

Rebuilding Futures after Meningitis

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REBUILDING
FUTURES FUND

Meningitis
NOW

Background

The impact of meningitis can be devastating, leaving families bereaved and individuals living with life changing after-effects. In 2019 Meningitis Now launched its Rebuilding Futures Fund to help address the support needs of those affected by meningitis.

Aim

To provide a flexible and bespoke fund enabling each person or family to apply for up to £1,000 towards the support or practical help they need most. The fund comprises four award categories: Health & Wellbeing, Opportunities, Specialist Equipment, and Bereavement.

Health & Wellbeing

Improving the emotional and physical wellbeing of those affected by meningitis and their families.

Examples include:

- Creative therapies
- Complementary therapies
- Talking therapies
- Health and exercise

Opportunities

Providing help towards education, learning, development and retraining. Examples include:

- Education support
- Technology to support learning, such as laptops and iPads
- Tuition and re-training costs

Specialist Equipment

Helping to enhance the quality of life of those living with the effects of meningitis.

Examples include:

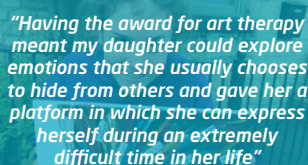
- Specialist bikes and trikes
- Mobility aids
- Specialist beds
- Sensory toys

Bereavement

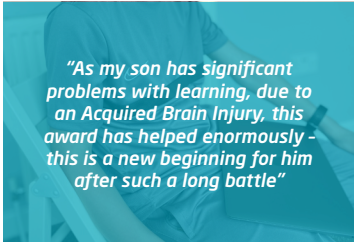
Helping families to find the strength to face the future and rebuild their lives with hope.

We offer funding towards:


- Funeral costs
- Headstones
- Bereavement counselling



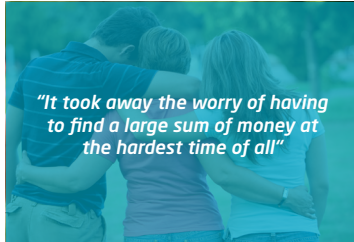
"Having the award for art therapy meant my daughter could explore emotions that she usually chooses to hide from others and gave her a platform in which she can express herself during an extremely difficult time in her life"



"As my son has significant problems with learning, due to an Acquired Brain Injury, this award has helped enormously - this is a new beginning for him after such a long battle"



"With the help of funding for a wheelchair roof topper for my car I am not so housebound and I can help my family get around more despite my disability"



"It took away the worry of having to find a large sum of money at the hardest time of all"

Evaluation

To determine the outcomes and impact of the Rebuilding Futures Fund, data was collected on the application form (baseline) and evaluation form. This included the Measure Yourself Concerns and Wellbeing (MYCaW)⁽¹⁾ questionnaire.

Applicants were asked to think about how meningitis had affected them and state one or two specific concerns that they most wanted help with. Applicants were also asked about their wellbeing by using the question "How are you feeling in yourself?".

Concerns and wellbeing were rated for severity using a seven-point Likert scale. Concerns were rated as 0 - meaning "not concerned at all" - to 6 - meaning "bothers me greatly". Wellbeing was rated as 0 - meaning "as good as it can be" - to 6 - meaning "as bad as it can be".

In-depth phone interviews were also conducted with 16 people who had received support through the fund.

Key outcomes

Full evaluation data was received from 55 people.

Meningitis Now commissioned Chrysalis Research UK to independently analyse this data.⁽²⁾

- 98% of people said that the support they received via the Rebuilding Futures Fund helped them.
- 93% of respondents stated that it had "helped a lot".
- 95% of people felt that their award had made a difference to them and their life, with 91% stating that it made a big difference.
- Concerns negatively affecting people's lives and/or wellbeing were fully or partially alleviated with a 2.7-point decrease on the MYCaW severity of issues scale.
- There was evidence of a noticeable improvement to the wellbeing of award recipients and their family members with a 1.7 increase on the MYCaW wellbeing scale.

Future plans

The evidence from the evaluation data has demonstrated that the Rebuilding Futures Fund has made a significant positive impact on individuals and families affected by meningitis. Meningitis Now continues to offer the Rebuilding Futures Fund as an integral part of its support services.



Funding

Meningitis Now has received donations from many funders to support this new programme, including The Worshipful Company of Butchers, Royds Withy King and the Sobell Foundation. A full list of funders can be found here:

www.meningitisnow.org/rff-funders

References

- ⁽¹⁾ Paterson C, Thomas K, Manasse A, Cooke H, Peace G. Measure Yourself Concerns and Wellbeing (MYCaW): an individualised questionnaire for evaluating outcome in cancer support care that includes complementary therapies. *Complement Ther Med.* 2007 Mar;15(1):38-45.
- ⁽²⁾ Rebuilding Futures Fund Impact Report 2019-20, produced in collaboration with Chrysalis Research UK.