Three thousand helped COVID-19 CRISIS

OUR NEW FUNDRAISING CALENDAR
Here's to 2021!

STRIDES APART CHALLENGE
Raising vital funds

Charity Link – finding funding for people in need since 1876

thrive

Charity Link

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Charity Link
Over the last 6 months...

With your support, we were able to provide the following essential items:

- Food & Utilities: 133
- Cookers: 554
- Beds: 340
- Clothing: 127
- Fridge Freezers: 384
- Washing Machines: 324

Brian and Susan’s story

Brian and Susan were referred by their social worker at Leicester City Council.

The couple are both undergoing tests for dementia and it was suspected that they were being financially abused by family members, which had left them with no income and destitute.

The abuse is now being investigated by support services but it was found that the couple’s kitchen has been ransacked by their son, leaving the couple with very few household items. They didn’t even have plates.

Your support has ensured that Brian and Susan have all the kitchen essentials they need to prepare food once again – £128 of items has made a massive difference.

Award wins!

We were delighted to win two awards in the East Midlands Charity Awards in June.

Our Leicestershire 3 Peaks Challenge picked up the ‘Rising Star’ award in the Fundraising Event of the Year category and Sue McEniff won the prestigious ‘Charity Director of the Year’ award!

We are also a finalist in the East Midlands Chamber Business Awards – winners announced soon!
Director’s message

Welcome to the autumn issue of Thrive.

Recent events have proved extremely difficult for many, and of course we’ve continued to be very busy here at Charity Link with many vulnerable people needing our help as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I’d like to extend my huge thanks to the dedicated team here at Charity Link, to our partners (including the many referring agencies we work with) and to everyone who has lent their support. It is only by working together that it has been possible to provide such wide-scale and vital help to those in need during these challenging times. You can read more about our response to the pandemic on page 7.

Our events programme remains restricted and I personally really missed walking with everyone at our annual Leicestershire 3 Peaks Challenge in September. It was, however, great to see so many of you taking on our Strides Apart 2020 Challenge. You’ve raised vital funds that are providing essential items to those in need and will help as we go into autumn and winter (and the extra challenges those in financial hardship face as a result). To everyone currently supporting the There With You Fund and coming up with imaginative ways to make a difference, I cannot thank you enough.

It is imperative that our fundraising continues, from purchasing our fabulous fundraising calendar to taking part in our new monthly virtual quiz to signing up to take part in our January Sleepover or simply giving a donation, you are helping to make a real difference.

With very best wishes,

Sue McEniff
Director of Marketing & Fundraising
PBS Club News

October marks the first birthday of our Proud Business Supporter Club. We are hugely grateful to all our PBS members for their continued support, including Stoneygate Mortgages and Better IT who have recently marked a year with us.

Our PBS Club offers a simple way for businesses to support the most vulnerable in their community whilst also taking advantage of the business opportunities available, including a promotional page on our website and networking.

And, due to our unique way of working, a £50 monthly donation actually helps to provide £3,000 worth of essential items to those in need each year.

Email rachel.markham@charity-link.org to find out more about joining the Club.

STEVEN MATHER SOLICITOR

Steven Mather is a Leicester-based Solicitor specialising in advising businesses and individuals involved in legal disputes. Along with supporting the PBS Club, his team raised £2,300 as a guest of our 2020 Sleepover.

Steven was keen that his new business should give back to the community:
“ I support Charity Link and the PBS Club because I know that the donations make a real difference to local vulnerable people.”

CUNNINGTONS SOLICITORS

Cunningtons is a Leicester firm of Chartered Certified Accountants, Registered Auditors and Business Advisors providing a broad range services to both business and private clients across the UK.

“We have chosen to support Charity Link knowing that our donations will help to improve the lives of those most in need within the community we serve.”

www.charity-link.org/pbs
2021 events update

As things remain uncertain, please keep following our social media pages and sign up for our monthly e-newsletters (email susan.mceniff@charity-link.org if you don’t already receive this) to receive the latest news updates, including on new events.

Our ‘A Bellyful of Laughs’ comedy night, barn dance, team parachute jump day, Wear a Funky Scarf Day and golf evening are just a few of the events we hope to run in 2021 and we’d love your support.

New monthly ‘Virtual Quiz’

Test your knowledge, win cash prizes and with 60% of the proceeds supporting our work, everyone’s a winner with our new monthly ‘virtual quiz’!

Join us for this short, fast-paced multi-choice quiz on the first Wednesday of the month. Rounds include general knowledge, sport, film & TV and music.

