



Grants to soldiers, former soldiers and their families

An update for The Captain James Philippon Trust Fund

February 2015

Introduction

Soldiers show absolute dedication to their fellow servicemen knowing that they too will be shown the same dedication in return, no matter what the circumstances. ABF The Soldiers' Charity adopts the same ethos in its dealings with soldiers, past and present, and their families, no matter how long ago they may have served their country. If a soldier or veteran is injured, struggling or having trouble adjusting to life back home, we never leave him or her behind in what often, to them, seems like an apparent 'No Man's Land'.

Now in our 71st year, we exist to support these individuals in their times of greatest need and understand that even in today's high tech and modern world, soldiers can feel lost when they leave the Army, especially if it is as the result of injury or compulsory redundancy. We have seen an increase in demand for help with training and employment during the transition period between leaving the Army and finding a new direction in life, so in the past few years we have focused on providing this often vital assistance. However, the costs and complexity of providing crucial support to all our beneficiaries continue to fluctuate, particularly in the current uncertain economic climate and unpredictable worldwide security situation.

How we help

As you know, the type of help we give varies widely but includes: assistance to those wounded on both current and past operations; help with providing retraining for civilian occupations – especially for those leaving the Army as a result of injury or compulsory redundancy; help for the elderly through grants for mobility aids, home adaptations, care home fees and annuities to assist in maintaining quality of life; help in covering priority debts such as council tax, utility bills and mortgage payments for those in particular difficulty; support with children's education for families in special need, for example, if the family 'bread winner' has a terminal illness or has died. Our overall approach has always been very firmly a 'hand up' and not a 'hand out' and the Charity goes to great lengths to establish what constitutes genuine need.

We achieve our objectives by considering applications from, and making grants to, other specialist organisations and charities, both national and military, which deliver assistance on our behalf and also to individuals through their Regimental and Corps benevolent funds. With our many years of experience in offering support to our specific client group we are well placed to ensure that all contributions are made available where they are most needed, in an efficient, expeditious and targeted manner.

Grants in 2014

Last year, The Soldiers' Charity distributed £5,002,387 to 5,295 soldiers, former soldiers and their families and of those almost a quarter went to currently serving personnel. The average grant was just £945 but the difference made is often life-changing. We also made donations to 76 other

specialist military charities totalling £2,932,000, extending our help and reach to a further 70,000 individuals.

Please find below some of the stories of those we have helped this year*.

Mr Monro

Mr Monro served as a National Serviceman just after World War Two. He is 88 years old, suffering with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and his wife, who cares for him daily, is 91. They live in a small terrace house with no bedroom or bathroom facilities downstairs. Their stair lift is an absolutely crucial aid to their continued existence in their home but the insurance company will no longer insure it because of its age. Mr Monro is very frail and was extremely worried that, should the stair lift fail, they would be left in great difficulty. A grant of £1,250 was made towards the cost of providing the Monros with a new stair lift.

Sarah

Sarah, the 82 year old widow of Jonathan, a World War Two veteran, who served between 1944 and 1948, was granted £1,000 to cover the costs of rewiring her bungalow. Sarah's home had been built in the 1950s and had never been rewired. The Soldiers' Charity also then contributed to the costs of having her home insulated to keep her warm during the winter months.

Conrad

Conrad, a Private in the Royal Logistic Corps, was injured in an IED attack in Iraq during Op Telic and as a result had his leg amputated from above the knee. He completed a number of work placements and found with one, Mission Motorsport, that he had a real passion for driving. He is now second in command of a newly formed Drift team and is working with other wounded, injured and sick soldiers. Mission Motorsport agreed to supply a vehicle for Conrad's use and The Soldiers' Charity agreed to help with the costs of getting his B&E license. Conrad has excelled as second in command and continues to add value and support the team, moving it from strength to strength.

Drew

Drew sustained a back injury which prevented him from holding anything heavier than 5kg for an extended period of time. This meant he could no longer remain an infantry soldier in The Rifles and was therefore medically discharged. He set his heart on retraining as an accountant and planned to become self-employed on his discharge. His Personnel Recovery Officer stated that Drew is a motivated individual with a professional and hard working attitude, with a long term plan. He wishes to complete Levels 2 and 3 Accountancy within the next two years and then work from home as a private accountant. It was agreed that The Soldiers' Charity would pay £861 towards the cost of Drew's Level 2 Accountancy course which will set him up for the next stage of his life.

