

eNEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2014

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- Christmas Cards
- Recruitment Success
- New Case Management System



BT BENEVOLENT FUND

FOCUS ON EMPLOYEES

Too many BT people, if they've heard of the Fund at all, associate us with help to pensioners. It's true that we assist several hundred ex-employees and pensioners every year – people with a wide range of problems but with a common need for help.

However here at the Fund we see the work we do with current employees as vital. More and more managers are aware of the Fund and are referring potential cases to us. Employees in financial trouble initially make contact with BT's Employee Assistance Team on 0800 917 6767, who prepare cases and pass them to us.

The number of employees helped has increased over the past few years, from 48 in 2007 to 107 in 2013. That's not a huge number in the context of the whole BT workforce, but to those individuals we offer a real lifeline. Their cases are all different, but with the common theme that most people have experienced unforeseen and significant problems such as bereavement, relationship breakdown, serious illness or disability or redundancy of a partner. Such events can very quickly result in people getting into financial difficulty.

The Fund doesn't assist every employee who asks for help; sometimes there are circumstances where we don't consider the need to be critical, but most of the time we are able to give grants which we hope will make a difference to the situation the person is facing. Very few PLCs have their own charity, and those of you who donate to us every month can be proud of the difference your contributions make to the lives of others. We aim to continually raise our profile in BT so as to make more people aware that we're here to help.

Fund 2014 Christmas Card



We've already sold nearly 3,000 packs of our 2014 Christmas card. You can order them online at http://www.benevolent.bt.com/xmas_cards.htm and pay by Paypal. Order soon before stocks run out!

THE BT BENEVOLENT FUND

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RECRUITMENT SUCCESS

When Jayne Boylan in Global Services received our April Newsletter, she thought she'd try to 'do her bit' to drum up more support for the Fund. She sent the flyer shown here round her team, and others then passed it on further. Within days sixteen of her colleagues had joined the Fund and others who were already members had increased their donations, bringing in several hundred pounds a year extra to the Fund – a great result for a few minutes effort on her part. Could you do the same in your team?

Please email Debbie Terry if you'd like a copy of the flyer.

NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Just because we were founded in 1863 doesn't mean that we don't move with the times. Thanks to several wonderful people in Group CIO in the UK and Tech Mahindra in India, the Fund has just taken delivery of an on-line system for managing our casework. Buying in such a system would have cost us £1,000's, so the opportunity to work with the experts to design what we need has been fantastic, and we're truly grateful to all concerned.



Remember, you can give one-off amounts to the Fund through GAYE or via BT's MyDonate service.



www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/btbenevolentfund

COULD YOU SPARE JUST £2 A MONTH?

The **BT Benevolent Fund** exists to help current and former BT employees, or their dependents, who are experiencing financial hardship. Every year we spend about £3/4million helping people via grants and weekly payments. This work is only made possible by the generosity of our members. There's a clear and rising need for what we do, and we don't expect that situation to change in the years ahead.

However of our 19,000 members, only 2,000 are current BT people. If more employees supported us, we could help more people every year.

It takes only minutes to sign up via Give As You Earn at:

www.btbfgivingonline.org.uk

Donations are taken from salary before tax, so every £1 given only costs 80p, or just 60p for higher rate tax payers. What's even better is that BT enhances donations with their own contributions.

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:

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www.benevolent.bt.com