East End Community Foundation

Coronavirus Emergency Fund

Community, Collaboration & Connection
INTRODUCTION

March 2020 marked the start of the most challenging global crisis that we’ve experienced in modern times.

We were all too aware that the pandemic would hit our communities hard. With so many of our residents already experiencing hardship, disproportionately affected by poverty levels even before Coronavirus, we knew that getting additional financial support for our community services was critical.

The East End Emergency Fund launched in March 2020 with the primary aim of supporting the work of local charitable organisations delivering frontline services for the elderly and most vulnerable. The Emergency Fund prioritised getting financial support for food delivery, telephone befriending and wellbeing services. Due to our knowledge of the East End and our expertise with grant-making, we were the chosen partner to distribute funding from the national appeal led by the National Emergencies Trust. With the swift support of our local business community, we were able to award even more grants. Canary Wharf Group were the first partner to come forward with a generous donation of £50,000 and since then many more have followed suit, helping us to strengthen our support for those who need it most.

We are incredibly grateful for the level of support we’ve received and have been inspired by the charities and community projects who sprang into action to do what was needed. By the end of February 2021, we’ve been able to award £1,798,064 through 262 grants with over 90,000 East End residents being directly helped.

We’ve always been inspired by our community, and throughout this year, we’ve seen yet again that Eastenders are truly amazing with businesses stepping forward and armies of residents supporting each other through one of the most difficult years they have ever experienced.

ABOUT US

Working across Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham and the City of London, EECF has been dedicated to increasing opportunities for people living in London’s East End for 30 years.

Through our own income and by managing charitable donations on behalf of others, EECF delivers grant-making programmes covering the broad range of acute social needs experienced by people living in the East End.

EECF is very much the hub of the East End, the ‘go-to’ organisation for those seeking to invest effectively in the community. As a grant maker in our own right, we have an excellent and in-depth knowledge of the charitable sector across East London and we are uniquely connected to its people and challenges.

This connection enables us to bring communities together who might not otherwise meet, to learn more about the East End and the high levels of social need that exist here.
EECF are great funders. They take the time to understand the organisations they work with and are always available to speak to us, for advice and support. Thanks!

Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours

Without your funds we would not have been able to achieve so much over the last 2 months. Your commitment to local organisations is so valuable and your approach to giving so unique. As a grantee we feel empowered to do our work, know you are supporting us.

Well Grounded CIC

I was so truly amazed, so kind, supportive and helped us a lot. Thank you to EECF, this grant really helped us and hundreds of people. We would really like to continue our partnership. Our service outcomes have increased by 67% due to EECF. Thank you.

Coffee Afrik CIC

This grant has meant that we could go above and beyond what we wanted to do. We couldn’t have offered anywhere near this level of support without your help.

Stratford Salvation Army

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

13 March 2020
EECF signs up to London Funders grant makers pledge

19 March 2020
EECF consult with key charities on their plans and community needs

23 March 2020
Lockdown officially begins

28 March 2020
First hot meal delivered to vulnerable residents with the help of the Fund

14 April 2020
Second round of grants approved totalling £80,000 supporting a further 12,414 residents

24 April 2020
Third round of grants approved totalling £55,000 supporting a further 1,605 residents

11 March 2020
WHO categorises Covid-19 as a pandemic

18 March 2020
EECF confirmed as a distribution partner of NET for their national appeal

20 March 2020
EECF launches Emergency Fund with £50,000 donation from Canary Wharf Group

24 March 2020
First grants approved focused on immediate relief for the elderly and vulnerable totalling £32,500 supporting 1,815 residents

7 April 2020
Second major donor confirmed - Federates Hermes pledges £50,000 to Fund

17 April 2020
Northern Trust, Societe Generale UK Foundation, Linklaters and UBS make major commitments to the Fund

5 May 2020
Fund criteria extended to include support to children, young people and addressing digital exclusion

Fourth round of grants approved totalling £90,000 supporting a further 27,000 residents

June 2020
Grants awarded this month exceeding £150,000

July 2020
Further grants awarded this month exceeding £197,000

September 2020
Fund criteria adjusted to meet emerging needs including PPE, as well as existing priorities

Grants this month exceed £200,000

November 2020
A further round of grants approved totalling £50,000

Feedback on grants awarded confirm the Fund has supported more than 90,000 residents

December 2020
A further round of grants approved totalling £257,463

January 2021
A further round of grants in excess of £159,000 were approved

5 May 2020
EECF helps form the Digital Inclusion Partnership to address digital exclusion

7 May 2020
A meal service supported by the Fund delivers its 1,000th meal to vulnerable adults

17 May 2020
Further grants awarded this month exceeding £197,000

Feedback on grants awarded confirms the Fund has supported more than 30,000 residents

