

Year End Review (30 Sept 2024) of WCICT General Fund Report to WCI Membership

Philanthropy is core to the mission of all livery organisations and we at WCI are very proud of the incredible philanthropic support provided through member's annual donations. We are delighted to report on the charitable activities of the WCICT's General Fund during the financial year 2023/24 (this report does not cover the activities of our two Education Funds) which totalled £124,000 thanks to your generosity.



The financial contributions and volunteer time given by our members enable the WCI Charitable Trust to support a wide range of carefully chosen charities based in the City of London and the neighbouring boroughs, many of which are among the most deprived areas in the country. Some benefit from long term support from WCI to sustain the valuable work they do (our 'Charity Partners'), as well as ad-hoc grants for specific projects or activities to other charities, some of whom may later become fully-fledged Charity Partners.

We are of course proud to support several City Civic charitable bodies, including The Lord Mayor's Appeal, The Sheriff and Recorders' Fund and our Company Church, St Lawrence Jewry.

Our philanthropic support also includes our highly valued service affiliations, both those with established units and those offering young people an opportunity to experience the adventure, discipline and skills of military life, supporting Middlesex & NW London Army Cadets, Surbiton RAF Cadets, and Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association.

During 2023/24 we have supported 15 ad-hoc projects with smaller one-off grants to a range of fantastic charities, including (to name just a few) Listening Books, Number Champions, Cirdan Sailing Trust, Islington Centre, Tower Hamlets Mission, SPLF, Door Step Library, Adult Literary Trust.

WCICT also supported the Master's chosen charity of the year Skylarks, a very special charity that supports children and young people with additional needs, enabling them to live their best life while supporting everyone whose lives they touch. <https://www.skylarks.charity/>

We currently have 10 Charity Partners, each have an appointed WCI Link representative, who have shared with us some lovely feedback (below) about the amazing impact that WCI members' generous donations have had on their charities.

Several wonderful charities have been Charity Partners of WCI for many years. During 2025 the WCICT will be considering new partnerships where we believe WCI can have a positive and meaningfully impactful relationship both in financial and, ideally, practical terms. We are particularly keen to prioritise employability, financial wellbeing and early-stage educational initiatives, underpinning the professional and educational heart of WCI. The WCICT looks forward to reporting during 2025 on progress in the selection of future Charity Partners. This may of course include some of the charities that we have got to know through a one-off grants for ad-hoc projects over the past few years.

We hope the following pages will inspire you to get involved in our philanthropic activities. Perhaps by volunteering as one of our trusted Link partners, a pivotal liaison role with our charity partners, or you may fancy volunteering for pro bono work with one of these charities? Or, if you are fundraising yourself for a favourite charity, don't forget you can apply for matched funding for charitable activities you are personally involved with. Members Matched Funding WCICT's support to all these wonderful charities is a result of your generous donations underpinning our philanthropic values. Should you wish to volunteer in any way or to adjust your donation to WCICT to enable us to do more, please contact The Clerk's Office.

Katie Wade

Chair of Trustees
Worshipful Company of Insurers Charitable Trust

Sally Bramall

Chair, General Fund Sub-Committee
Worshipful Company of Insurers Charitable Trust



Updates from our Charity Partners

Clothing Solutions • WCI Link Veronica Wilkinson

Clothing Solutions is a small charity providing a unique service altering and creating bespoke clothing for disabled people to establish a better quality of life. Normal dressing can be difficult and tiring for some to do themselves. The alteration service helps to provide solutions to daily problems. This might be Velcro fastenings to ensure easy opening, or additional access points to allow for tubes. These changes make a huge difference in people's lives as the quote below shows:

"I had my reservations about Velcro because I thought it would look really noticeable. I didn't want my shirt to look different to everyone else at school, because it's difficult to stand out. I was really surprised when Sandra came up with the idea of putting the buttons back on my shirt, so it would look buttoned up when sealed. I was so excited to wake up the next morning so I could dress myself for the first time and look just like my friends and school. Thank you Clothing Solutions!"

<https://www.clothingsolutions.uk/>

Music In Hospitals • WCI Link Nigel Salisbury

Music In Hospitals and Care provide live participatory music for those in hospital and care settings, including those living with dementia, mental health issues or are seriously ill. For those with mental health issues, live music can help restore a sense of identity and help them experience positive emotions as well as transforming a sick person's mood and fostering greater understanding between people. This quote sums up the experience perfectly:

"ICU sessions are always different and present opportunities to play music for patients, families and staff in often challenging and emotional circumstances. Such was the case today when a family had gathered to say their goodbyes to their elderly father who was receiving end-of-life care. They requested a traditional Irish song that their father used to sing to them. It was a very emotional moment that, in the words of my chaperone Nerea, a clinical psychologist, provided the family with closure that they were not able to provide themselves. She and the family were very grateful."

<https://mihc.org.uk/>

Go Kids Go • WCI Link Katie Wade

Go Kids Go provides wheelchair workshops across the country to build confidence for young children using wheelchairs. During the workshops participants are taught and practice key skills including back wheel balancing, negotiating stairs and curbs and control on slopes, vital skills for children to learn to achieve independent mobility in their wheelchair. Workshops are open to all young wheelchair users and delivered free of charge to families. 97% of respondents report seeing an increase in their child's wheelchair skills after attending the workshop.

<https://www.go-kids-go.org.uk/>

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust • WCI Link Jane Evans

The Museum of the Gorge at Ironbridge reopened in February following essential conservation work, together with a brand-new free temporary exhibition, "From Stars to Cells: The Life of Iron", which explores the science of iron, taking you on a journey from iron's origins in space billions of years ago through to its use by humankind. Successive Masters of WCI have visited the museum and WCI has been proud to support them for many years.