Costing less than a coffee to get involved, please encourage your rivals (we mean friends & family!) to join in too.

www.charity-link.org/get-involved/events/quiz

Family 100km challenge!!

Congratulations and thanks to children Yash, Ekarya, Riya and mum Surbhi who each completed 18.6km and to Nij who managed 30km to complete a 100km family fundraising challenge around the Peak District on 4th September.

Their challenging but scenic route took in Matlock Bath, High Peak Junction and Sheep Pasture Engine House.

The family decided they wanted to raise funds to be split between ourselves and Menphys to help during this difficult time. They’ve raised over £1,800!
Strides Apart 2020

We couldn’t run our award-winning Leicestershire 3 Peaks event in the normal way this year, but thanks to our amazing supporters #stridesapart2020 was a great success.

With the challenge of walking 16 miles between 12th – 27th September (in one go or in sections and following our usual Leicestershire 3 Peaks route or choosing their own unique route) our Striders have helped to raise vital funds.

Thanks to Matt Glover Photography for joining us to capture Charity Link’s own team Challenge and for judging the event photography competition and also to Bawdon Lodge Farm for the gin prize.

Charity Link – finding funding for people in need since 1876

3 PEAKS CHALLENGE
#Leics3peaks returns 26.09.21

www.charity-link.org/3peaks
Covid Response Update

We are immensely proud to have remained opened throughout the pandemic, here to meet the increased hardship that has been experienced due to COVID-19.

Since lockdown we have helped 3,625 people, 41% of which were children. 37% of those we’ve helped since March have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

A hugely important factor in being able to offer such wide-scale support has been The There With You Fund – launched in April in conjunction with Leicestershire Live, the Leicester Mercury and the Randal Charitable Foundation. This fund provides grants of up to £300 (distributed via goods and vouchers) to those in need who are directly impacted by COVID-19 and over half of the £250,000 target has now been raised. Over 400 essential items have been provided worth £58,000 to those in need across Leicestershire so far.

Our Meeting the Need campaign also remains open if you would like to lend your support, please do. Donations to Charity Link are as vital as ever to help fund our service and to ensure we can also continue to provide wider support across the community, in addition to that offered by the There With You Fund.

Thank You

We are hugely grateful to everyone who has lent their support during these difficult times, including: The National Lottery, The Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation, Hastings Direct, Severn Trent Community Fund, Skipton Building Society Community Giving, Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner, NCS Team 1 and all the individuals and businesses who have kindly donated.

Whilst it has been challenging to meet the increased need (as we also continue to face a significant loss in fundraising income) we, like many in the voluntary sector, are bracing ourselves for a further uplift.

Support schemes, such as the furlough scheme, are due to end as we go into the difficult winter months (when those in hardship often have to juggle heating and eating costs).

This means your continued support has never been more needed. However you choose to get involved, we would be so grateful. Thank you.

www.justgiving.com/campaign/charitylink
A group of National Citizen Service students chose to support us for their ‘Social Action Project’ in August and successfully climbed Everest (in steps) to help raise funds.

‘Team 1’ – a group of eleven 15 to 17 year olds raised over £240 in sponsorship and ran a social media awareness campaign.

Charity Link Sleepover

Start 2021 by doing something amazing to help local people who are struggling to keep warm, safe and fed.

We need your help more than ever and no training is required for this event! Join the team on Friday 29th January for a unique experience, sleeping out in our secure Leicester city centre courtyard to raise funds. By putting yourself through a little hardship for one night you will help to provide essential items for those most in need in 2021.

The 2020 event was tough, cold but filled with lots of interesting conversations and laughter (and a little sleep too!). A client also walked passed and was keen to share her story with guests. We are sure the 2021 event will be just as memorable.

Want to know what it’s like? Visit our website to read the interview in Round About Hinckley magazine by Julie, one of our 2020 ‘guests’!
Ali’s story

Ali is a lone parent to two year old Jonah. She had recently left her ex-partner due to domestic violence and had been battling with depression for which she had been prescribed medication.

Ali was working on a zero hour contract but had not had any work recently due to the COVID-19 situation. She had made an application for Universal Credit as she was struggling to provide for herself and her son but she was still waiting for this to be assessed. In desperate need, Ali was referred to Charity Link for help by her family support worker.

Ali needed a bed and, thanks to your support, we’ve been able to provide a double bed for them to share – this was recommended as Jonah is still traumatised from witnessing the domestic abuse.

