

COVID-19 COMFORT BOX CAMPAIGN

Thousands of comfort packages donated to NHS Grampian frontline workers

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, we funded and delivered over 1,000 boxes to every NHS ward, team, department and care home across Grampian region. The boxes also featured inspiring artwork from children for the Rainbow Project organised by art health charity Grampian Hospitals Art Trust (GHAT).

Sheena Lonchay, Operational Manager commented: "The comfort box campaign was launched in partnership with the Evening Express, Original FM, Sheddocksley Church, John Clark Motor Group and GHAT to support the health and social care workers who are working flat out and we wanted to support them for their heroic efforts.

Craig Walker, Editor of Evening Express said: "Even before Covid-19 the NHS had a special place in all our hearts, but their dedication and bravery during the pandemic has been nothing short of breathtaking." "This appeal was a way of thanking them all – and not



GHAT's Rainbow Project images

just the doctors and nurses. Many other NHS Grampian staff are just as important in this fight, like the army of porters, cleaners, drivers and carers."

Victoria Barry from John Clark Motor Group commented: "It was a pleasure to be able to support the delivery of the comfort boxes during such challenging times. Our Clark Commercials Aftersales Manager Garry Robertson, AAE MIMI

who helped alongside our Service Driver Alan Wilson said he found it such an emotional experience personally and the smiles on the faces of staff was so nice to witness."

NHS Grampian Endowment Fund would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing team of volunteers and key partners for their contribution of time.



Sheena Lonchay, Operations Manager and the team of volunteers



Photo of Nurses with comfort box



NHS Charities donate £136,500 to Grampian

We're also delighted to have received the first donation of £136,500 from NHS Charities Together. In April, Captain Sir Thomas Moore captivated the nation's hearts as he walked laps of his garden in aid of NHS Charities Together, with the goal of raising £1,000 by his hundredth birthday. On the morning of hundredth birthday, the total raised a phenomenal £32.79 million. NHS Grampian Endowment Fund look forward to sharing some exciting news soon on how Captain Tom's money will be spent to help benefit the Grampian community.

North-east fishing firm Klondyke Fishing donates an incredible £100,000 to help purchase iPads for COVID-19 patients to contact families.

The response to Covid-19 has received a significant boost from the Klondyke Fishing Company Limited. NHS Grampian and the Aberdeenshire Council received an equal split of £200,000. As a result NHS Grampian Endowment Fund have purchased 251 iPads for patients who have been able to connect virtually with their loved ones across the north-east.

Sheena Lonchay, Operations Manager for the NHS Grampian Endowment Fund, said: "Thanks to Klondyke Fishing Company, the concept of Virtual Visiting became a reality in a matter of weeks. "This has made an enormous difference to families separated by COVID-19 who are now able to see each other when they can't be together."



Jim Cameron, 84 who has no previous experience of facetime is currently an inpatient of Morningfield House and has enjoyed participating in Virtual Visiting, connecting with family members over the last three weeks at Woodend Hospital.

£200,000 awarded for two research Covid-19 projects in partnership with the University of Aberdeen



Pictured Professor Henry Watson, Dr Nicola Mutch and Dr Jamie Cooper

As lockdown became a reality, the Endowment Fund allocated £100,000 at the beginning of April to support research. This first research project award is for data modelling to help prepare hospitals for the future of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr Dimitra Blana from the Aberdeen Centre for Health Data Science at the University explains: "We are delighted to have been awarded this funding to help in the Covid-19 effort. This model will allow NHS Grampian to see how the Covid-19 outbreak develops, and respond to changes as quickly as possible to ensure there are beds, staff, and equipment where they are needed for both Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients."



Reflecting the importance of research in fighting coronavirus, the Endowment Fund (or NHSGEF) went on to support a second study which aims to identify crucial biological 'warning signs' of an aspect of Covid-19. Dr Nicola Mutch and her team will look for defining key 'biomarkers' of a specific aspect of Covid-19. Up to one third of patients hospitalised for Covid-19 develop a severe form of lung disease that can be fatal. It is known that part of the problem is that the air space in the lung is consumed by a build-up of deposits of a protein called fibrin.

Professor Henry Watson, Consultant in Haematology at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary added: "We recognised early on in the outbreak that the feature that was common to many of the patients who had more severe outcomes of Covid-19 infection was that they were all from groups of patients with a reason for having poor function of the cells that line blood vessels which are called endothelial cells. Dr Mutch's lab colleagues have expertise in measuring many of the functions of blood cells, proteins and substances produced by endothelial cells and so we decided that we should look at these in relation to the severity of Covid-19 infection in a large group of patients to give us more insight to the mechanisms of disease and so offer options on how to manage patients."

Luan Grugeon, Chair of Trustees of NHS Grampian Endowment Fund said: "Our Trustees agreed at the start of the pandemic to support research into COVID-19 and are delighted to award research funding of £200,000 towards the University of Aberdeen's Covid-19 research projects."

Thank you!

Your Support is Making a Difference

A new raft of supporters have got behind the COVID-19 Support Fund including many inspiring virtual fundraising events that have been organised by companies and individuals. One event included a virtual fitness team challenge from Well-Safe totalling 1335 miles raising an incredible £2,584.



Phil Milton, CEO of Well-Safe Solutions responded: "During these difficult times it is important to support each other in any way we can. The frontline staff are doing an incredible job helping those in need and the team at Well-Safe are happy to play our part in supporting them. Spearheaded by our crew on the

Well-Safe Guardian, we wanted to find a way to raise money, keep active and inspire others to take part, with the money raised being put to good use within the COVID-19 Fund set up by the NHS Grampian Endowment Fund."



There's been a new trend of solo cyclists going 'extra miles' including Connor a 6 year old boy who cycled 100 miles throughout May for the NHS. He had set himself a target of £100 and raised an incredible £1,540. Connor commented: "I feel sad that a lot of people are dying due to COVID-19 so I decided I would like to raise some money and give it to the NHS."



There also been an influx of young crafters including Faith who made a jar full of daisies for members of her family to guess the number raising £140.



Esme Wright aged 8 has also made handmade bracelets and set up an honesty box outside her house raising a grand total of £271.15. Esme commented: "Thank you very much NHS for working so hard, you are doing incredibly well, you all deserve gold medals."



A big thanks to Lee, Keith, James and Craig who took on the 300k challenge and ran the equivalent of 28 marathons and raised an incredible £5,535.

NHS Grampian Endowment Fund

Registered Charity No. SC017296

NHS Grampian Endowment Fund is the charity which safeguards donations made by patients, families and users of health services. The Endowment Fund has strict criteria to make sure that donations are only used to enhance the services that NHS Grampian provides. Everything the Endowment Fund supports must be for the benefit of patients as our patients are at the heart of everything we do.

To find out more about NHS Grampian Endowment Fund, please visit: www.nhsgcharities.com

Fundraising Opportunities

If you would like to fundraise for NHS Grampian and continue to support our amazing NHS Staff and local projects, please email: nhsg.charities@nhs.net.

Request a Newsletter

If you would like to receive this quarterly newsletter by email, please contact us at: nhsg.charities@nhs.net.