<https://www.ironbridge.org.uk/>

XLP • WCI Link Peter Cave

This inspirational charity operates at the cutting edge of London's youth work; they make a significant impact on the lives of young people, operating in some of the most deprived areas of London. Over the year, XLP supported nearly 4,000 young individuals, through mentoring, educational support and youth outreach. This year they have also supported 40 young people through an employability programme and 120 through a mentoring programme. Their School Exclusion Reduction Programme has benefitted 597 young people, resulting in 92% remaining in full time education.

www.xlp.org.uk

Made in Hackney • WCI Link Katie Wade

Made in Hackney believe that everyone should have access to nutritious, delicious food that is good for people and the planet. They provide in person and on-line food education classes in healthy culturally diverse planet friendly food, in 2024 so far, they have run over 188 classes with 1303 attendees. Attendees learn to cook healthy meals from scratch with whole foods. In addition, they provide 400 meals a week to their local community, prepared and delivered weekly. The meals are cooked twice a week with over 15,600 meals delivered. Their plan prospect workshops reached 23,000 people. Perhaps most importantly however they are a vital part of the community supporting mental and physical well-being.

"It has benefited my mum. I cook for Mum as a carer. I make her a salad that she now prefers to a sandwich. I give her fresh fruits rather than canned. I noticed that my mums Alzheimer's is more obvious when she has certain foods. I'm reducing foods which are processed and have lots of sugar in them. I've become so aware, just because it's vegan doesn't mean it's going to be good (for you)."

Congratulations Made in Hackney on your 10th birthday! Their celebratory video is inspirational.

<https://youtu.be/H9OzRBJEIT>

FCV Dorcas • WCI Link John Young

FCV Dorcas is a small local charity, operating entirely with voluntary funding, to provide social, emotional and practical support to isolated older people in Islington. They operate primarily through volunteers, organising a range of activities, including ad hoc outings, weekly lunch club, gardening support plus one to one befriending relationships for some of the most isolated clients who don't get out of their homes often.

<http://fcv-dorcas.org.uk/>

St Mary Le Bow Young Homeless Project • WCI Link Rowan Paterson

The Young Homeless Project works with young homeless people and young ex-prisoners, from 19 to 25, helping with housing and to get individuals into apprenticeships, working particularly with Pret A Manger and its Foundation. The project has an impressive 83% 'success' rate of individuals still in jobs after six months. Success means that these young people develop confidence, can live with others, get a job and be part of society without depending on the State; none reverts to being homeless. Ever

StMaryLeBowYoungHomelessProject

Mudchute Farm • WCI Link Fraser White

Mudchute is one of the largest city farms in Europe, a community charity on the Isle of Dogs, providing not only free access to all supporting education in countryside activities, recreation and leisure, and also promotes conservation of the natural environment within the City boundaries. WCI's donation has specifically been used to support an extremely successful Apprenticeship Programme which provides unqualified, unskilled young people with opportunities to

follow a chosen career path. The project has made a great deal of difference to the lives of many young people. Previous apprentices have now moved on into permanent full-time employment and we have been able to offer two young people to opportunity of an apprenticeship at Mudchute.

<https://www.mudchute.org/>

Action Tutoring • WCI Link Paolo Cuomo

We have supported Action Tutoring as a Charity Partner for the last 4 years. Action Tutoring unlocks the potential of children and young people who are facing disadvantage. They have developed an effective tutoring model, with proven impact, working in partnership with schools across the country to achieve the best outcomes for pupils facing disadvantage in English and maths. In 22/23 a total of 5,743 disadvantaged pupils received more than 58,880 hours of tutoring delivered by 1,743 volunteers in 146 schools.

<https://actiontutoring.org.uk/>

Blind in Business

Blind in Business helps young partially sighted and blind people into work through comprehensive Training and Employment Services. Blind in Business works with young people all over the UK, helping them to raise their confidence and compete equally for jobs with sighted candidates. WCICT is currently seeking a Charity Link representative to work with Blind in Business – contact the Clerk if you are interested in supporting this fantastic charity.

<https://blindinbusiness.org.uk/>

And finally, a special note about Past Master Dunlop's charity of the year, Glass Door...

Glass Door was Past Master Nick Dunlop's chosen Charity for his Master's Year, a wonderful charity giving practical help to tackle homelessness across London.

"Thanks to our generous community of supporters including the Worshipful Company of Insurers, we were able to help 2,338 people who turned to Glass Door between June 2023 and May 2024. Throughout the year, our team of experienced caseworkers provided tailored advice and practical support to 2,190 people on their journeys out of homelessness (an increase of over 30% compared to the previous year) and we supported many of them to find and move into permanent accommodation as well as to achieve a range of other positive outcomes. We launched a new mailbox service so that individuals without a permanent address could receive post, a critical step in accessing various services and opportunities that require a postal address e.g. opening a bank account, registering with a GP, receiving ID etc. Between November 2023 and April 2024, our three winter night shelter circuits provided a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals and access to our casework service for 542 individuals (including 226 women). 73% of our shelter guests also took the opportunity to engage with our caseworkers who supported them to find a permanent route out of homelessness. Homelessness in London has increased yet again over the past year and our casework service continues to be exceptionally busy – since the beginning of June nearly 800 people have already visited one of our partner day centres across London to meet with a Glass Door caseworker who have provided them with tailored advice and guidance to support them in their time of need. We are also preparing to open our three winter night shelter circuits in November 2024 to provide emergency shelter to 105 people a night across Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham and Wandsworth until early April 2025."

<https://www.glassdoor.org.uk/>