thrive

RAYAN & CAROL
Changing lives and creating hope

NOTTS PILOT
Expanding our reach

Charity Link
1876-2026

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES
150 years of impact!

Rayan's story

After losing his job, Rayan's circumstances gradually worsened and, a year later, he found himself homeless and sleeping rough.

With support from the local rough sleeping team, he secured temporary accommodation and is now looking forward to moving into a place of his own.

Starting again comes with many challenges. As his future home will be unfurnished and he is currently unable to work, Rayan needed help to obtain some of the essential items most of us take for granted.

Following a referral to Charity Link, we were able to provide a small fridge freezer, an air fryer and a hotplate hob. These practical items are already helping him meet his day-to-day needs in temporary accommodation and, importantly, are small enough to move with him when he begins the next chapter in his own tenancy.

Rayan is now one step closer to creating a safe, stable home and rebuilding his independence.

Join our Friends community today!

Like many charities, it's currently a challenge to raise the money required to meet the need for our services. Due to a lack of funds, we are unable to help everyone who is referred to us for help.

To ensure we can help more people, we'd love to grow our Charity Link Friends community.

Could you set up a monthly gift (of your choice), so that together we can make a regular, impactful difference?

Your gift will help to change lives, ensuring people and children in need have the essential items they need for a decent standard of living.

Having a regular income helps us plan our service provision and enables us to support more people in hardship or crisis. And we can turn every **£10** you donate into **£50** of essential items!

You can set up a standing order with your bank or visit our web page for details of the Friends community and more ways to donate.

CEO's message

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Thrive, whether it arrives through your letterbox, inbox, or you pick up a copy in your local community. We are incredibly grateful to the venues that display and share our newsletter, helping us spread the word about our work.

As you'll see in the following pages, it has been another busy few months. Every day, we help people facing hardship and crisis access the essential items they need to improve their health, wellbeing and dignity.

The demand for our support remains high, and fundraising continues to be challenging. Thank you to everyone who supports us.

Your generosity changes lives, and as winter approaches, your support is needed more than ever. Thank you.

Sue McEniff | Chief Executive Officer

DONATE TODAY

Lasting legacy

As we mark our 150th year, we've been reflecting on the incredible legacies of kindness and generosity that have helped Charity Link support people in need for generations.

We gratefully accept gifts in Wills

It is estimated that around one in six Wills that go through probate in England and Wales includes a gift to charity. For some charities, a huge percentage of their income is reliant on legacy giving. Whilst, at Charity Link, legacy giving is not currently commonplace, we are hugely grateful to everyone who has made a lasting difference in this way.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help ensure that future generations continue to receive support when they need it most. Every gift helps to relieve hardship and offer hope.

If you'd like to learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, we'd be delighted to have a confidential conversation with you.

PBS MEMBERS WANTED!

Join our special community!

Business club grows!

More businesses are joining our Proud Business Supporter Club and helping local people access the essentials they need to thrive.

We're delighted to welcome Code Crazy and Discover Property Development Group as new 'Silver' members of the Club. Their support, along with that of our other Business Club members, helps us continue providing practical help to people facing hardship across our communities.

Interested in joining a growing network of businesses making a difference?

We'd love to hear from you.

Become a Christmas Star!

This Christmas, your business can help 'Fill Homes with Hope' for local families facing hardship.

By becoming a Christmas Star, you'll help provide essential household items that create safe, warm and comfortable homes, giving families the foundations for a brighter future.

With five levels of support, there's an opportunity for organisations of all sizes to get involved. As a Christmas Star, you'll receive recognition for your generosity, including a place on our festive Christmas Stars Hall of Fame, and an e-badge to highlight your commitment.

Pledge your support now!

Networking event!

"A lively room, packed with all kinds of businesses", "Such a buzz in the room - loved it", "Lovely atmosphere. So easy to chat and connect", ...just some of the comments from our last business networking event. Register now for our next at The Old Horse, on London Road on the morning of Wednesday 4th November.

