

eNEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2012

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BT BENEVOLENT FUND

A Week in the Life of the Fund

Every week we deal with requests for help, responding as quickly and effectively as we can. Each week is different, but all clearly illustrate the range of help we are able to give.

In a recent week we dealt with the following cases:

We gave an employee a loan of £1,500 for mortgage and Council Tax arrears which had arisen due to illness (to be repaid from his salary); a grant of £500 to an ex-employee for a respite break for her disabled husband; we paid bankruptcy fees of £700 for another former employee, and £1,000 for a recliner chair for a BT pensioner. We contributed £1,800 towards the cost of

a walk-in shower for a disabled former engineer, and helped a divorced employee with the cost of two beds for when his children came to visit. Another bed was bought for the elderly widow of a former employee and we helped a pensioner with a shortfall in care costs, as well as starting to pay her a weekly grant of £20 towards her care home bills. We paid £250 for rent arrears, £250 for car repairs, and £113 for a dental bill to three former BT people. We helped with new carpets for two applicants, and bought a fridge for a third. Finally, the widow of a recently-retired employee was granted £2,000

towards his funeral costs. All in all, we helped 15 people, whose ages ranged from 44 to 83, with length of service in BT by them or their partner ranging from two to 38 years. The total spent on grants was £10,909. And that's what we do, week in, week out, 52 weeks a year.

Without your contributions we would be forced to make some very tough decisions about who to help. As it is, we turn away very few cases, and wherever possible try to give the full amount needed, since so often those who come to us have nowhere else to turn.

Spread the Word!

We always need new members to replace those who leave and retire. If each of our current employee members signed up just one new joiner, it would have a huge impact on our income, enabling us to do even more for those in need. Please pass on this Newsletter in your teams.

Becoming a Member

To join on-line, go to the Give As You Earn pages on the BT intranet:

https://www.givingonline.org.uk/BT_96/index.html

Click on 'Setting Up', and then on 'Complete the Online Donation Form'. Fill in the form, specifying the BT Benevolent Fund as your chosen charity, make sure you have given your work email address, and submit it.

The form will then be emailed back to your BT or Openreach email address, and you MUST APPROVE IT to confirm that you are starting your donation.

Details of your monthly payment are then passed to BT Payroll (Steria) and the Charities Aid Foundation, who manage the GAYE scheme.

Welcome

This eNewsletter is being emailed to employee members of the BT Benevolent Fund, as well as some pensioner members. Please do let us have any feedback: benevolent@bt.com

Staffing Changes at the Fund

THE BT BENEVOLENT FUND

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Next month we shall be saying goodbye to our administrator at the fund, Marjorie Graham, who is leaving after over four years in the role. Marjorie is sad to be going, but has many other things to keep her busy, including volunteering at the National Trust's Basildon Park and - most importantly - the arrival of her first grandchild early next year.

Joining us to replace Marjorie will be Dawn Bennett. Dawn lives in Reading and currently works for NatWest in Farnborough. She learned of the job from her son, who works for BT. Dawn says "I'm thrilled to be joining the Fund—the work they do is so important, and I'm looking forward to the change from the banking sector."



Marjorie Graham

Christmas Cards

In 2011 we experimented with selling Christmas cards for the first time, and are very grateful to all who bought them. Following a review with our Trustee Board, we've decided not to sell cards this year, since the production costs and impact on staff time in our very small team made the exercise less cost-effective than we had hoped.



Dawn Bennett

THE CHARITY WORLD

Things never stand still in the charity world. Issues that the team at the Fund and our Trustee Board have recently considered include the likely impact of forthcoming changes to state benefits, concerns about employees in debt to payday lenders, and the most efficient ways of sourcing electrical appliances for clients. We are also considering whether to change our AGM arrangements in 2013, and looking at possible new software to enhance our case management.

Remember, you can give one-off amounts to the Fund through BT's MyDonate site.



<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/btbenevolentfund>

£304,000

- the amount we've given so far in grants to those in need in 2012.

Thank you for making this possible.

www.benevolent.bt.com