In the last year, we awarded over £1.3m in grants which included a growing demand for health and wellbeing funding. This need resulted in an increase of nearly £100k in grants for this impact category compared to the previous year, in turn supporting an additional 173 projects across the county.

Funding in this area covers a huge array of projects - from alpaca walks for people with mental health issues, to cancer awareness videos. A large proportion of this increase is also a result of grants from our crisis funds, which help individuals and families struggling with fuel poverty or unexpected living costs.

You can donate here or alternatively to talk to us about supporting health and wellbeing projects or one our other thematic funds, please email giving@heartofbucks.org
**INSPIRING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

*Olena Dmytriyeva*

Olena a Senior Regulatory Affairs Associate at Gilead Sciences and a Ukrainian national living in Bucks.

Click here to read Olena's Inspiring Buckinghamshire interview in full

Tell us about yourself and your connection to Buckinghamshire.

It was a huge culture-shock, moving all the way to the UK from a small town in Ukraine at the young age of 11; the only insight into what to expect from life in the UK were the colourful English language textbooks showing beautiful Big Ben and London Eye! Having such a warm welcome, and support from the locals, really helped with quick adaptation.

What personal achievements are you most proud of?

February 24th has changed mine, and millions of other lives forever; it was the day Russia launched a full-scale attack in Ukraine. The first days after the attack were most challenging. Myself, my friends and family were disoriented and in disbelief. Grief, shock and anger came in waves; the uncertainty of whether it will be possible to see anyone back in Ukraine was, and still is, difficult to ignore.

My family struggles and heritage has shaped my views, and my proudest moment does not stem from the accomplishment completed by myself. In March this year, while volunteering in Poland, I was most proud of being part of the most incredible team - the global volunteers. The united goal of helping people transcended all the language and cultural barriers. We were from the UK, Netherlands, Poland, US, Australia and Ukraine, all united for the same cause. If you were to ask any of the volunteers (and I did - many times!), what made them come to Poland, everyone had the same response: “We were watching the news, we just couldn’t do nothing and stay at home”.

What are some of the challenges you have faced, and how have you overcome them?

In difficult moments, people cope differently. After the initial shock of war had worn off, my energy has been re-directed into helping those in need. I spent hours with other people at Trafalgar Square to protest against the war - the energy of the crowd, and the desire to do what’s right was healing. The next step was to collect donations and share them – in the face of the war there was no time to set up charity accounts, the help was needed immediately. My links with front-line volunteers in the east helped to deliver the financial aid from the UK to where it was needed.

After the day job, I had lots of “help” requests through social media- they’ve ranged from helping with finding sponsors for the “Homes for Ukraine” scheme to translation help. Being involved in so many avenues to help makes me feel proud of the local community and the UK. We all have a pivotal role in our response to the Ukrainian crisis, and each day we are closer to peace.

**BUCKS LAUNCHES UKRAINE CRISIS FUND**

Buckinghamshire Council and Heart of Bucks have launched a crisis fund for people fleeing the current conflict in Ukraine.

Working closely with the Council we are coordinating the collection of financial donations from across our communities to support newly arrived Ukrainian refugees settling in Buckinghamshire. The funds raised from this appeal will support the vulnerable households that have been given shelter in Buckinghamshire from the war in Ukraine.

Heart of Bucks will make grants to charities and non-profit community organisations who are supporting the Ukrainian refugees, and in some exceptional circumstances, may make small grants to support Ukrainian households directly, when asked to do so by a Council Sponsor Liaison Officer. All funds raised will be distributed in Buckinghamshire.

In April, the first grant from this crisis fund was awarded to Wycombe Refugee Partnership, speaking about how they will use the funding, they said:

“We are already supporting one Ukrainian family who have presented as homeless and are told to expect many more. Some are homeless because they have come under the family visa scheme, but the “hosts” do not have room to house them. In other cases, the hosting arrangement has broken down because of incompatibility, unrealistic expectations on either side or because unwelcome sexual advances have been made by the host.

“For the family we are supporting already, we have provided food, cash, sim cards, clothing, medication and toys. We are helping them to register with a GP; to open a bank account (needed for the payment of Universal Credit), to apply for Universal Credit and a National Insurance number. A qualified volunteer will accompany the man to his interview at the Job Centre and will then help him to apply for jobs. When the family move into their new home, we shall source the furniture and furnishings they need.”

