

Update

Spring 2005



When the Floods Came

On the weekend of the 8th and 9th January Cumbria experienced one of the worst storms in living memory. It was immediately apparent that thousands of people would need financial, emotional and practical support to cope with the devastation. We responded to that need.

By 6pm on Sunday 9th January we had launched the £500,000 Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund Appeal with support from the Evening News & Star and CFM Radio. The response was phenomenal. Within the first week the Appeal total stood at £250,000 including a personal donation from HRH Prince of Wales and £50,000 each from the Community Foundation, Kingmoor Park Charitable Trust, Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils. Within the first week grant application forms were made widely available throughout the county and the first grants to households had been made.

The Fund total now stands at an amazing £717,000. We have received nearly one thousand separate donations from individuals and families, charitable trusts, businesses and community fund raising events.

There have been so many heart-warming stories about donations. For example the village of Boscastle in Cornwall who, after experiencing their own flood, held a dance to raise money because they 'knew just how the people of Carlisle are feeling'; the man who sold his 'last Rolo' on e-Bay; the children of St Bede's Roman Catholic School who managed to stay quiet for a whole hour and raised over £700; the little girl who raised £80 by asking everyone invited to her ninth birthday party to give a donation; and the pensioner who wrote it's only £10. It is all I can manage... but send it with my heartfelt sympathy for all who have suffered in this catastrophe'.

We know that there is still so much to do to support individuals and help devastated communities to return to normal. We are so pleased that so many of our members responded with such generosity. If you haven't been able to make a contribution yet, there is still time. The fund remains open to donations.



Above: Prince Charles discussing the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund with Susan Aglionby, Foundation Trustee and Chair of the Funds Grants Committee.



News

Supported by



Big Lottery Fund Invests in Community Foundation

The Northwest Regional Awards panel have approved a grant of £206,000 over three years for staff costs associated with developing new grants programmes.



We have been chosen as the distributor for funds raised through Sport Relief. Ring or visit our website for more information.

New Web Site Launched

To learn about our latest grants schemes, make an application or donation please visit www.cumbriafoundation.org.

How have we spent the money?

To date we have given out £271,000 in grants supporting 1,175 people directly and £286,000 to 43 organisations assisting people in need.



GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

We have supported people with no insurance, or not enough insurance, to buy basic furniture and cleaning equipment and undertake emergency repairs. We have provided people who have insurance with contributions to cover loss of income (for time taken off to manage the clean up or meet with builders and insurers) and additional expenses like travel, increased fuel bills and child care.

We have been concerned by the numbers of people without insurance, and saddened by some of the stories of elderly people struggling to cope with living in temporary accommodation far from friends and family or parents separated from their children. We have been particularly affected by people who are struggling to come to terms with the huge job of organising builders and insurers and moving to temporary accommodation whilst holding down jobs and keeping families together and children happy.

As one grant recipient wrote 'Please can you pass on my gratitude to the generous people who have given to the Fund. It shows at times of despair how amazing people can be. I hope this will be the start of better times for all of us.'

GRANTS TO GROUPS

Voluntary groups have been a major contributor to the recovery effort. We knew that these groups would need financial support to get new or expanded services up and running. Here are some examples

Impact Housing & Home Appliances

£40,000 to set up a furniture store in Carlisle to process donated furniture and white goods and to deliver items free to people affected by the storms

Age Concern

£18,000 for a worker to provide information, support and practical help to older adults to help them return to their houses

Carlisle Churches Flood Response

£10,000 to support the running of their centres providing hot drinks, food and support to people in Carlisle

Eden Valley Hospice

£4,000 to provide a free counselling service to people traumatised by the effects of flooding

Greystone and Denton Holme Community Centres

£5,000 to run free summer and autumn play schemes for children affected by the floods to enable their parents to spend time sorting out their houses

Children at Rainbow Soft Play Centre. Money from the Fund enabled the Centre to extend its opening hours, providing support to families with young children



"I am writing on behalf of my father. He has asked me to express his thanks to you for the financial support received consequent upon the flooding in Keswick. One of the best features of the Foundation is that people find that they are not alone or forgotten by the community at large and that gives real measure of comfort. With many thanks for your prompt assistance."

