

BT BENEVOLENT FUND

Newsletter Winter 2017



<http://www.benevolent.bt.com/bf/>

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International Help

Nearly all the Fund's work is for employees, former employees and pensioners who live in the UK. However our constitution allows us to give help to eligible applicants worldwide, so when we heard from HR in BT America about employees there seriously impacted by Hurricane Harvey we were pleased to assist. In Texas we made grants to five people, and later one to an employee in Mexico City whose apartment block was destroyed in the earthquake there. Although all these grants were quite modest, it was good to be able to do our bit to help.

This newsletter is being emailed to employee contributors to the BTBF, as well as some pensioner members. Please do let us have any feedback: benevolent@bt.com



MEMBERSHIP

*At the end of October, the Fund had **16,069** pensioner members, and **1,685** employee contributors. Regular donations from members are important – they make up about 60% of our annual income. Please pass this newsletter on to your colleagues, as every single contribution makes a real difference.*

Donating via Payroll Giving is simple to set up and tax efficient – and right now we'll benefit by £10 for every friend you refer - see the link overleaf.

Employee Help in 2017

We're nearing the end of 2017 and it's been a very busy year for the Fund, especially as regards grants to employees. To date we've dealt with 144 requests for help from current BT and EE people, compared with 85 in the whole of 2016. And we do help most of those who come to us – we've only turned down 10 employee requests this year, where we felt it wouldn't have been a sensible use of our funds.

The reasons employees come to us are many and varied. Very often a relationship breakdown has meant rent or council tax payments have fallen into arrears, or a utility bill can't be paid. In such cases there are often children involved and we can help while the employee sorts out benefit entitlements, child support payments or moves to a cheaper property. Another of our priorities is making sure people can get to work, and in a number of cases we've helped with travel costs and car repairs. Sadly employees do sometimes find themselves temporarily homeless and this year we've helped with hostel fees and with money for food. Among many other needs, we've also helped with the costs of regular travel to visit sick children in hospital, with home disability adaptations and with wheelchair and mobility scooter provision. To date grants to employees in 2017 have ranged from £100 to £3,500.

If you work with someone we might be able to help, please encourage them to phone Employee Assistance on 0800 917 6767, who refer cases to us.

**Recommend a colleague and the Fund will get
£10:**

https://www.handsonpayrollgiving.co.uk/BTpgrequest/refer_a_friend.php



Thank You

This is what one employee said to us:

"I just wanted to express my sincere thanks and total gratitude for the Fund's generosity and kindness. I was utterly astonished by your letter. I read and re-read it, as things like that don't happen to me - I can't thank you all enough."



Thank you for your support, and a very Happy Christmas!