



Gloucestershire
Community Foundation

COST OF LIVING CRISIS FUND

OUR IMPACT: TOGETHER



SUPPORTED MORE
THAN 30,000
VULNERABLE
PEOPLE



AWARDED £81,655
IN 52 GRANTS TO
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
COMMUNITIES



FUNDED MORE
THAN 8,000 HOT
MEALS AND FOOD
PACKAGES

TOGETHER WE HAVE
HELPED:

REDUCE HUNGER

PROVIDE WARMTH
AND SHELTER

REDUCE ISOLATION
AND LONELINESS

KEEP FAMILIES
TOGETHER

"This was a wonderful new fund offered to charities, helping those most in need during these challenging times. Thank you very much for your continued support." **The Family Haven**

"We're delighted that, thanks to the funding, we have been able to launch and continue to run our Friendship Cafés in Stow-on-the-Wold and Moreton-in-Marsh, as there is a great need for these opportunities for older people in the North Cotswolds, particularly during the Cost of Living crisis." **Cotswold Friends**

"Gloucestershire Community Foundation have been key allies of our Foodbank during the pandemic and cost of living crisis. We are incredibly grateful for their help. Demand for help has increased significantly during the current cost of living crisis. The funding for toiletries has been key in providing support in this area for our clients." **Gloucester Foodbank**

Shockingly more than 40,000 children are living in poverty in Gloucestershire. People in our county continue to go hungry, calls to advice lines continue to increase and demand on the charity sector is becoming overwhelming.

For this reason, we have pledged to continue fundraising in 2023 and beyond with a new £500,000 target for our renewed Poverty Hurts Appeal.





**25 WARM SPACES FUNDED
ACROSS
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

We started to offer hot lunches on a Tuesday in November. When people visited for the lunches, they can also speak to the team about any other support they may need, and can get meals from the community freezer for the following week. We had also received funding to trial a minibus for those who couldn't get to the lunches. The trial ran every Tuesday from 1st November until end April, and this continues to be well used. Visitors get a warm main course and dessert and a meat or vegetarian option. We also cater for other dietary needs. We have decided to continue to run this service. The group has served 330 meals in the past five months (including dinner on Christmas day) providing company and sustenance to people who would otherwise be isolated and hungry.

The Keepers, Wotton Under Edge



"People were attracted because of the warmth and the soup was very popular but as people came they would keep returning and we noticed how relationships have been developing. The social aspect of the project has been really good and had a positive impact on a number of lives. Over 30 people have regularly visited and so far we have served 231 people since January 2023. There are a group of elderly ladies who come both Monday and Tuesday each week and one of them said to a volunteer yesterday that they didn't know what they would do without the Warm Space and that they would really miss it. The daughter of the same lady was in the building last Thursday and told me that coming to the warm space had been such a help to her mother, it had helped with her confidence and she was happier for it." **Northway Warm Space**

GCF awarded a grant to Stroud CAB to support heating costs and other items for people on low incomes. As a result, 17 households were given grants of £150 to assist them with the cost of living. Nearly all needed additional help with energy costs (including oil heating).

Two families had help to replace bedding (for adults and children) which has gone mouldy due to extreme damp in their rented properties. Several clients have been waiting for PIP review or appeal and struggling to make ends meet. One person was moving out of homeless accommodation into his own property but his property was completely unfurnished and he had no white goods so the funding given helped him feel confident he could make the move to independence.

One person to receive funding was J, a single mum to 2 teenage boys:

"J is receiving treatment for cancer which makes her very vulnerable to infections and hospitalization and has resulted in her leaving her job as a teacher.

The drop in J's income has been difficult to manage, especially as she has a mortgaged property. J is now on Universal Credit and she has applied for Personal Independence Payment but her claim was rejected. J living on benefits and therefore low income whilst trying to manage her outgoings. Her health condition makes it hard to stay warm but she needs to in order to stay as well as possible. At times she has been having to access foodbank vouchers in order to manage.

We were able to award £150 from the fund for the client. She planned to use this to buy a new washing line as her old one had broken and she wanted to avoid the cost of tumble drying washing and also could not afford to have clothes and bedding drying in the house as it would increase the risk of damp and mould.

