

THE MARY THOMPSON FUND

Supporting refugees and people seeking sanctuary in the Tees Valley

Annual Report 2018

Many people may be aware of the plight of people who are seeking asylum in Britain, particularly when they have been refused asylum. Sometimes it is accepted that people are victims of torture and their need to flee persecution, yet they are refused protection here because it is deemed safe for them to return. Often people cannot be removed as there is no safe route of return and they are left to fend for themselves. This leaves many people, who are the most marginalized in our society, without any entitlement to support, yet they are not allowed to work so that they can support themselves. They are left to survive by themselves with most relying on friends who allow them to sleep on their floors, settees, etc., but inevitably there are gaps when they have to sleep rough wherever they can.

The number of Asylum Seekers currently with no place to sleep is increasing. People come to us in desperation hoping that we can provide accommodation which causes our volunteer great distress as we do not have the resources to help these people. These people may not have slept in a bed for weeks causing them to suffer from sleep deprivation, hunger and the indignity of being unable to maintain personal hygiene, this, coupled with the relentless fear of being returned to danger has an effect on their mental wellbeing.

This is where The Mary Thompson Fund steps in. The bulk of MTF funds are used to provide food for people who are destitute.

People are referred to us in dire need of rest and a break from the relentless stress of their situation, one of the ways we try to help is by paying their travel cost to visit a friend or relative who has been dispersed to another part of the country.

The Mary Thompson Fund provides, on average, in excess of 100 destitute people with £5.00 and a small bag of food per week. People with health needs receive £10 per week but only after we have proof of their disability.

Although we receive donation of food and personal hygiene items from various individuals, schools, churches and other organisations MTF has to use funds to supplement with things that are most needed, such as Fairtrade rice. We can use over 3 sacks of rice a week.

We rely on many people for their regular monetary support, we realize this puts pressure on people who have their own financial problems. We are so grateful for all the donations we receive, the people who have set up monthly Direct-Debits, the people who fund raise for us, the Schools, Churches and Businesses who nominate us as their charity of the year and all those who donate clothes, household good and sometimes furniture to The Mary Thompson Fund. We are indebted to you all.

Chair
Pete Widlinski

Secretary
Kath Sainsbury

Treasurer
Veronica Wallace

Mary Thompson Fund, c/o Justice First, 135 Norton Rd,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 2BG
Tel. 07419 375 807

www.marythompsonfund.org.uk

Supported by the generous donations of individuals & local organizations.

Charity Number 1112610

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- Continued

This year the incoming Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees nominated The Mary Thompson Fund as one of her Charities of the Year. This means that throughout the year May 2018 to May 2019 of her office she, and her staff, will organize various fund raising events throughout the Borough. She will also attend fundraisers that the Trustees organize thus affording us more publicity. In May 2019 she will present us with a cheque for the amount of our share of the proceeds of all her fundraising. I will let you know the amount raised in next year's report.

To augment our funds we also organize various fundraising events giving a much needed boost to our funds. We must also mention our supporters who do the most diverse things to fundraise for us, and the people who respond to appeals in the Newsletter. Their donations are very much appreciated.

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from individuals, school, churches and organisations throughout the Tees Valley and beyond. We must also mention the local businesses who supply us with fresh fruit, bakery products and groceries that are surplus to requirements at the end of their working day. As well as preventing perfectly edible goods going to land fill they can be used to give those in need somethings that they would otherwise not be able to afford. We had one instance of being asked if we would like some perfectly good flowers that they would not be able to sell the next day – we, of course, said yes! The next day they were offered to one young man who we knew was married with young children. He was so thrilled and said that he had never been able afford to give his wife flowers. The next week he came to thank us again and tell us that his wife was so thrilled. A small kindness for us a momentous gift for someone.

We would like to express our gratitude to our supporters who are so generous with their time and skills befriending refugees, accompanying them when they attend court or legal meetings, who give advice and support to our clients and also help them with their asylum applications, who buy the food and fill and give out the food bags, who give out the weekly £5.00 and who are always there to chat to and befriend people. Without them it would be very hard continue with our work. We are so very grateful to everyone who contributes to the fund in any way.

We would welcome anyone who would be willing to join the Charity as a trustee or befriender who could lend us their skills and are always very open to fresh ideas and funding suggestions.

The Trustees feel it is a privilege for us to help in whatever we can people, who, through no fault of their own, have to leave their homes and families as a last resort to save their own life and perhaps those of their family. We will continue with the Charity as long as we have the support and help of our community.

