



*Since 1981, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated over £50 million to national charities, continuing a commitment to charitable support that began nearly 300 years ago. The Charity is funded entirely by Freemasons and their families and is dedicated to supporting people in need.*



© Shutterstock

*The charities and projects supported by The Grand Charity are chosen because they aim to make a significant difference to people in real need, provide maximum impact by benefitting as many people as possible and support issues that individual Freemasons and their families are concerned about and will be glad to help.*

**Grants can be from £1,000 to £1 million to support:**

**Medical research**

**Youth opportunities**

**Support for vulnerable people** (including older people and children, disabled people and those with health care needs)

**Hospice services**

**Air Ambulances and equivalent services**

**Emergency grants for disaster relief**

## *Supporting Vulnerable People*

Since 1981, The Grand Charity has given over **£19 million** to fund projects that support vulnerable people of all ages. "Vulnerable People" is the largest category and encompasses national organisations that deal with a wide variety of problems including: disability, care for the seriously ill, care for ex-members of the armed services, deprivation, homelessness and poverty, to name but a few. Some organisations that have received funding in recent years include: Breast Cancer Haven, Alzheimer's Society, Disabled Living Foundation, Down Syndrome Education International, Emmaus UK, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Victim Support and Winston's Wish.

## **CASE STUDY** *SSAFA Forces Help*

In 2010, £250,000 was donated to SSAFA Forces Help, to be divided and distributed to branches throughout the country, providing funding at a local level.

*"SSAFA Forces Help is immensely grateful to the Grand Charity's one off super grant of £250,000. Many branches have been able to increase their casework load, while others have concentrated on raising awareness within the community."*

*"Our branches help over 50,000 people each year, this grant has meant that they can continue helping thousands more, for which I am extremely thankful."*

- Sir Kevin O'Donoghue, Chairman of SSAFA Forces Help

**The Grand Charity supports SSAFA Forces Help due to their excellent work in helping current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families.**

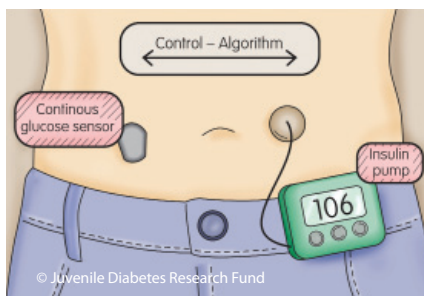


The late Duchess of Wellington, who was the Vice President of SSAFA Forces Help; with Grahame Elliott, President of The Freemasons' Grand Charity; and Sir Kevin O'Donoghue, Chairman of SSAFA Forces Help.

*One of the reasons that The Freemasons' Grand Charity was established was to enable the Craft, as a whole, to make donations to non-Masonic national charities.*

## *Funding Medical Research*

Since 1981, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated over **£8 million** to fund medical research projects. Each application is carefully considered by suitably qualified members of the Council of The Grand Charity before a funding decision is made. The funding of medical research is of real benefit to the wider community and is an important area of the Charity's grant-making programme. Some of the organisations that have received funding in recent years include: Arthritis Research Campaign, Brain Research Trust, Cancer Research UK, Diabetes UK, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Parkinson's Disease Society and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.



### **CASE STUDY**

## *Breakthrough for Diabetes*

In 2007, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund received a grant of **£50,000** towards research at the University of Cambridge into an artificial pancreas for children, to be used overnight to monitor blood glucose levels and administer insulin automatically. In 2010, it was announced that this research had been successful, thus revolutionising the management of type 1 diabetes and potentially reducing the devastating complications of the disease for millions of people. This recent breakthrough has further ratified the necessity of funding medical research and The Freemasons' Grand Charity is delighted that its contribution has led to such a positive outcome.

### **CASE STUDY**

## *£2 million for cancer research*

In 2004, **£1 million** was donated to The Institute of Cancer Research for research into prostate and testicular cancers. Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer affecting men in the UK. Each year 27,000 cases are diagnosed and 10,000 men die of the disease. 'The Grand Charity of Freemasons Chair of Molecular Biology' is currently held by Professor Colin Cooper who is working on developing a test to identify the aggressiveness of an individual's prostate cancer. If successful, thousands of patients will be spared unnecessary treatment, whilst those with an aggressive cancer can be given the life-saving treatment they require to fight the disease.



In 2008, it was decided that a substantial grant should also be made for research into a women's health issue and a grant of **£1 million** was approved for Ovarian Cancer Action. Ovarian cancer kills 12 women every day in the UK and tragically a lack of awareness of the disease and its symptoms means that women are often diagnosed only after the disease has spread to other areas of their bodies, with an impact on the opportunities for treatment. Professor Hani Gabri – a leading expert in the field – is undertaking this research at the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre in London. Complementing this important medical research, the grant is also being used to help Ovarian Cancer Action reach more women with information about the symptoms and potential causes of ovarian cancer, with the aim of increasing the survival rate.