J was also really concerned about her heating costs and was going to use the funding to ensure she could keep her home warm. The client was incredibly grateful for the funding and felt less stressed as a result of receiving it."

Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau

For many families effected by the Cost of Living Crisis, Christmas made life a lot more stressful. Knowing that their children would have new toys etc as presents meant that one area of stress was relieved. It also demonstrated that there are other people who are concerned for them. We supported Gloucestershire Bundles to provide items which reflected the child's interests.

They said: *"Families know that they are not simply a number, but individuals, which is very important for their self-respect. Our Christmas bundles mean that families who have been struggling have a better Christmas than they would otherwise experience."*

Gloucestershire Bundles

**MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH
FUEL/HEATING/ENERGY/
HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS GRANTS**



Heart Heroes supported 19 financially disadvantaged families but purchasing supermarket vouchers with a grant from GCF as well as helping to fund transport for hospital appointments.

"Thank you so much for the supermarket gift card. Worrying over the cost of living seems so trivial when you have been in our shoes but sadly all these things don't suddenly go away because your child is sick. This really takes the pressure off and let's me focus my attention where it is needed most rather than on my, ever dwindling, budget"

Heart Heroes Parent

Ryan, who had never attended the Cavern before, became aware of the free meals programme through his housing association - one of our partners. He has been struggling to pay his bills due to the cost of living crisis, and needed a place where he could attend for the day without needing to be a paying customer. Of the meals he said, "They were really helpful to have and I enjoyed the meals. They're great when you need something."

Since then, he has been in the Cavern everyday finding it a safe place to stay and receive support. He has engaged with staff where they have supported him when he has had trouble calling other services, and also talking to him about his mental health struggles. He has also been engaging with our partners at the Job Centre who host a weekly drop in service at the Cavern.

The Cavern



"We have delivered 46 hours of our social club, which we call the Fun, Food and Friendship club. This was originally set up as a warm hub and we have had over 40 unique participants attend on a regular basis. The service users have particularly enjoyed the social group and have made new friends, however another key benefit is that everyone who attends has been able to have lunch provided by the onsite café with a hot drink and refreshments. This was particularly important over the winter, however, even now with the cost of living crisis impacting these beneficiaries the offer of refreshments and lunch has been a significant help. We have one participant who lives in Bromford supported living, who is deaf and blind. She is 75+ years old and can rarely have the opportunity to meet new people. We use a pen and paper to communicate as well as some basic sign language, which all of the social group users have engaged with to try and help communicate with her. She attends with some neighbours from the supported living accommodation, which is fantastic to reduce isolation, keep warm and ensure they are having some free food."

Goals Beyond Grass

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE FUND

Allsorts

Cashes Green Community Centre
Chalford Parish Council
Chipping Campden Support Hub
Christians Against Poverty
Churn Neighbourhood Project
Cirencester Opportunity Group
Cotswold Friends
Dean Forest Kitchen
Door Youth Project
Ebony Carers Group
Encounter Café
Fairford and Lechlade Working for Wellbeing
Family Haven
Forest of Dean Sea Cadets
Forest Sensory Services
GL Communities
GL11 Community Hub
GL4 CIC
Gloucester Elim Church
Gloucester Foodbank
Gloucester Helping Hands
Gloucestershire Bundles

Gloucestershire Young Carers
Goals Beyond Grass
Heart Heroes
Kingfisher Treasure Seekers
Kingshill House Arts Centre
Longborough and Sezincote Village Hall
Lydney Dial A Ride
Nelson Trust
Newent Initiative Trust
Northway Parish Council
Priors Park Neighbourhood Project
Sherborne Community Group
Shurdington Community Centre
St Georges Church
Stonehouse Community Association
Stroud and District CAB
Suicide Crisis
The Country Food Trust
The Keepers - Wotton Area Community Hub
The Recycling Shop
Tibberton and Taynton WI
Truth Boxing
University of Glos Students Union

With huge thanks to all of our supporters whose generous donations have made it possible to support our communities during such difficult and distressing times.



THE
JULIA AND HANS RAUSING
TRUST



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

THERE IS STILL SO MUCH MORE WE CAN DO
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR POVERTY HURTS APPEAL

 www.gloucestershirecf.org.uk/donate

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