For full details and how to pledge your donations visit our Total Giving page. If you would like to contact Heart of Bucks about your donation, please email: giving@heartofbucks.org
RECTORY HOMES LAUNCH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Independent property developer Rectory Homes have announced the launch of their charitable foundation, which will provide grant funding for local charities and community groups.

Funded entirely by Rectory Homes, the Rectory Foundation aims to evolve the company’s charitable giving. Over the last 14 years, they have supported many local organisations awarding over £500,000 in grants, in partnership with Heart of Bucks. Creating the foundation was the next step to allow them to support even more community organisations with their vital work.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects that meet the foundation’s vision of ‘thriving people and places in our local communities’.

The project must also have one of the following areas of focus:

- Helping those most in need within the community, particularly those who are isolated or disadvantaged
- The improvement of the local environment, accessible community areas or buildings, and green spaces

Priority will be given to projects or groups that operate in or benefit the darkest blue area defined on the map (Buckinghamshire).

The founders Simon and Sarah Vickers are the owners of Rectory Homes. Through establishing The Rectory Foundation they will be able to expand their reach and support a wider area and a greater variation of charities and community led initiatives. They look forward to seeing how the Foundation will evolve and grow into the future.

“The Rectory Foundation is about supporting the communities that need it most in Buckinghamshire and beyond. We are looking to give opportunities in places where they may be lacking, improve the offerings of community projects and support our healthcare systems with the most up to date technology within this part of the country.

“When we build homes in a community we want to support that injection of new life and also those who live there currently. The Rectory Foundation to its core is about building and strengthening communities beyond bricks and mortar.”

Simon and Sarah Vickers

For more information including how to apply for a grant from the Rectory Foundation please click here to visit their website.

PARTNER WITH HEART OF BUCKS FOR YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING

There are a number of ways we help local businesses and individuals achieve their charitable aims:

- Creating your own fund/foundation
- Community Investor fund
- Sponsorship
- Fundraising

If you’re interested in finding out more, please email giving@heartofbucks.org
SIR DAVID JASON
‘PLANTS A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE’

On Tuesday 22nd March, HM The Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Elizabeth Howe invited local resident Sir David Jason and Hon. Milly Soames, Deputy Lieutenant to join her in planting three trees in Aylesbury as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative.

The tree planting took place at offices in Aylesbury, which boast a beautiful orchard and are home to two charities – Calibre Audio and Heart of Bucks Community Foundation.

The Queen’s Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee and invites people from across the UK to “plant a tree for the jubilee”.

HM The Lord-Lieutenant, said:

"Her Majesty has been involved in our communities for 70 years and during that time she has planted over 1,500 trees. All over the country tree planting is being championed and the best thing about this initiative is that everybody can take part, it is that inclusivity that has such great strength. By planting a tree and creating a lasting legacy we will be able to remember for generations the Queen's extraordinary reign."

Sir David, who is also a supporter of Heart of Bucks’ Winter Warmth campaign, said:

"As a long-term local resident, it was a pleasure to be invited to plant a tree in Bucks to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee this year. I hope that ‘my’ cherry tree will flourish and be enjoyed by future generations."

Sir David, who is also a supporter of Heart of Bucks’ Winter Warmth campaign, said:

The CEO of Calibre Audio, Anthony Kemp and CEO of Heart of Bucks, Henry Allmand both commented that is was a lovely occasion to mark the Queen’s monumental achievement.

The event enabled both charities to celebrate the legacy of Her Majesty's leadership through a sustainable activity that will benefit the local community for years to come.

To find out more about the Queen’s Green Canopy, please [click here](#).

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CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

To celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March we featured blog posts from each of our female ambassadors about how they #BreakTheBias on a daily basis.

Trudi Scrivener
Ambassador for Health and Wellbeing

“As an employer of women, championing female rights and celebrating our differences is key to my business strategy. Caring is still perceived by many as unskilled work and I am constantly campaigning for fairer wages and encouraging women to invest in their self-development and be confident to speak out about their aspirations.”

Liz Barter
Ambassador for Isolation and Disadvantage

“Thinking about International Women’s day alongside isolation and disadvantage in Buckinghamshire, I reflected on some of the women I had worked with in substance misuse and homelessness services over the years. Women in these services are often framed as “the most chaotic” and “higher risk” than the men...this is a stereotype with two roots, neither of them are about women being innately unstable.”