Veronica Wallace
Treasurer

1st August 2019

Chair

Pete Widlinski

Secretary

Kath Sainsbury

Treasurer

Veronica Wallace

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Statement of Accounts 2018

Account Number 20103929

		Income	Expenditure	
Jan-18	Credits	3605.63	Debits	4725.00
		£3,605.63		£4,725.00
	Income /Expenditure		-£1,119.37	
Feb-18	Credits	<u>1822.28</u>	Debits	<u>£3,232.25</u>
		£1,822.28		£3,232.25
	Income /Expenditure		-£1,409.97	
Mar-18	Credits	3687.00	Debits	<u>£1,873.00</u>
		£3,687.00		£1,873.00
	Income /Expenditure		£1,814.00	
Apr-18	Credits	<u>2632.00</u>	Debits	<u>2159.96</u>
		£2,632.00		£2,159.96
	Income /Expenditure		£472.04	
May-18	Credits	<u>13147.00</u>	Debits	<u>£4,420.75</u>
		£13,147.00		£4,420.75
	Income /Expenditure		£8,726.25	
Jun-18	Credits	<u>£2,494.49</u>	Debits	<u>£2,618.00</u>
		£2,494.49		£2,618.00
	Income /Expenditure		-£123.51	
Jul-18	Credits	<u>£4,665.40</u>	Debits	<u>£1,610.50</u>
		£4,665.40		£1,610.50
	Income /Expenditure		£3,054.90	
Aug-18	Credits	<u>£1,606.56</u>	Debits	<u>£1,260.00</u>
		£1,606.56		£1,260.00
	Income /Expenditure		£346.56	
Sep-18	Credits	<u>£2,934.55</u>	Debits	<u>£4,249.00</u>
		£2,934.55		£4,249.00
	Income /Expenditure		-£1,314.45	
Oct-18	Credits	<u>£2,474.00</u>	Debits	<u>£5,017.54</u>
		£2,474.00		£5,017.54
	Income /Expenditure		-£2,543.54	
Nov-18	Credits	<u>£1,104.00</u>	Debits	<u>£0.00</u>
		£1,104.00		£0.00
	Income /Expenditure		£1,104.00	
Dec-18	Credits	<u>£1,968.75</u>	Debits	<u>£2,918.00</u>
		£1,968.75		£2,918.00
	Income /Expenditure		-£949.25	
Opening balance		21259.35		
Credits		<u>£42,141.66</u>	Debits	<u>£34,084.00</u>
Balance at 31st December 2018		<u><u>£29,317.01</u></u>		

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Total Statement of Accounts 2019

Account Number 20103929/2023159

	Income		Expenditure
Jan-18	Credits	<u>£3,605.63</u>	Debit
		£3,605.63	<u>£5,975.78</u>
			£5,975.78
	Income /Expenditure		-£2,370.15
Feb-18	Credits	<u>£1,822.28</u>	Debit
		£1,822.28	<u>£3,232.25</u>
			£3,232.25
	Income /Expenditure		
Mar-18	Credits	<u>£3,691.76</u>	Debit
		£3,691.76	<u>£3,873.00</u>
			£3,873.00
	Income /Expenditure		
Apr-18	Credits	<u>£2,632.00</u>	Debit
		£2,632.00	<u>£4,159.96</u>
			£4,159.96
	Income /Expenditure		
May-18	Credits	<u>£13,147.00</u>	Debit
		£13,147.00	<u>£4,118.00</u>
			£4,118.00
	Income /Expenditure		
Jun-18	Credits	<u>£2,497.47</u>	Debit
		£2,497.47	<u>£2,618.00</u>
			£2,618.00
	Income /Expenditure		
Jul-18	Credits	<u>£4,665.40</u>	Debit
		£4,665.40	<u>£1,610.50</u>
			£1,610.50
	Income /Expenditure		
Aug-18	Credits	<u>£1,606.56</u>	Debit
		£1,606.56	<u>£1,260.00</u>
			£1,260.00
	Income /Expenditure		
Sep-18	Credits	<u>£2,938.69</u>	Debit
		£2,938.69	<u>£4,249.00</u>
			£4,249.00
	Income /Expenditure		
Oct-18	Credits	<u>£2,474.00</u>	Debit
		£2,474.00	<u>£5,017.54</u>
			£5,017.54
	Income /Expenditure		
Nov-18	Credits	<u>£1,104.00</u>	Debit
		£1,104.00	<u>£0.00</u>
			£0.00
	Income /Expenditure		
Dec-18	Credits	<u>£1,973.80</u>	Debit
		£1,973.80	<u>£2,918.00</u>
			£2,918.00
	Income /Expenditure	£42,158.59	£39,032.03
Opening balance		£32,510.13	
Credits		<u>£42,158.59</u>	Debits
			<u>£40,334.78</u>
Balance at 31st December 2018		<u>£34,333.94</u>	