Keswick resident.

"I cannot express my deepest gratitude to you and all the people of Cumbria for their generosity in providing me with a grant of £500. This support will help me get back on my feet both personally and in my self employment after such a traumatic few months. Your Foundation has been a lifeline for many displaced and troubled families, individuals and small businesses who would have struggled without your support."

Carlisle resident

Announcing a new Partnership...

Cumbria Community Foundation and Mary Grave Trust announce a new partnership

The Mary Grave Trust has been around since the 1970's. The Trust gives out money to disadvantaged young people to give them the chance to travel abroad. It was set up by a local businessman in memory of his mother, who lived in Maryport. The family had strong connections with West Cumbria and a real commitment to its people.

The Trust gives out over £50,000 a year. Pat Black, Chair of the Trust, said 'We are really keen to help young people to take part in journeys that broaden their horizons, develop their skills and that might even change their lives'.

'We hope that this new partnership with Cumbria Community Foundation

will enable us to reach out to a wider audience, and to give out more grants to more young people' she added.

Many young people miss out on the opportunity to travel abroad because they can't find the money. Perhaps they want to join a school trip or need to travel abroad as part of a college or university course. The Mary Grave Trust was set up to help local young people take up those opportunities.

To find out more call the office or visit www.cumbriafoundation.org.

Top: Clare Edwards, Grants Development Officer, and Pat Black discuss applications to the Trust.



Barrow Community Trust



Rob Cairns, Furness Building Society Chief Executive, joins Sarah Gardner, our Barrow Fund Development Officer, and Steve Murray, Chair of the Trust, in some pre Ball warm ups.

Abbey House Hotel was the venue for the Community Trust's Spring Ball in March. Guests danced and dined in support of the Trust, raising over £600 for the Trust's long term fund.

Furness Building Society, one of the Trust's regular donors, has launched a new Affinity Account. This savings

account combines an excellent interest rate with an annual donation to the Trust's funds (equal to 1% interest on the total funds held by savers).

Accounts can be opened at all branches of the Furness Building Society. Tel: 01229 824466



Welcome to new Corporate Members

- Morson Projects Ltd
- Florence Madden Associates
- Littlefairs Builders Merchants
- Robert Hughes Limited
- Edwin Thompson
- English Lakes Hotels Ltd
- Carlisle Housing Association
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Host and Build
- Border Asset Management Ltd
- R G Parkins & Partners Ltd
- Outsourced Human Resources (OHR)
- Windermere Marina Village Ltd
- Rhythm of Life Ltd

The work of the Cumbria Community Foundation is supported by over 120 local businesses. To learn more about Corporate Membership contact Ann Lohan, Business Development Officer.

British Nuclear Group: Sponsor of the Year 2005

We are delighted to announce that British Nuclear Group are our Sponsor of the Year.

Director, Andy Beeforth, presenting the Sponsor of the Year Award to Barry Snelson, Managing Director, Management Services, Sellafield. The photograph was taken at Florence Mine Heritage Centre, a recipient of grants from the Foundation.



Cumbria ProHelp

The Cumbria ProHelp scheme, which is jointly managed with Business in the Community is going strong with over fifty volunteers providing targeted assistance to community groups throughout the county. Ring Elaine Wise or Lynn Postlethwaite at the Foundation for more information.

Grant Giving 2004/05

By the end of 2004/05, we had given out 568 grants to groups and 442 to individuals and families (Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund grants) to the value of £1.76m. This is the most money distributed since 2001 when the Foundation raised £2.1m to help the people and communities affected by Foot & Mouth disease.

Information from our monitoring suggests that nearly 10,000 volunteers were involved in funded activities and that these activities touched the lives of more than 100,000 people.



Foundation is an Investor in People

We were delighted to learn of our success in securing this important award which recognises good practice in staff, volunteer and trustee development and training.

"The strengths of Cumbria Community Foundation are demonstrated through successful growth and service delivery together with external recognition through various awards and presentations."

IIP inspection report December 2004