1 October 2020
Fund criteria adjusted to include funding exclusively for BAME communities. Grants in excess of £280,000 were awarded

30 April 2020
Fuel vouchers donated by Valero allocated and sent to volunteers delivering food and medicines

5 May 2020
EECF launches Emergency Fund with £50,000 donation from Canary Wharf Group

17 May 2020
First grants approved focused on immediate relief for the elderly and vulnerable totalling £32,500 supporting 1,815 residents

28 March 2020
First hot meal delivered to vulnerable residents with the help of the Fund

20 March 2020
EECF confirm their plans and community needs

January 2021
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EMERGENCY FUND OVERVIEW

Emergency fund grants by theme

- Community support (Helplines, food, household essentials, wellbeing): 64%
- Food poverty and homeless residents: 36%
- Life chances for young people: 5%
- People with disabilities, mental health and bereavement care: 9%
- Digital inclusion: 10%
- Older people’s support: 9%
- Advice services, domestic violence help and bereavement support: 8%

Emergency fund grants by main beneficiary

- Benefitting BAME residents: 36%
- Not primarily BAME residents: 64%

- Vulnerable residents/ people living with poverty: 24%
- BAME residents: 34%
- Children & young people: 14%
- Older people: 14%
- Frontline workers, homeless, refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, vulnerable women & girls: 14%
- People with disabilities or mental health issues: 9%

Funded organisation annual income

- £50,000 and under: 23%
- £50,000 to £150,000: 27%
- £150,000 to £300,000: 7%
- £300,000 to £500,000: 9%
- £500,000 to £1m: 13%
- £1m+: 21%

Previously funded organisations

- New organisations: 55%
- Previously funded by EECF: 45%

SUPPORTING OUR EAST END RESIDENTS

From March 2020-February 2021

£1,798,064 awarded
262 grants awarded
48% of grants awarded to BAME-led organisations

70 organisations have reported back on their community impact so far

90,000 expected number of people benefiting
22,050 of these residents had not previously accessed support from the funded organisations

£4,150 has been provided in in-kind support by Valero in the form of fuel vouchers to support the delivery of food and essentials

3,300 volunteers were involved in the delivery of support

63% of funds were spent on food, toiletries and household essentials
8% was spent on IT and connectivity so services could be delivered remotely
29% was spent on mental health, bereavement, advice and domestic violence support services
Manorfield Primary School in Tower Hamlets used a grant from the emergency fund to provide food and toiletries for families in need. Each week, the school provided between 500 and 850 food bags to members of their community and to other Tower Hamlets schools who identified families who needed this support.

In each food bag, the school included key proteins, fresh fruit, breads and toiletries. The bags were predominantly for children who were eligible for free school meals, but the school also provided bags to other families who were in need of support.

In the early part of the first lockdown there were real problems with the roll out of free school meal vouchers, so during this period the food bags became a real life saver for many parents. Families have seen their circumstances change suddenly during the pandemic, and the school has been able to support parents whilst they are trying to access welfare benefits.

One person the scheme helped was a mum who was having great difficulty getting her 5-year-old boy to eat well. He enjoyed the food provided in the bag so much that the mother is now choosing these items in her weekly shopping, so that her son can form healthy eating habits.

Another recipient of support from Manorfield was a family whose mother works with Covid-19 patients in the NHS and had to self-isolate away from her family. The Dad was worried about going to the supermarket, so the school were able to provide enough food for the family to get through the week.

Today, two people brought food for us from your school. I was so overwhelmed; I couldn’t say much to them. We are so grateful and will remember them in our prayers.

Body and Soul Charity uses a comprehensive, community-based and trauma informed approach to address the life-threatening effects of childhood adversity in people of all ages.

With a grant from our Emergency Fund, Body and Soul Charity was able to continue practically supporting vulnerable adults through support with food and household essentials as well as mobile data to help them stay in touch.

Juliet’s Story
Juliet is in her 40s, she is Black African and a mother of 3. She is HIV+ and was shielding due to health complications beyond her HIV diagnosis. Hilary, who has been supporting Juliet, tells her story:

“In early May I called Juliet to check in with her, expecting to have a chat about how the children were doing at home. But when Juliet picked up the phone, I could immediately tell that she wasn’t well. Her breathing was laboured. She assured me she was OK, that she’d seen her GP. I agreed I would call her later and when she still didn’t sound well, I encouraged her to call 111 to talk through her symptoms. Juliet was reluctant: “I don’t want to go to hospital,” “I’m frightened”. She started to cry. I comforted her and we agreed that I would call again the next day or two. Juliet’s GP had advised her to call 111 but she hadn’t. I asked her gently if she would like me to. She said yes.”