Iain

Iain served as a combat medic with the Royal Army Medical Corps and he is suffering from PTSD as a result of his time on combat operations in Afghanistan. Iain is still receiving support from Departments of Community Mental Health. Upon his medical discharge he planned to continue with a career in teaching first aid to individuals (rather than treating casualties) and just required the necessary tools and equipment in order to run his own business. The Soldiers' Charity provided Iain with £2,000 to buy the equipment he needed, such as various sizes of resuscitation manikins, a flip chart, a projector and laptop.

Alex

Alex, now 22, joined the Army at 17. He was wounded in action during Op Herrick 16 and sustained serious leg injuries, having been shot in the thigh. Alex has part of his thigh bone missing and

*Please note that names have been changed to protect the identity of our beneficiaries.

has been through twenty different surgeries. He is currently in hospital after having his thigh bone broken and a cage put around it to encourage the bone to grow back. The cage is extremely uncomfortable and Alex is on a lot of painkillers. This treatment will last at least 15 months. Despite this, Alex is delighted that he is about to become a father and be discharged from hospital. To assist his recovery, and make him comfortable in his own home ready for his new baby, The Soldiers' Charity made a grant of £1,168 to help Alex towards the cost of a raiser chair.

Nick

Nick served as Lance Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards. His position, in a public service role, came under threat when he was told there would be redundancies and he was in a vulnerable position. Rather than go through the trauma of being made redundant, Nick found another job working for a company providing overseas security, a role which he had previous experience of. The Soldiers' Charity granted £1,000 towards the costs of a security industry training course for Nick to help secure his employment at this new company.

Edith

Edith is the 93 year old widow of a World War Two Royal Artillery Gunner who was a Japanese prisoner of war, imprisoned in Burma. Edith had been funding her care fees by herself though her annuity but the fees went up recently and she could no longer cover the full amount. The Soldiers' Charity agreed to help Edith and contributed £2,040 towards her annual fees so that she can remain in this well run care home in which she has been living comfortably for the last 4 years.

Joseph

Joseph joined the Army in 1999 and early last year was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). He is married with two young children and his wife runs a small business from home, as well as being his full time carer. The Soldiers' Charity, in conjunction with his Regimental Association, is committed to assisting Joseph with the various items of specialist equipment he will need to maintain his independence for as long as required.

MND affects individuals in different ways and at different rates of progression. Joseph has already lost all use of his hands and has little or no use of his arms so daily manual tasks are either conducted for him or by machine. His throat and vocal chords had deteriorated so much that he needed specialist voice recognition software to help him communicate. The Soldiers' Charity gave a grant of £388 for this purpose. This now provides a greater level of independence for Joseph allowing his wife to run her business. We will continue to monitor this case as additional support will inevitably be required over time - a further grant of £1,000 has since been made towards the cost of a specialist chair for Joseph.

Steven

Steven served as a Lance Corporal for thirteen years. In 2001 and again in 2011, he suffered two devastating strokes that left him unable to walk more than 20 yards without a stick. His memory and attention span have also been severely affected. For the past 4 years Steven had been using a wheelchair but he and his wife, who are both over 60, started to struggle to get him around, particularly outside. The Soldiers' Charity shared the cost of an EPV with Steven's Regimental Association and gave just over £500 direct to The Mobility Bureau towards the cost. This new piece of equipment will not only help improve Steven's quality of life, but also that of his wife.

Claire

The Soldiers' Charity granted £700 to clear the balance of Charlie's funeral costs for his widow, Claire. Charlie was wounded in Aden when a grenade was thrown at him and although he was in receipt of a war pension he did not qualify for funeral costs - his death from lung cancer was not

connected with his wounds. Claire and Charlie lived in a small terraced house but since Charlie's death, Claire has moved into their son's home.

Jonathan

Jonathan, 55, served as a Guardsman in the Welsh Guards until he was medically discharged in 1983 after being severely injured on board the RFA Sir Galahad during the Falklands war. He and his wife were recently given notice by their landlord and found alternative accommodation. However, the new property did not have a washing machine or a cooker and they could not afford to buy new ones due to ongoing medical treatments that Jonathan continues to endure. A grant of £600 was made for a new washing machine and cooker to help Jonathan and his wife settle into their new home.

Our Thanks

The Soldiers' Charity strives to be the most effective military charity for soldiers, former soldiers and their families, providing a lifetime of support where necessary. We continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Regiments and Corps of the British Army to ensure all available resources are delivered appropriately but it is clear that The Soldiers' Charity is entering a challenging period.

The generosity the Trustees of The Captain James Philippon Trust Fund have shown ABF The Soldiers' Charity over the years, has made a significant contribution to the work we have been able to accomplish. We remain extremely grateful for your invaluable support.