We’ve also provided clothing vouchers so Ali can buy much needed clothes for her son and shopping vouchers for food and essentials like nappies.

Brighten 2021!

We are sure you are going to love our 2021 calendar as much as we do!

A collaboration between two Proud Business Supporter Club members, Matt Glover Photography and Full Square Printing, the calendar features a range of Matt’s stunning images (many taken during lock-down when his wedding and event work was postponed) which are sure to bring a smile to every month of 2021.

The A3 calendar is available now for £15 (free delivery). 90% of every sale will help people in need, so get yours and buy as a great gift for others which also changes lives too!

Matt says: “I’m super excited that my images are going to be put to such great use and will help to make a difference to vulnerable local people. When allowed to I spent many hours amongst hedgerows and mud and I hope the resulting images breathe life, colour and happiness into 2021 for those who support the calendar”.

Buy it online or get in touch with us for details of other ways to order.

www.charity-link.org/2021-calendar
Trust Administration news

Our Trust Administration Service provides expert clerking, administration, governance and financial support to local charities. One of the charities that the Service supports is St. Margaret’s Charities, which provides one-off grants to people in Leicester city who are in need, hardship or distress.

The Trustees approached Charity Link following the retirement of their previous Secretary, and we developed a tailored support package that includes arranging and clerking Trustee meetings, providing bookkeeping services, preparing annual accounts, governance, receiving grant applications and preparing requests for Trustees’ consideration. Trustees retain full power over grant decisions, but once approved, grant payments are administered by Charity Link, relieving the Trustees of this administrative task.

Margaret Gillespie, Chairman of St. Margaret’s Charities, said: “We felt that Charity Link had the skills, experience and facilities we lacked to administer the Charities effectively. We are grateful for the way Charity Link deals with requests efficiently - our system of email approval means that claimants can often be helped within days.”

In March the Trustees wanted to take action to help local people affected by Covid-19. They provided Charity Link with a lump sum of charitable fund for expenditure at the discretion of our Casework Team, in grants to city households experiencing particular hardship as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

Trust Administrator, Katie Scranage, said: “This prompt and generous act by the Trustees has enabled Charity Link to respond very quickly to those who most need help during the crisis.”

EVENTS UPDATE

In September the Trust Administration team held a free ‘Managing Small Charities in a COVID-19 World’ online event for Trustees and those involved with the running of small charities in the Midlands.

If you would like to receive information on future events, please email trustadmin@charity-link.org or visit www.charity-link.org/trust-administration

CASEWORK TEAM UPDATE

Our expert and dedicated Casework team continue – as they have throughout the pandemic – to operate as normal. The team act on a client’s behalf to obtain the essential items they need – uptapping funds from charitable trusts and benevolent funds (which means that for every £10 donated to Charity Link we can provide £50 worth of support).

If you work with vulnerable people and would like to discuss the support available call 0116 222 2200 or email casework@charity-link.org

www.charity-link.org/work-with-vulnerable-people
The Goods Depot

We are really proud that our social enterprise, The Goods Depot, has remained open throughout the pandemic, providing high-quality reuse white goods and more recently beds and mattresses to our clients and the wider community.

This has been no mean feat. With Project Manager Alex remote working and new delivery driver Tom joining just as we went into lockdown, the team have worked immensely hard to keep the show (and delivery van!) on the road!

Tom says: “One of the main challenges we’ve faced is getting stock during these difficult times. I’ve had a number of trips to suppliers rather than waiting for stock deliveries to come in, and then, whilst it is great to get a bulk delivery, managing our limited warehouse space, particularly now we have double beds and mattresses has been fun! I’ve had to learn very quickly about stock management, but it’s been great to be able to continue to provide essential items throughout the pandemic.”

One of Tom’s main roles is to deliver goods to clients and Tom adds: “One of hardest parts of my job is locating addresses! Many clients live in flats or tower blocks which of course offer their own challenges when you are delivering a washing machine or bed. It is really satisfying though. I recently spoke to a client – a single mum with two children – who hadn’t had a working cooker for three months. It was great to leave knowing that the family were now going to be able to eat well again.”

DO YOU NEED WHITE GOODS?

We can help

www.thegoodsdepot.org.uk
Due to COVID-19 even more local people are going without...

#nowmorethaneanever

DONATE TODAY AS EVERYONE DESERVES THE BASICS IN LIFE

Many families are facing unexpected hardship this winter due to the impact of COVID-19 and your support is needed now more than ever.

www.charity-link.org/covid-19