“An ambulance took Juliet to The Royal London Hospital where they confirmed Juliet had Covid-19. I then couldn’t contact Juliet for 10 days while she was in hospital. On the day Juliet came out of hospital she called to say thank you for saving her life. She had been told that if she hadn’t gone into hospital she would have died. She said she had called her family back home in Africa to say goodbye. She didn’t feel she would see her young sons again. “You kept calling me, you never gave up on, I would have died if you hadn’t called that ambulance that day. You saved my life”.

STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE
STEPPING UP TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS
Bubble Club in Tower Hamlets provides the opportunity for a group of people with learning disabilities to learn new skills and come together for social and leisure activities including holding their very popular club nights.

People with learning disabilities are at an increased risk of isolation and often feel that services are inaccessible to them in the community. When Covid restrictions meant that their physical club nights had to stop, the Bubble Club team used their grant from the emergency fund to run a programme of creative workshops, delivered remotely via Zoom. These workshops have provided much needed opportunities for participants to chat and connect with each other. For many members, they became a social lifeline providing supported social activity and a meaningful contribution in their community. During their workshops, participants made artwork in solidarity with the disabled residents of London and produced a podcast series entitled, The Awesome Spectacular.

The funding they received helped them with their mission to support the social and emotional wellbeing of their members. One of Bubble Club’s members, Rufaro, has a real passion for being a show host. A real character, he’s charismatic and has developed excellent stage presence. Bubble Club mentors have been coaching him to refine his skills, and they’ve reported that he is making fantastic progress and is excited about hosting an event in the future.

Shoreditch Trust is a registered charity that works with local residents in Hackney to help to improve their health, wellbeing, social networks and opportunities.

With their grant from the emergency fund, they were able to develop ‘We Connect’: a remote befriending programme for those isolated by Covid-19 lockdown. They increased their volunteer numbers with local residents stepping forward to provide immediate, practical volunteer support for their neighbours. Befriending training was created and delivered to volunteers and drop-in sessions implemented so that they were supported throughout.

Participants on We Connect are often isolated and digitally excluded, seeking social connection. The befriending service focuses on the benefits of connection and to volunteer befrienders have been calling their befriendees weekly for a chat and check-in. These small, friendly interactions have been of great value to everyone’s health and wellbeing at a difficult time.

Stan’s story

Both Stan and his wife were stroke survivors and Stan had for many years been the primary carer for his wife. Stan had long attended the Stroke Survivors self-help group, delivered by the Shoreditch Trust, in which he and other attendees socialised, practised activities for their wellbeing and socialised with others. When, Stan’s wife unexpectedly passed away at Christmas 2019, and his adult children living further afield, he found it very difficult to manage being on his own. Lockdown made that even more challenging. Shoreditch Trust staff identified that despite Stan not wishing to talk about it, he was struggling with isolation and loneliness during lockdown on top of the bereavement. They referred him to We Connect. He was matched with one of their volunteers Lorraine. The two initially discussed the weather and the news and eventually Stan opened up to L about how hard he was finding the loss of his wife and how he cried nearly every day. Lorraine raised this with Shoreditch Trust staff, who were able to arrange for him to access bereavement counselling. However, beyond that one intervention, Stan has said how he values having someone to chat with, that he can talk to her in a way that he can’t with his children and that it has been very valuable when he has been unable to leave his home.
Newham Community Renewal Programme (NCRP) support some of the most disadvantaged young people in Newham. By providing them with the necessary tools and the right support, young people are empowered to address the challenges they face so that they can grow to be positive and active members of their community.

With their grant from the emergency fund, the team at NCRP were able to purchase hardware and software to enable staff and volunteers to continue their vital work. This new equipment meant they were able to effectively navigate through the challenges of remote working and service delivery during the height of the pandemic. As well as providing laptops and mobile phones for staff and volunteers, 12 laptops were also issued to service users via the laptop library. This helped to alleviate digital exclusion, enabling people to communicate with their loved ones and to access a wider range of services that are only available online.

Alia’s story
Alia is a carer looking after her son who suffers from a mental illness. Before the pandemic she was a regular attendee at NCRP’s Carers Health & Empowerment programme and had registered to be trained to deliver workshops to other carers. When Covid-19 forced the programme to move online, Alia initially thought she wouldn’t be able to continue because she didn’t have access to a laptop. But, with the laptops purchased through the emergency fund grant, Alia was been able to get online. Alia was so grateful to have access to the programme again and has also been able to use the equipment to communicate with her family and friends. This means that Alia is able to go on and complete the carers empowerment programme and support other carers in the community.