This is a great opportunity for businesses to connect and learn more about our Business Club.

£150 creates £750 impact!

To mark our birthday year, could you join our 150 Club by raising £150?

Due to our innovative way of working (untapping funds from charitable trust) we can turn this into £750 of essential items for those most in need, so together we'll make a big difference.

Delicious fundraising

Join us for a relaxed evening of great food and company at Chef & Spice, Leicester, on Tuesday 1st December. Tickets are just £20 per person, with £10 from every ticket helping support local people in need.

Bring friends, family or colleagues and enjoy an all-you-can-eat curry while helping change lives. Please help us make it a sell-out! Book online today or get in touch.

Distribution volunteers

We're looking for volunteers to distribute copies of Thrive, leaflets and event information in their local communities.

This may include libraries, community centres, cafes, clubs and other public spaces. A small amount of your time could help more people learn about our work and increase the impact we make together.

Thank you for the support

Kirby Muxloe Scarecrow Festival Funday

Attending Leicestershire Cricket Club's charity day in August

As a chosen charity, we received a donation of £1,250

Thanks to Sofidel for their recent donation

Sofidel

Thanks to shoezone who donated £1,000 after a sale for staff

shoezone

Leicestershire 3 Peaks Challenge

Trust Administration Service

Our Trust Administration and Grant Management Services provide a flexible, practical and experienced resource for charities, charitable trusts, philanthropic funds, educational trusts and not-for-profit organisations. Whether you need ongoing administration, specialist governance expertise, grants management or one-off project support, we can tailor our service to your needs.

Charity Link
Trust Administration Service
Expert support for charities, trusts & not-for-profits
★★★★☆ 4.4 Average Rating

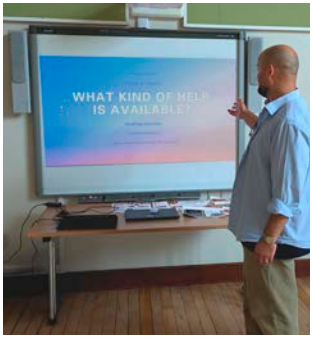
We provide reliable, professional capacity when charities need additional resource or specialist expertise and we work with charities of all sizes, from small grant-making trusts to organisations delivering services in their communities. We can provide one-off project input, fixed-term capacity or ongoing administration, depending on requirements.

GET IN TOUCH
trustadmin@charity-link.org

We also support solicitors, accountants, trustees and charitable foundations that require additional specialist expertise, independent advice or administrative capacity. Get in touch to see how we can help.

Expanding into Nottingham

Charity Link is currently delivering a pilot project in Nottingham funded by Octopus Energy through the Warm Homes Initiative. Working closely with a small number of referral partners, particularly St Ann's Advice Centre (SAAC), we have been providing essential white goods to local people experiencing hardship. To help raise awareness of the support available, Charity Link's Caseworker Hector was invited to SAAC in September to speak to local charities and community organisations about our services.



Hector said: "I am incredibly grateful to Denise Morley and the team at SAAC for their support since we began working in Nottingham. Their partnership has helped us reach more people in need, and this event was a fantastic opportunity to connect with more local organisations and build awareness of the support available so that we can reach even more people across the community."

Over the last 6 months...

With your support, we helped over **2,290** people and provided items worth **£624,039**:

Note: Other items also distributed.

Household Goods
55

Cookers
626

Washing Machines
566

Clothing
61

Fridge Freezers
478

Beds
415

Ways you can get involved...