## *Hospices*

Each year, The Freemasons' Grand Charity seeks to make grants to all hospice services in England and Wales that receive less than 60% of their income from the National Health Service. Total support given since 1984 is now **£8.7 million**, with 225 services receiving funding last year.

Hospice grants are awarded for running costs only and not for capital appeals. These grants are in addition to the considerable sums raised by Freemasons around the country in support of their local hospices. Hospice services are asked to apply directly to The Freemasons' Grand Charity for funding, further information can be found at [www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)



# FUNDING *National Charities*



The Outward Bound Trust has received over **£250,000** from The Grand Charity, funding activity courses for disadvantaged young people

© Outward Bound Trust

## *Funding Youth Opportunities*

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated over **£4 million** to fund projects that provide opportunities for disadvantaged young people across the UK. The Grand Charity aims to help young people achieve a better life and realise their potential. Some of the charities that have recently received Grand Charity grants include: Addaction, Brathay, Barnardo's, Clubs for Young People, Centrepoint, Depaul UK, Happy Days Children's Charity, Shelter and The Prince's Trust.

### CASE STUDY

#### *The Scout Association*

In 2008, a grant of **£500,000** was made to the Scout Association. The money is being used to encourage more young people to join the scouting movement. 340,000 young people have received new equipment, including games books and similar activity resources, paid for by this grant. The Grand Charity have also helped new scout groups with start-up grants.



© Scouts

### CASE STUDY

#### *Skillforce*

Skillforce helps young people to earn vocational qualifications and to develop life skills through structured classroom and outdoor activities. Instruction and mentoring is provided mainly by ex-armed forces personnel who develop a close working relationship with their students and help to instil a culture of respect and mutual support. The Grand Charity has been a valued supporter of Skillforce since 2006, having made donations totalling over **£200,000**. A recent grant of **£50,000** is helping to fund a new Skillforce team.

## *Air Ambulances*

Mirroring the popularity of the Hospice project, since 2007, grants have been made to the many Air Ambulance charities that operate across England and Wales. In total, **£759,000** has been shared amongst these life saving services with every service in England and Wales receiving funding.

The Air Ambulance charities in England and Wales fly over 19,000 missions per year at a cost of about £0.5 million per week, met almost entirely by donations from the public. The speed with which the ambulances are able to respond to emergencies and transport patients to hospital greatly improves the survival chances of individuals involved in serious road traffic collisions, medical emergencies and other incidents, 365 days of the year.



© London Air Ambulance

# FUNDING

## *Disaster Relief*

### *Responding to Worldwide Disasters*

In addition to its longer-term grants programme, The Freemasons' Grand Charity also seeks to respond when disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes and droughts occur throughout the world. These grants are made at the discretion of the President, to ensure rapid response by the Charity and are normally made through the British Red Cross or other major international relief organisations. For overseas aid and for relief following a disaster in the UK, some grants are made in conjunction with the appropriate District or Provincial Grand Lodge. Over **£2 million** has been given to support relief efforts for victims of disasters worldwide.

Disasters that have been responded to recently include: earthquake & tsunami in Japan, flooding in Brazil, Colombia & Sri Lanka, earthquakes in New Zealand, flooding in Pakistan & Australia, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.



The Freemasons' Grand Charity is a grant-making charity that supports:

- Freemasons and their dependants who are in financial need
- Other Masonic charities
- National charities serving England and Wales
- Worldwide emergency relief work

Further information about grants in all these areas can be found at [www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)

### CASE STUDY

#### *Tsunami response*

In December 2004, a tsunami devastated twelve countries, more than 250,000 people were killed and millions more were left homeless or displaced. During the months that followed the disaster, Freemasons, shocked by the scale of the destruction and the loss of life, donated nearly **£1 million** to a dedicated Relief Chest established to collect money to assist the survivors, as well as emergency grants totalling **£135,000**. Through Plan International, a child-centred community development organisation, the funds were used to support long-term projects in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. The focus was on helping children orphaned or otherwise affected by the disaster.



### CASE STUDY

#### *Haiti*

**£30,000** was donated to the British Red Cross and Plan International as part of the urgent relief efforts that were required following the earthquake in Haiti last year. The Council of The Grand Charity also opened a dedicated Relief Chest to receive donations from those wishing to provide assistance for the longer term recovery in Haiti, which totals **£90,000**. This money is being spent on rebuilding a school in Leogane, Haiti, in partnership with Save the Children.



THE FREEMASONS'  
GRAND CHARITY

The Freemasons' Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ  
T: 020 7395 9261 F: 020 7395 9295 Registered Charity No. 281942  
E: [info@the-grand-charity.org](mailto:info@the-grand-charity.org) [www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)