The grant to Richard House Children’s Hospice in Newham enabled the charity to remain open at a time when many other community services had to close their doors to vulnerable children and their families. The children they look after are critically vulnerable to this virus, and yet continue to need round-the-clock palliative care. With lockdown seriously impacting the support that life-limited children and their carers can access, the hospice has been a safe and familiar place where children’s wellbeing and quality of life comes first.

Lisa and Aziz’s story
Lisa’s son Aziz was two when he was diagnosed with Pompe Disease. At the time, surviving past the age of two was unheard of. Lisa was referred to Richard House for palliative care and to learn how to care of Aziz, as he required tube feeding and a ventilator to help him breathe. Aziz is now 15 and the family rely on Richard House for respite and support. Lisa has two other children, the lockdown has affected her family: “Aziz is in the high-risk category and we had to self-isolate for 12 weeks. He uses a ventilator to help him breathe every single day anyway, so contracting Covid-19 would have been catastrophic”.

“There is even more strain on me to keep Aziz and his siblings occupied. It’s times like these in which limited access to the internet becomes even more of an issue, especially with children.” “I can’t leave the house to go shopping and risk contracting coronavirus and passing it on to my son. Coronavirus has taken its toll on us emotionally. The loneliness I feel due to self-isolation is even more heightened. It is very important Richard House exists, because if it’s not there, it would be a real disaster. We wouldn’t be able to survive.”
LOOKING AHEAD

Before the impact of Covid-19, many of the people that benefitted from our emergency appeal were already experiencing financial hardship and struggling to make ends meet. The pandemic has heightened their need for support and many of life’s essentials that we might take for granted such as food, internet access, education and companionship through community were not, and are still not available to them.

While hardship and a lack of opportunity is significantly affecting many residents in the East End of London, it is young people and elders who are most in need of support. These two groups of people were already defined as experiencing the highest levels of poverty in the UK pre 2020. At the beginning of 2021 we find that not only have their situations deteriorated even further but the number of people both young and old who are in need of support has increased.

As we move forward EECF will be prioritising funding to projects and services that support young people and elders to ensure their life chances are significantly improved. To create real and lasting change will require a co-ordinated multi-year approach with support directed at the right interventions, delivered by organisations and funded by donors that are committed to the same outcomes and share the same values as us; many of these we are already working with.

Being able to improve the life chances of both groups will be a challenge as the causes and effects of poverty are many and varied but at EECF our ambition and our focus has never been greater. We are as passionate today as we were 30 years ago about making a difference to lives of those living in the East End.

We hope you will work with us as we move forward on this road to a new future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

So many people, companies and charities have worked with us and every one has played a key role in the Fund’s success. Our sincere thanks to you all, but particular thanks go to:

Kate Giblin
Martin Karren
Alice Rivers
National Emergencies Trust
UKCF
London Funders
Wakefield and Tetley Trust
Tower Hill Trust

Thank you to all our donors and partners. Your support of our Emergency Fund has been vital.
Thank you to the amazing community and voluntary organisations who have been delivering essential services to those people who need it most.