- Become a Charity Link Ambassador
- Payroll giving
- Ask your local school to fundraise to change lives
- Become a Charity Link Friend
- Community lottery
- Be part of the 150 Club
- Nominate us for support at your place of work, club or local supermarket
- Organise a gift in your Will
- Ask if charities and support agencies know of our services
- Encourage companies to join our Business Club
- Use Easyfundraising when shopping online
- A one-off donation
- Sign up to our monthly e-newsletter
- Plan some festive fundraising/support
- Organise your own fundraising event or challenge... or support one of ours
- Help spread the word by distributing leaflets and posters in your community

We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in supporting our work in any way. Email hello@charity-link.org or call 0116 222 2200.

charity-link.org/get-involved

150th Birthday Messages

We've received many wonderful messages from supporters, partners and friends during our milestone year. Here are just a few. We're continuing to build our special 150th birthday archive and would love to hear from even more supporters. Share your message online and become part of our history!

"Congratulations on your 150th birthday. Who knows what the next 150 years will bring, but it is good to know that you will continue to do the work you do, making lives better, helping people through tough times and supporting the people of Leicester in whatever way you can. It has been an honour to have shared in your journey in a very small way, and we hope to continue to do this in the future. Here is to the next 150 years!"

Staff and students, English Martyrs School

"Thank you to everyone at Charity Link for all you do to transform lives and support the most needy and vulnerable in Leicester and beyond.
You're amazing – keep up the great work."

Reverend Canon Dr Tom Wilson, St Philip's Centre

"We have loved working with you and helping you to achieve so much for so many people. To have been so effective for so long, it takes a great team of people to achieve this. So many congratulations on such a fantastic milestone of 150 years of changing people's lives."

Charles Smith, The shoezone Trust

"Many congratulations to Charity Link on achieving 150 years of service to the people of Leicester and Leicestershire. Countless numbers of individuals and families would not be where they are today without the vital help you have given to them and their forebears at critical times in their lives. Long may you continue to operate your unique funding arrangements, for the benefit of needy people."

County Alderman Mike Jones and Mrs Marj Jones

"Happy Birthday Charity Link. Thank you for helping the people you do – you make a great big difference! I and my clients are so truly grateful! Cheers to another 150 years!"

Maggie Guy, CAB Food Bank Adviser Leicestershire

Carol's story

DONATE TODAY

When Carol was referred to Charity Link by her Supported Living Development Officer, she was facing an incredibly difficult time.

Carol has a learning disability and has experienced significant trauma throughout her life, including witnessing domestic abuse as a child and violence in adulthood.

Following the death of a partner, she was left a financial gift in his Will. Sadly, a subsequent partner stole this money and used her identity to commit benefit fraud, leaving Carol with nothing.

After reporting the matter to the Police, Carol moved into supported accommodation to rebuild her life. However, she was unable to afford many of the essential items she needed, including a cooker, fridge freezer and bed.

We were able to provide these vital items, helping Carol create a safe and comfortable home, improve her quality of life and restore some dignity and independence as she moves forward.

The Goods Depot

The Goods Depot is our social enterprise supplying high-quality, affordable white goods, furniture, beds and other household essentials.

Alongside providing items awarded to Charity Link clients, The Goods Depot works with housing associations, charities, support services, local authorities and community organisations to furnish homes.

Every purchase helps make a difference, as all profits are reinvested into Charity Link's charitable work, helping more local people in need.

The team would love to hear from you if you'd like to find out more about working with The Goods Depot.

EST. 2019

THE GOODS DEPOT

Supplying Organisations Supporting Communities

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Raise money every time you shop online!

SUPPORT CHARITY LINK WITH easyfundraising

You can raise donations for Charity Link every time you shop online. Simply shop through easyfundraising and their retailers will donate to Charity Link at no extra cost to you.

- **PAY THE SAME PRICES AS NORMAL**
- **NO HIDDEN COSTS OR CATCHES**
- **1000'S OF RETAILERS TO CHOOSE FROM**
- **FREE AND VERY EASY TO USE**

The small number of supporters currently using easyfundraising have already helped raise over £1,500. Imagine the difference we could make if hundreds more people joined in!

Visit the website today and help change lives.

easyfundraising.org.uk

Leicester Charity Organisation Society is a registered charity no. 1078271 and a company limited by guarantee no. 03761954.