



# Mark

# Benevolent

# Fund

## Q1 Review

## January - March 2023



# Fund Activity Summary

- £51,136 - Supporting those with Disabilities
- £2,920 - Healthcare Services
- £44,573 - Local Community
- £10,720 - Individuals
- £125,000 - Humanitarian Aid
- £36,807 - Cancer Care

**81%**

of funds went to applications directly initiated by our Provinces

**19%**

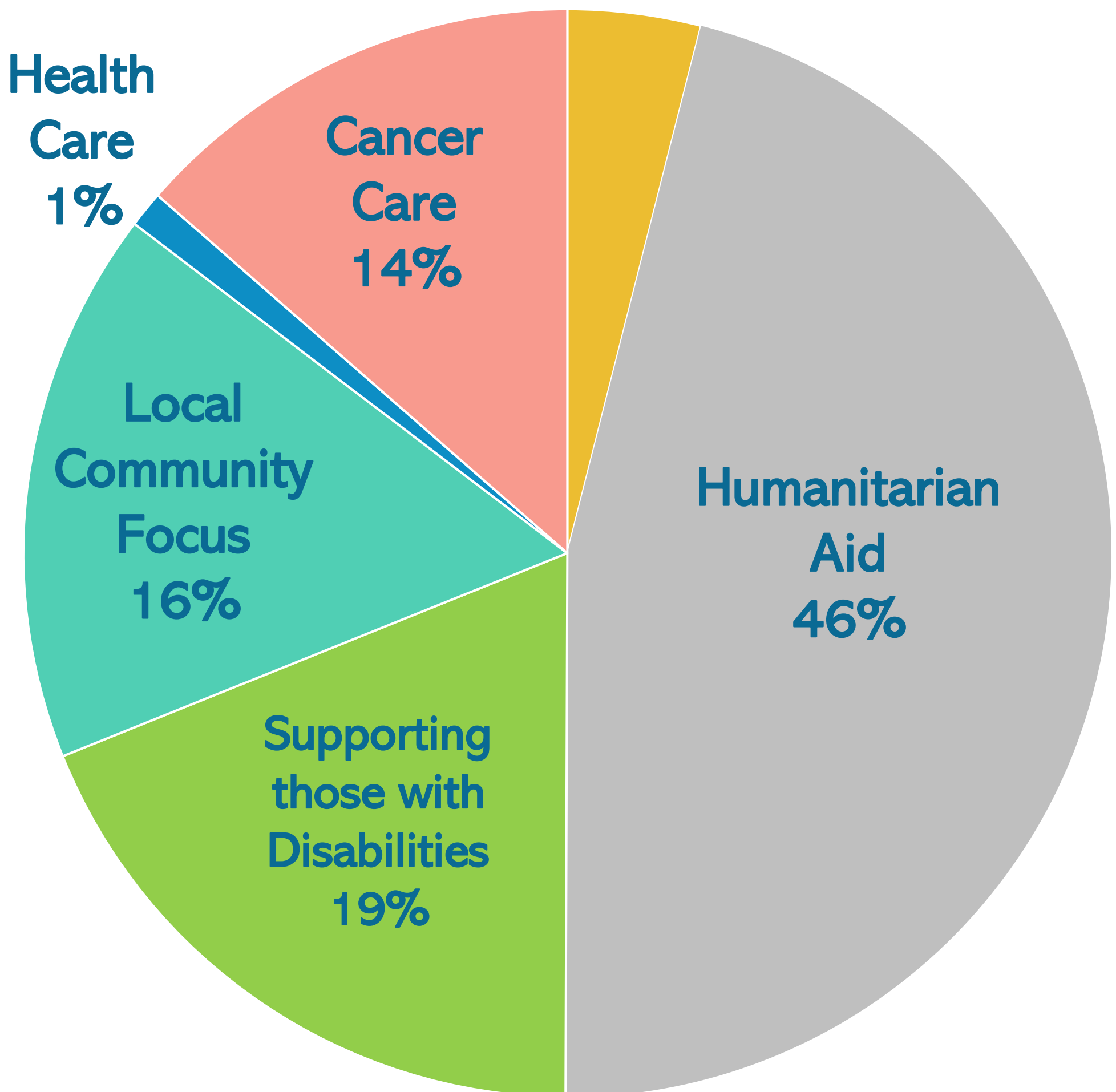
of funds went to direct applications from charities



# At a Glance...

Our own members  
and their families

4%





# £271,156

TURKEY



In the first quarter of 2023 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 13 Grants to our own members, local charities and other worthy causes across England, Wales, Türkiye and our District in Romania.



● Indicates location of a Worthy Causes Grant



**£42,702**

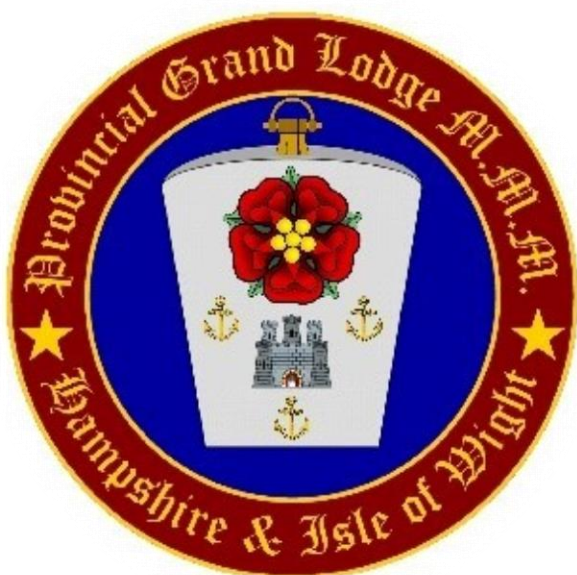
Food waste globally is a huge problem in the UK. Almost 13 million tonnes is estimated to be sent to landfill annually and of that 40% is domestic waste. It is likely that 400,000 tonnes could be diverted and consumed.

