



Summer 2016

This Spring has been very busy.....

Since January when the Scholarship Grant applications went live we have been busy. We had over 50 Expressions of Interest and 38 students have completed their applications.

It is a 'comprehensive' process, with all students being seen in person and submitting an application form and personal budget to outline their costs at university. These then go to a panel who meet at the end of June with final decisions being made at the beginning of July.

This year looks like for the first time it will be competitive—in other words, we may have more funding being requested than we have available funds!

We have had applications from most 6th forms and colleges in Wiltshire and Swindon with applicants planning a range of interesting courses—including traditional single subjects, '-ologies', art-based and vocational based degrees (2 aspiring nurses and a midwife), and looking at a range of universities—not just in the southwest but in London, Manchester, Durham and York.

We could be awarding over £300,000 as a commitment over the next 3-4 years.

Alongside these Scholarship applications, we have awarded a number of Vocational and Personal Support Grants, including

- ✓ IT to support homework,
- ✓ iPads with accessible software to support educational needs at home,
- ✓ support for travel to a specialist performing arts based course,
- ✓ out of school dance classes for confidence building and
- ✓ equine therapy.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Jonathan Whitehead-Whiting Grants Officer - ODM
Wiltshire Community Foundation
Sandcliff House, 21 Northgate Street
Devizes . SN10 1JT

P: 01380 729284
W: www.odm.wiltshirecf.org.uk
E: jonathan.ww@wiltshirecf.org.uk

**KNOWLEDGE
WILL BRING YOU
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Claire Fagin, educator, scholar, and leader; the first woman interim president of the University of Pennsylvania (1993–94) and the first female to achieve this position in any Ivy League university.

REMEMBER.....

PERSONAL SUPPORT AND

VOCATIONAL GRANTS are now

assessed on a regular basis, with an expected 6 week decision time, rather than waiting for set quarterly panel dates. This means that we are better able to respond to shorter timescales than our previous process allowed.

Please complete an Expression of Interest at www.odm.wiltshirecf.org.uk

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Scholarship grants are now closed for 2016 university entry.

Students can apply in the next cycle even if they started university—it will go live January 2017. In the meantime they could potentially access a Vocational Grant. An Expression of Interest on the website needs completed to start the process



I have been alerted to the charity **Scotty's Little Soldiers**—
<http://www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk/>. This is an organisation set up to support children who have lost a parent whilst serving in the British Armed Forces (not necessarily in action). The following paragraph is taken from their website—

The charity provides opportunities for the children to 'smile again' by offering holidays at Scotty Lodges, gifts at difficult times of the year, special experiences and an amazing Christmas party

As well as these fun activities the charity also provides access to professional bereavement counselling and a range of grants to help with the child's personal development. These grants can cover the cost of music lessons, swimming clubs, after school activities, driving lessons and even University costs.

The charity now supports hundreds of bereaved British Forces' children across the UK, many of whom are still very young and will rely on the activities offered by Scotty's for years to come.

ONE DEGREE MORE GRANTS

All our grants have 2 main eligibility criteria, along with addressing an **educational need**—

- **residency requirement**: the last 2 years being resident in Wiltshire County or Swindon Borough areas, and
- **evidence of a financial need**: a means-tested benefit being claimed by the applicant or their parents if living at home, for example working tax credits.

For more information please go to www.odm.wiltshirecf.org.uk

If you have a particular student or situation you want to explore 'in principle', please contact me

...STOP PRESS...

***The panel on 6th July agreed to fund ALL 38 applications
For 2016 Scholarships. A total of £300,000 plus.
The average grant was over £2,000 for each year of their course.***

If you want to be removed from or added to the mailing list, please let me know — jonathan.ww@wiltshirecf.org.uk

What our grants are for...

Our grants are based on addressing an educational need outside of the school curriculum.

This can be for equipment (usually IT based) to support learning at home, or for activities that encourage and support the child's learning

For **Personal Support Grants** (any age) there has to be an identified need—educational or physical—that is a barrier to learning; the items or services applied for must be to address this barrier.

A couple of good examples of this are where we have funded horse-riding sessions that improve a young person's confidence but more importantly their physical strength (cerebral palsy as well as physical mobility issues). Apart from improved confidence which has transferred to the classroom, this young person is now able to sit in a chair longer without discomfort and so concentrate and learn better.

Requests for IT—laptop or iPad as appropriate—are considered by the panel to support learning at home (a key issue in the transfer from primary to secondary school) as well as electronic communication with school and access to specialised software

Vocational grants (age 14 upwards) can be very broad—originally set up to support the purchase of items for vocational courses, we have provided grants for IT for 6th formers as well as course materials for Art & Design and equipment for Photography.

In addition, transport to specialist courses not available in Wiltshire or Swindon have been supported, as well as financial support for young people on apprenticeships.

If you have a scenario that you think may fit, please contact me for an 'in principle' discussion. Jonathan W-W

**Wiltshire
Community
Foundation**

Giving money and support
where people need it most

