -

Trinity Mission Food bank Castleford. They are currently providing "survival level" food to those in dire circumstances many of whom have dependent children. The food bank is manned solely by volunteers who gather, pack and distribute to the local community. Trinity Mission also provides broader services to others in need in the area.

As part of our ongoing programme we continue to support other charities. A donation of **£2500** has been made to **Prostate Cancer UK** to help with raising awareness of the disease and hopefully encourage more men to have a test. The risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age. Most cases develop in men aged 50 and above. **Be aware – Get checked NOW**

PGM's Fund grants from 1st April now **total £53,000**

CHOICES continue to provide assistance and support to our Brethren, their Widows, families and dependants who may be in financial distress or have other urgent, immediate or pressing needs.

From 1st April 2020 - **17** Grants have been made to a value of **£14,750**. 12 of which are Covid-19 related.