

CUMBRIA FLOOD RECOVERY FUND TOPS £1 MILLION!

Cumbria Community Foundation is delighted to announce that the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has just topped £1 million.

The announcement comes following confirmation from the Francis C Scott Charitable Trust, a Cumbrian based charity, that they will be making a donation of £100,000 to the fund which is already making grants to help flood victims in the county, many of whom are living in temporary accommodation and with few possessions.

Foundation Acting Director Deb Muscat said of the milestone "Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and members of the public, we've managed to raise £1 million in ten days which is absolutely incredible and more than we managed to achieve for the entire campaign after the Carlisle floods. The staff team are delighted by this news which means we'll be able to help more people recover from the floods and put their lives back together."

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund was launched with local MP Tony Cunningham the day after the floods hit the county with a founding donation of £50,000 from Nuclear Management Partners. Since then, many local businesses, trusts and the general public have come forward with donations including £100,000 from James Walker & Co Ltd, £100,000 from the Northern Rock Foundation and £50,000 each from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Igguesund Paperboard. Substantial donations have also been made by New Balance, Booths Supermarkets, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Cumberland Building Society, Capita and the National Nuclear Laboratory.

Acting Director Deb Muscat added "We are greatly encouraged by the response so far but we still need to raise more. We know from our experience in Carlisle in 2005 that we will receive requests for help for many months to come. We are therefore appealing to other businesses, individuals and families to consider making a donation to the fund if they haven't already done so."

THE CUMBRIA FLOOD RECOVERY FUND - Background

Cumbria Community Foundation has launched an appeal to help the victims of the recent floods in the county. The devastating floods have left hundreds of people in temporary accommodation and without possessions. Many were underinsured. Businesses have been destroyed and bridges have collapsed.

The towns of Workington and Cockermouth have been worst hit, but many other areas experienced flooding too. The Community Foundation wants your help to support communities and individuals affected by the floods. They are making grants to individuals and to community groups running projects to help victims. Any donation you can make will make a real difference to those who have had their lives turned upside down.

You can give online at thebiggive.org.uk or via the Foundation's website at www.cumbriafoundation.org. Alternatively, if people want to donate cash they can pop along to any branch of the Cumberland Building Society, the Furness Building Society or HSBC Bank. You can also send a cheque payable to "Cumbria Community Foundation – Flood" to Dovenby Hall, Dovenby, Cockermouth CA13 0PN.

Anyone wanting more information about the appeal and who and what will be eligible for funding should log on to Cumbria Community Foundation's website www.cumbriafoundation.org or call the dedicated phone line **01900 820827**.

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