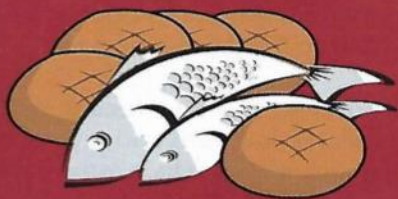


## Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



*Where a little means a lot*

**No 1 of 2024**

## THANK YOU

**We are very grateful to all who are supporting us in what is for everyone a very difficult time. Regular donations are especially helpful as we seek to meet a demand for help that is likely to be greater than ever in the coming months.**

**A special thanks to those whose gifts have been made anonymously or for whom we have no addresses to send our thanks.**

### Another Year 2022-23

It has been another busy year at the Fund for Human Need, which has seen us handling over 880 applications for assistance. We have also been represented at carefully-chosen national events to get the Fund recognised by more people and generate more support and have written to every Methodist church in the UK.

The applications received mostly came from 110 organisations but towards the end of the year we saw a rise in personal applications as the effect of the cost-of-living crisis made itself felt. The applications covered 1,459 individuals, a third of whom (481) were children. The number of applications from those who were homeless (144) was down on previous years following the 'Everyone In' programme during the pandemic; the majority of these were asking for help with basics such as food, bedding and mattresses. 65 people asked for help to enable them to stay in education.

In the course of the year 679 grant payments totalling £74,200 were made, providing not only vital emergency support to people in all parts of the UK, but also expressing loving concern and offering hope. During the year there has been a significant increase in the amount of donations made by individuals — the highest amount in the history of the Fund. We are very grateful to all who have responded by making one-off gifts and for the personal commitment of those who are giving regularly by means of a standing order. In the same period there has been a reduction in the total received from churches. This no doubt reflects the financial pressure felt by many congregations.

**While the grants are modest, responses received often express appreciation of the money given which for many is a life-line when they are so desperate. As important as is the money, which provides vital, short-term help, is the knowledge that through the generosity of our supporters we have been able to show concern, give hope and share God's love.**

### Plans for the Future

There are many people within and beyond the Methodist Church who might be expected to have sympathy with FHN's object "to relieve and remove hunger and poverty...without regard for politics, race, colour or creed" but who do not know of the Fund. Embarking on our 2023-24 programme of fund-raising we contacted every Methodist church in the UK with updated flyers which it is hoped will lead to an increased response from both congregations and individuals. We also continue to seek ways to cover the fund-raising and administration costs of the Fund by sponsorship and grants. This would result in all the money donated being given in the one-off relief payments to tide people over when they are destitute.

**The applications often describe the extreme poverty, abuse and despair experienced by people. What should encourage all who contribute to their relief by supporting the Fund is the sincerity of the gratitude of those who have received grants for the help they have been given.**

The trustees express thanks to those who have taken on the role of 'Friend of FHN' and who advocate the work of FHN in their area. They welcome opportunities to speak to groups of the positive impact our quite modest grant payments make to some of the most vulnerable and needy people in our society today.

To read the full report go to: <https://fundforhumaneed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FHN-Report-and-Accounts-2022-23-2.pdf> or the Charity commission website.

## Working partners-

Although the Fund for Human Need is a small charity, we work across all 4 nations in the UK making the majority of our grants through organisations on the 'front line,' many of whose staff are volunteers. Over the next few newsletters, we will be sharing some of their stories about the people they refer to us - people whose circumstances they verify and help to access our services.

This time we are focussing on Scotland and especially Cross Ethnic, established to address the growing need to support ethnic minorities and the host community in Glasgow their objectives aim at integration and active citizenship for all.

- Cross Ethnic promote and advance the contribution of multicultural ethnic minority communities in Glasgow through social inclusion and harmony among the diverse communities as well as encouraging the contribution of wider society to support their initiatives to work with people in need.
- They advance citizenship by assisting in removing barriers (e.g. language, discrimination and exclusion) of ethnic minorities in Glasgow, empowering an active role locally supporting equality at all levels. In addition, promoting social cohesion and active participation in civic society, building direct links between local disadvantaged communities and policy makers as well as addressing areas of support in relation to Health, Housing and education and overall welfare of these communities.
- Cross Ethnic seek to relieve poverty through empowering members of the diverse communities (youth, women, student etc.) in Glasgow in their engagement with community initiatives empowering a voice for these groups and assisting in helping them to develop relevant skills in this respect as well as to provide humanitarian assistance.