13 Rivers Trust  
Academy Achievers  
Account3  
Achenu Cancer Support  
Afghanistan and Central Asian Association  
African Arts and Advice Centre  
African Community School  
African Health Policy Network  
Age UK East London  
Aishah Help  
Akwaba  
Ambition, Aspire, Achieve  
Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT) UK  
Ascension Community Trust  
Aston-Mansfield  
BADU Community CIC  
Bags of Taste  
Barts Charity  
Beckton Skills Centre  
Beersheba Living Well  
Beyond the Streets  
Bikeworks CIC  
Biddy and Soul Charity  
Bironr Downs Community Association  
BowHarver  
Boxed of Basics  
Bromley by Bow Community Centre  
Bromley by Bow Community Organisation  
Bubble Club CIC  
Burdett Estate Covid-19 Strategy Team  
Burdett FC  
Cambridge Heath Salvation Army  
Caramel Rock  
Cardboard Citizens  
Carers Centre Tower Hamlets  
Caritas Anchor House  
Carpenters and Dockland Centre (Dockland Settlements)  
Children Ahead Ltd  
Children with Voices  
Citizen Development Community Centre  
City and East London Bereavement Service  
Clapton Common Boys Club (CCBC)  
Clapton Park United Reformed Church  
Claudia Jones Organisation  
Coffee Afrik CIC  
Community Links  
Community of Refugees from Vietnam - East London  
Crohn’s and Colitis Relief  
Darul Ummah Centre (Dawatul Islam UK & Eire)  
Day-Mer Turkish & Kurdish Community Centre  
Deafroots  
Destiny Community Services  
Docklands Outreach  
East End Citizens Advice Bureaux  
East End Community Foundation  
Digital Inclusion Project  
East London Mosque  
Eastside Centre Ltd  
Ekota Care Trust Limited  
ELT Baptist Church  
Express Tuition Ltd  
Ezra Umarpeh Ltd  
Fair Regen Foundation  
Fight for Peace International  
First Love Foundation  
Food for All  
Frampton Park Baptist Church  
Friends of Woodberry Down  
Gascoyne & Morningside Youth Clubs Ltd  
Good Shepherd Voluntary Organisation Ltd.  
Hackney & East London United Synagogue  
Hackney Chinese Community Services Association  
Hackney Congolese Women Support Group  
Hackney Marsh Partnership  
Hackney Migrant Centre  
Hackney People First  
Half Moon Young People’s Theatre  
Halkevi  
Highway East London  
Highway Vineyard Church  
Hot Line Meals Service (London)  
ICSS  
Inspire Women Men and Children  
Inspired Futures  
Island Advice Centre  
Isle of Dogs Bangladesh Association & Cultural Centre  
It’s Your Life  
Kahala  
Kanlungan Filipino Consortium  
Leaders in Community  
Lighthouse - Supporting Women Through Stormy Times  
Lincoln Area Regeneration Group  
London Young Stars Elite  
Lwo Cultural Group  
Made In Hackney  
Manor House Development Trust  
Manorfield Primary School  
Mind in the City Hackney and Waltham Forest  
Mind in Tower Hamlets & Newham  
Mishen  
Mouth That Roars  
Mudhuhite Association  
Mulberry School Trust  
Neighbours in Poplar  
Newark Youth London  
Newham Community Renewal Programme  
Newham Muslim Forum CIC  
Newham Welfare Trust  
NEWeay Project  
North London Muslim Community Centre  
Olive Tree Education (OTE)  
Our Community Cares Solution  
Peabody Sundial Centre Day  
Poplar & Lansbury Mutual Aid Group  
Poplar HARCA  
Positive East  
Powerhouse for Women  
Provision Row  
Queen Victoria Seamen’s Rest  
Quwwat-Ul-Islam Society  
Refugee Support Network  
Rejenerate UK 2016 CIC  
Richard House Children’s Hospice  
Salaam Peace  
School-Home Support  
Setpoint London East  
Shafyalal Centre  
Shapla Primary School  
Shoreditch Tab Centre (Tabernacle Baptist Church)  
Shoreditch Trust  
Skills Enterprise  
Skillspool Training CIC  
Skyway Charity  
Social Organisation for Unity & Leisure  
Society Links Tower Hamlets  
Somali Senior Citizens Club  
Spot Project  
St Hilda’s East Community Centre  
St John’s (Isle of Dogs) Community Association  
St Peters Community Wellbeing Projects  
St. Paul’s Church Stratford  
Step by Step  
Stratford Salvation Army  
Supporting Humanity Ltd  
Teen Action  
Teviot Action Group  
Thames Bengal Association  
The Art Church  
The Bangladesh Youth Movement (BMY)  
The Bow Foodbank  
The Chicken Soup Shelter  
The Community Hub  
The Dockland Settlements  
The Drop In Bereavement Centre  
The Ensign Youth Club  
The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park  
The Huddleston Centre  
The Independent Newham Users Forum  
The Letta Trust  
The Parish of the Isle of Dogs  
The Rooted Forum  
The Royal Docks Learning & Activity Centre  
The Royal Foundation of St Katharine’s  
The Sapphire Foundation  
The Shadwell Community Project  
Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership  
Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours  
Tower Hamlets Parents Centre  
Toyhouse Libraries  
Tobybee Hall  
TransformUK  
Treuers Foundation  
UKIM Masjid Ibrahim Plastow  
Up ‘N Away  
Valance Community Sports Association  
Veterans Aid  
Wadajir Somali Community Centre  
Wapping Bangladesh Association  
Waterloo Community Counselling  
Weavers Adventure Playground  
Weavers Community Forum  
Well Grounded CIC  
Wilton Estate Tenants and Residents Association  
Wipers Youth CIC  
Wise Youth Trust  
Women’s Trust  
Women’s Inclusive Team  
Woodgrange Baptist Church  
Year Here  
Young and Inspired  
Z.S.V. Trust