At Mid Surrey Community Fridges they are saving 6½ tonnes of supermarket and large producers' food from landfill every week. That means around 1,600 people will benefit from the food network every week. This organisation's main transport van was over eight years old and had passed its point of economic repair. The Mark Benevolent Fund stepped up to make sure they are able to continue their vital work.



**£1,871**

Sweetpea Smallholdings are a community interest company based in Exeter with a focus on bringing volunteers together from different communities and backgrounds to complete projects that benefits their wider community. The funding has been used to purchase disabled friendly tools and equipment.



**£2,920**

The President of the MBF, R.W.Bro. John Bell and his wife Mary joined W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson - Provincial Grand Charity Steward and W.Bro. Malcolm Lloyd – Provincial Grand Almoner from the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, in a visit to 'The Bluebells', a respite centre in North Waltham, Hampshire run by Sebastian's Action Trust based in Berkshire.

Laura Weaving, House Manager and Ruth Paley, Trust and Foundations Manager welcomed them to the centre which provides emotional and practical support to very sick children and their families. In addition, they provide free respite breaks at this fully accessible respite home to families across the UK. The home has been providing breaks since 2011 and they were awarded with a grant of £2,920 to replace beds and bedding at the centre.



**£2,387**

The Ménier's Society is the only registered charity in the UK dedicated solely to supporting people affected by inner ear (vestibular) disorders. The charity needed support to purchase three new laptops for the office team as the existing laptops had reached the end of their lifespan. The vast majority of work is computer based and the office team use their laptops for both administrative purposes and also to answer important helpline calls.



**£12,950**

The Chailey Heritage Enterprise Centre (CHEC) supports severely disabled adults with a way of taking part in work. The printing enterprise provides adults with a way of playing an active part within the community, developing skills and combating isolation. They provide a service to those adults who are unable to access traditional employment, but who still wish to take part in work at a level and pace suitable to each individual. The funds for new printing equipment will allow them to continue their work and give more people the opportunity to use it. The MBF has joined forces with the Sussex Mark Benevolent Fund who donated £4,000 to the total project cost of £16,950. A wonderful contribution.



**£35,799**

Newcastle Wheelchair Rugby Club was set up in 2019 and is currently in the Championship of the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby 5s national competition competing at the North East Barbarians. They finished fourth in the league in 2022 and in 2023 are striving to be promoted into the premiership.

The club offers wheelchair sport to people who are unable to play the running game and it is invaluable to the players physical and mental health. The aim of the charity is to get a junior wheelchair team off the ground and fund will buy eight junior specialist rugby wheelchairs to offer the facilities to the under 16's.



**£75,000**

The Mark Benevolent Fund continues to support Ukrainian refugees through our District in Romania. It is thanks to the enduring generosity of Mark Master Masons and their families that we are able to continue making these donations.





# ShelterBox

## £50,000

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. Following the announcement Brethren had donated a further £80,000 to the Mark Emergency Relief Fund for the use of ShelterBox.



## £36,807

The charity's van is the lifeline and needed to transport volunteers and equipment to all important fund raising events. Sadly, it is also at the end of its life. The battery has to be disconnected and the rattles and squeaks concern all who drive it. The funds have allowed the Children with Cancer Fund to purchase a new reliable all purpose vehicle. The garage has even offered to do all of the servicing and MOTs for free. What a wonderful gesture.



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Grants totalling  
£10,720 were  
made to  
Individuals

Who  
did we  
help?

- A grant was made to a Brother and his family who were left in rather distressing circumstances after their home was destroyed by fire. Made homeless by the event, the family were put up in temporary accommodation with just the clothes they stood up in. In addition to this, their grief was compounded as they had also lost beloved family pets. The emergency grant was made swiftly MBF along with donations from his Lodges and friends.
- Cost of living increases have led to one Brother struggling to make ends meet through no fault of his own. He leads a very frugal lifestyle while trying to cut back where he can. After his rent was increased he was left struggling to find non-existent funds to cover the shortfall. Finally he admitted to himself that he needed some help and the MBF was able to assist.



**BOOKINGS CLOSE 30 APRIL**

**155<sup>th</sup> MBF Festival Banquet**

**will be held at the**

**Harrogate Conference Centre**

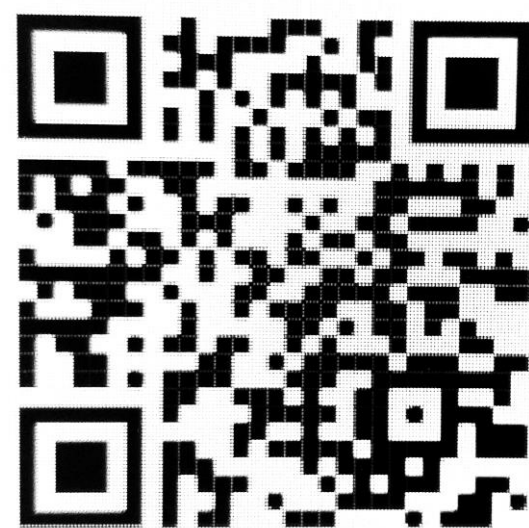
**Kings Rd**

**Harrogate**

**HG1 5LA**

**Saturday, 1 July 2023**

**BOOK HERE**





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Issued by  
Mark Benevolent Fund  
Registered Charity No. 207610  
The Charities Office  
Mark Masons' Hall  
86 St James's Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 1PL  
[www.markmasonshall.org](http://www.markmasonshall.org)  
[d.coleman@mmh.org.uk](mailto:d.coleman@mmh.org.uk)  
020 7747 1187