One of Cross Ethnic's recent applications was for Thavarasa Balasingam \*\* who at the time was a new Asylum seeker housed in a temporary hotel. He was due an asylum allowance of £9 per week for essentials but this had not yet been set up. Having arrived with very little his most immediate need was for warm clothing.

FHN made an award of £100 and afterwards Heard from Thavarasa in his own words: 'I left my home in eastern Sri Lanka due to persecution and poverty after a dangerous journey through many countries reached UK. Safety and seek asylum in UK.

The money I got from FHN is helping me to buy food as I am getting very

little support from authorities also its help to buy a winter jacket to face the severe Scottish winter" \*\* name and Photos used with permission.

As well as Cross Ethnic we work with a range of other organisations across Scotland including:

**Govan Community Project**, this is a community-based organisation working in south west Glasgow. Supporting the diverse community in Govan as well as refugees and people seeking asylum all over Glasgow. The purpose is: To achieve social justice in the Greater Govan area by building a strong community based on equality, mutual respect, support, and integration. Also helping the refugee community are **Scottish Refugee Council**.

**Money Matters Advice Centre**, offer a Welfare Rights service which includes representation at Social Security appeal hearings. In-work benefits advice such as Universal Credit, Housing Costs, Support for Mortgage Interest and Council Tax Reduction. They also have energy awareness sessions to offer essential information on heating your home effectively and saving money on fuel costs.



Cross Ethnic

9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Through : The Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler,  
To: The President of Methodist Church of Great Britain.

FUND FOR HUMAN NEED AND CROSS ETHNIC

We are a Scottish Charity we do projects in Glasgow empowering asylum seekers and refugees.

Referring the Holy Bible John (13:34-35) we are grateful for Methodist Church for assisting our vulnerable sisters and brother in Glasgow.

Many of these vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees need basic practical Needs, especially in contexts where they live as a despised and vulnerable minority.

The help they get from FUND FOR THE HUMAN NEED is like a ointment on their wound. We see this fund bright many lives

Personally my connections with Methodist Church goes around 40 years in Sri Lanka , many preach and not practises but my experiences you doing the opposite.

May God Almighty bless Methodist Church abundantly to execute Lord Jesus mission in the earth

David Nallarattam  
Director

## How You helped:

\*Name changed to protect identity

Aleksej\* claimed asylum in the UK but like many was detained until his status and identity could be verified. During this time, he came to the notice of and was supported by Detention Action. Unfortunately, by the time his claim had been processed and he had his leave to remain he had also been diagnosed with cancer. Recently released from detention he was rehoused in an empty flat. Undergoing exhausting treatment and trips to hospital, Detention Action applied for an award to provide household basics especially cooking things so he could eat better to aid his treatment. On basic Universal credit of £237 he had utilities of £195 to pay to keep the flat warm, added to which his hospital travel of £20, there was nothing left to pay for basic appliances. **Award £100 Dec 23.**

**Thank you so much. This will mean so much to Aleksej\*. He has been struggling so much with his health and living conditions. I look forward to telling him and buying the appliances for him.**

**A massive thank you from us and him.**

**Kind regards Post-Detention Coordinator**

## Update 2023 Appeal to all UK Methodist Churches.

**Our small awards are classified under charity rules as 'grants' this makes it very difficult for us to access any funding as many of the major trusts and funds are restricted by their deeds and rules from supporting grant giving bodies, so we rely on the individuals and churches that support us.**

At the end of August, we sent individually addressed letters, including some new leaflets through the synods and on via the circuits to the Churches. These were asking that each local church to consider making a donation each year or sending the proceeds from a one-off special collection or event. 'We appreciate that many churches, as well as their members, are facing the effects of the ongoing cost of living crisis, but we are asking, nevertheless, if you can to enable us extend help to those in the greatest need, we would be very grateful.'

**We are pleased to report that most of these have reached the churches (and some of the remainder are promised for distribution in March) and over 36 Churches new to us have made donations.**

**You can still help: As supporters of Fund for Human Need and what we do, please look out for the leaflets and letter arriving at your church, and ask your church council to consider the request. We are the only part of the Methodist Church doing this type of work in the UK.**



## How You helped:

Dana's\* young son was diagnosed with learning and behavioural issues when he was 3, eventually this strain proved too much for the child's father and when he was 7 he left. Dana had been working part time while the child was in school, but was unable to continue as her work permit was connected to her husband's visa. Not able to meet the rent without work and having quickly lost track of her husband Dana started her own application for leave to remain as the mother of a British born child.

