

Cumbrians help Flood Recovery Fund hit £2m target

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund hit its £2m target today when the Cumbria Community Foundation received cheques from the two Cumbrian Building societies.

Immediately after the floods the Cumberland Building Society and the Furness Building Society set up accounts for donations from the general public.

The cheques were handed over at the Bridge, Cockermouth, a flood support centre set up by Churches Together in Cockermouth. The Flood Recovery Fund has given grants to Churches Together for the Bridge as well as helping local residents who were rescued from their homes in November.

In just over two months the Cumberland Building Society received over £80,000 and the Furness Building Society raised more than £35,000 from 1,400 donations, many of which were themselves from collection buckets in streets, shops and offices.

Andy Beeforth, Director of the Cumbria Community Foundation said, "We are very pleased to announce reaching our target with the combined donations of people in Cumbria. The floods highlighted the warmth and generosity of local people. It also demonstrated what can be achieved when people and organisations work together. I would like to express thanks to the two building societies for their tremendous help with the appeal."

The Community Foundation is reviewing demand for the Fund and will make an announcement about a revised target for the Fund next week.

Chris McDonald, general manager at the Cumberland Building Society, said, "The generosity we have seen in the wake of the floods has been extraordinary. To date, we have collected over £80,000 and we are still receiving donations on a daily basis."

He continued, "As well as straight-forward donations, a lot of the money we have collected has been from people taking part in fundraising events and sponsored activities, not just in Cumbria but throughout the UK. It is great to see so many people helping out in such positive ways. This continued fundraising will significantly assist the Cumbria Community Foundation in providing support for those communities affected by last November's terrible events."

Chief Executive of the Furness Building Society, Rob Cairns told us "I am delighted that we were asked to open a special account for such a worthy cause immediately after the flooding occurred. I have been very impressed by people's generosity and, although the majority of the donations were from the North West of England, we also received so many donations from much further afield. This just shows how this tragedy touched the hearts of everyone and Furness Building Society are really pleased to have been involved and, in doing so, raise over £35,000, which is a magnificent amount."