

Home and Overseas Paper October 2021

Dear Sisters

For this month's paper I thought I would provide some more information on some of the projects MWA have supported from our reserve project money and one of our main projects we are raising money for in 2021-2022. I have provided website details for those of you who want to learn more.

MWA hoping to raise £750.00 for the charity **Action Medical Research for Children** (action.org.uk)

Founded in 1952 by Duncan Guthrie to find a cure for polio which was affecting many at the time including his own daughter. Research funded by the organisation helped to develop the first oral polio vaccine which eradicated development of new cases of the disease in UK. Since then, it has funded lots of research leading to evidence which has helped countless children including understanding the importance of folic acid in pregnancy to prevent spina bifida; development of the use of ultrasound in pregnancy and testing the rubella vaccine. The website provides details of many research projects. In 2020 the latest report details the following research projects it has funded: the effects of Covid 19 on children which could offer insight in to how to combat serious illness in children and adults in the future; how best to protect pregnant women and babies from Covid 19 risk and whether Covid affects brain development in babies and children; research into preventing premature birth; into rare diseases such as pyridoxine-dependant epilepsy; Perrault syndrome (causes progressive severe hearing loss and infertility in girls); Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (heart failure and death); new treatments for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; eye care for children with LD and scanning for hip problems in children with cerebral palsy.

MWA has already sent £250.00 to the following charities:

Butterflies (www.butterfliesmentalhealth.co.uk)

Butterflies operates in West Yorkshire – it offers female only circuit training and support sessions. It incorporates the use of exercise – known to help mental health by releasing natural endorphins and opportunities to talk about mental health. Sessions are for girls and women aged 11 and over.

NW Air Ambulance (www.nwairambulance.org.uk)

The North West Air Ambulance Charity helicopters and HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) response vehicles operate 365 days a year, with doctors and HEMS paramedics on board providing enhanced pre-hospital care and hospital transfers to patients across the entire North West. The charity is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of life, through the services of an air ambulance.

Swindon Night Shelter (www.swindonnightshelter.uk)

The details below are a direct quote from the website:

“We believe that we are all made in God's image and deserve the love and respect of our fellow man. Our vision is to be able to offer a safe, warm and secure place to spend the night for anyone over the age of 18 who has nowhere else to sleep. Everyone needs to be accepted and treated with dignity. In a world of homelessness, addiction, fear, rejection and marginalisation the Swindon Night Shelter aims to come alongside the needy to show that somebody does care. We aim to minister to the spiritual needs as well as the emotional and physical needs of the homeless and vulnerable by being a visible testimony of Jesus Christ. We work closely with Churches and Christians in Swindon and surrounding area.”

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The charity runs a Night Shelter in St Mary's Church Hall, Swindon. At the Shelter a hot meal, fresh clean clothes, a chance to shower, a bed for the night and food to take away as well as a chance to relax, chat and hear God's word is on offer. There is also a Day Centre on during the week. The charity also work with local supermarkets and other businesses in Swindon, to collect and distribute Charitable Surplus to those who need and can use it. They are open to any guests regardless of their beliefs or their current circumstances.

Asthma UK (www.asthma.org.uk)

Asthma UK works to stop asthma attacks and to ultimately find a cure for asthma by funding research and scientists, campaigning for change and supporting people with asthma to reduce their risk of a potentially life threatening asthma attack.

ME Association (www.meassociation.org.uk)

Again, the words below are a direct quote from the website:

"The ME Association is a national charity that supports thousands of people with ME/CFS each year in the UK. It is estimated that between 130,000 and 260,000 people in the UK are struggling to live with this debilitating condition. ME/CFS is a neurological disease affecting adults and young people from all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. It can lead to long-term disability and a lower quality of life than multiple sclerosis or cancer. At least 25% of the people affected will be housebound or bedbound at any one time. Those with the most severe form of the disease will need 24-hour care. For many, ME/CFS is a complex post-viral fatigue syndrome affecting many bodily functions that can occur at any time. ME/CFS is known by several names e.g. Myalgic Encephalopathy – the name we prefer – Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. We campaign to raise awareness of the inequalities affecting this large patient community and we aim to achieve respect and fair treatment for all. We fund and support vital biomedical research and offer education and training for healthcare professionals who want to learn more about this often-misunderstood medical condition. During the Covid pandemic we have also been at the forefront of providing support and information about Covid-19 and the vaccine programme to those with ME/CFS and to people now affected by Long Covid.

Tabby's Trust (Facebook Page)

This charity raises money to support children with cancer in West Yorkshire. Tabby herself has had ovarian cancer at age 13 and decided to do something to give back to the people who saved her life.

I hope you find this information useful – and realise what good our donations and fundraising do.

Janet Cooper