Without her husband's status Dana had no recourse to public funds (NRPF), their income was £47 each per week provided under section 17 by Social Services meant that they just managing. But then, as part of the immigration process, they were dispersed to new accommodation, this was in the same town, but the school was now well over walking distance for a young child. There was no immediate local provision to get the child to school but like many other parents in the immigration system Dana's claim could be affected if the child's school attendance was unacceptable. The child's difficulties meant he had to be accompanied to school and this was costing £30 per week so they very quickly started to struggle.

A housing officer with a local agency applied to us for an award to help with travel while they explored the local authority's policy on transport and tried to get the child a place.

**Award £120 Dec 2023**

Thanks very much for this award, it's great news! Kind regards,

Housing and Destitution Caseworker

\*names changed to protect identity

# Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866

## How You helped:

Aasa\* and her husband were delighted when his application for refugee status was accepted and they could start and build a life. However, this changed when their baby arrived and she began to experience domestic violence.

The only way to protect herself and the now 2-year-old child was to leave – but Aasa only held a spousal visa so she found herself in a domestic violence shelter with no possessions and having to start the immigration process all over again in her own right.

When Samosa Sisters applied to us Aasa was still awaiting the outcome of her new application and had no support. They applied for an award to get basics for her and the child to keep them going until her initial immigration case was heard or formal support arranged through social services.

**Award £120 Nov 23**

\*Name changed to protect identity

## How You helped:

Lillian\* was over 60 years old when she came to the attention of the street homeless team working out of The Connection at St Martins.

A single lady she had been living in different places in the UK since the early 1970s, but as she had always lived with various family members and never independently her immigration status had never been regularised.

In recent years she had been the carer for an elderly relative. When they died her position within the family became more and more untenable with her being passed from one to another - and eventually the relationships broke down completely. Not having any identification or papers after staying with a friend for a short time she became street homeless. The team at St Martins got her a place in a night shelter and a legal aid solicitor to start the process of a 20-year residence application to stay, and applied to us for an award for warm clothing, hygiene products and travel costs to go to solicitors' appointments.

**Award £100 Oct 2023.**

\*Name changed to protect identity

**Keeping in touch** – The newsletter is sent three times a year, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. We get in touch to find out your mailing preferences, if at any time these change, please let us know. This and any other correspondence to:  
Mrs Gill Mason (Admin): [fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com)  
**Ph: 01325 244992. Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL**

**DONATE.** If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to relief funds or benefits, please see our website at:

[http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page\\_id=111](http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111)  
There you will find all the information you need on making a donation or regular gift. Or you can contact us at: [fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com) Ph: 07561717230

The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you can consider?

**Standing Order** – Regular giving is so valuable and if you can Gift Aid, it adds 25p to every £ donated. Details on the website or from Gill M.

**Cheque** - if you prefer to donate by cheque, these should be made out to 'Fund for Human Need' and directed to Gill Mason (Admin) at the address below.

**Other ways you can help - Other news outlets-** Is there a local news outlet that you could pass our information to? Church or Circuit notices or magazines?

**Electronic giving-** We are on 'Just giving'. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundforhumanneed>



Try our QR code to go to the Just Giving site. (just point the camera of a smart phone at it.)

**Home shopping-** we are on **Give as you live**, if you nominate us, a percentage comes to us with no cost to you.

**Synods** - Do you go to Synod? Could you take some leaflets, staff a marketplace table? Maybe you could speak for us? All materials and assistance provided.

**Greetings and Christmas Cards-** could you send for and sell on some of our cards? Its more cost effective to send a big pack to one person. Phone Gill to discuss.

**Wills and codicils-** we are linked with Freewills an online service

<https://freewills.co.uk/charity/fundhumanneed> they can also make a will over the phone on 0333 188 5688.

If you already have a will made and would be happy to add a bequest to Fund for Human Need a simple codicil form is available on the Website (or from our Admin).

**Friends in Districts-** we still have need of people in many of the districts to advertise us at district events and synods, giving out leaflets and putting up posters, getting information into publications etc. (all supplied and supported). Can you help.