Mimi Harker
Ambassador for Community Cohesion

“Looking at the “me” in 2022, I see the self-belief and confidence I lacked as a young woman. I see the insecurities that have greatly diminished as I have self-taught and self-learned to appreciate skills through achievements and grow that faith in my own ability to do things. Today, thankfully, there is more tolerance, more acceptance, more opportunity – even though young people will say they have it tough! Never has there been so much support for what you want to do and achieve.”
DAYTOP MULTICULTURAL CENTRE INCREASE EMPLOYABILITY OF LOCAL WOMEN

Daytop Multicultural Centre provides resources and support to ethnic minority groups throughout Buckinghamshire to increase their employability and aid community cohesion and integration.

Project: Support for 15 long-term unemployed women through fashion design and sewing
Grant: £4,990
Fund: Community Investor Fund
Impact category: Life skills, education and employability

Many women from ethnic minority backgrounds find themselves socially isolated and cut off from their communities which can lead to various challenges ranging from mental health problems to long-term unemployment. This project provided the women with a safe space to come together, share their experiences and form lasting relationships and was a vital tool to solve the social isolation that many had reported previously.

The course was designed to help teach the women skills to aid their personal development and build confidence through learning about fashion design, creating corporate logos and advertisements for products, job interview preparation, and advice on how to secure employment.

The project also involved a work placement that provided the women with critical work experience to help them prepare for their future employment. The feedback from the women was overwhelmingly positive with each of them noting an increase in confidence, inspiration to advance their skills further, and motivation to find employment.

"I now have more confidence in myself and I hope to start a business with my newly made friends that I met on this project. Thank you so much."

If you'd like to read any more of our impact stories, please click here.
WORKING TO SUPPORT PHILANTHROPISTS

As societal needs have increased, there has been a growing interest in philanthropy, effective charitable giving and the options available. We can help philanthropists find who to donate to whilst ensuring their money is well used and makes a difference.

Heart of Bucks can provide a personalised solution that will help you meet your charitable goals and reach the causes you wish to support. We will work closely together to find what is right for you.

Our specialist philanthropic advice can facilitate a range of options:

- **Setting up a bespoke fund/foundation**
  We offer a flexible alternative to establishing a conventional charitable trust, giving you all of the benefits and none of the administrative responsibilities.

- **Contributing to an existing fund**
  We can offer a range of options to pool funds with other like-minded donors.

- **Trust transfers**
  We can support and manage the administrative burdens of an established charitable trust providing all the back office, and trustee functions, if preferred.

- **Leaving a legacy**
  We can support individuals who wish to leave a lasting gift to a range of organisations.

Giving to Heart of Bucks can result in highly attractive tax relief on donations, and matched funding in some instances.

Trust transfers with Heart of Bucks

A crucial question asked by our trustees on winding up our charity was ‘how do we use our remaining funds in order to maintain and further the aims of our charity into the future and so honour the wishes of the original donors?’

Heart of Bucks was recommended to us and we are delighted that they provided the answer. Our specific requirements have been met through a tailor made scheme which will be continued in perpetuity.

We wholeheartedly pass on this recommendation.

- Trustee of local charitable trust (anonymous)

BECOME A FRIEND AND MAKE A REGULAR DIFFERENCE

Please consider making a regular donation as a Friend of Heart of Bucks, supporting our ongoing work and allowing us to plan for the future.

As a registered charity ourselves, contributions from our Friends help us continue to make a positive change in Buckinghamshire through our grants to local, mainly smaller, charities and crisis funding for individuals.

You can set up a regular donation through our [Total Giving page](#), choosing the amount and frequency to suit you. Alternatively, contact giving@heartofbucks.org for a Friends membership form.

The need for help locally continues to rise. Become a Friend of Heart of Bucks - together we can make a real difference to the lives of people in the community we all call home.

From £5 a month, the Friends’ support for our charity has enabled us to help thousands of people in difficult circumstances with funding examples such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under £50</td>
<td>Providing hot water bottles and blankets for an older, physically disabled lady who had left her home due to domestic abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under £100</td>
<td>paying for school uniform for three children of a single mother who is not currently working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under £250</td>
<td>Funding resistance bands for 200 disabled people to keep fit whilst they were shielding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under £500</td>
<td>Supporting a regular youth café for 60 young people after school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Beneficiary feedback**

“I just wanted to say a massive huge thank you for accepting my application for financial aid with my gas and electric, it’s made such a huge difference and taken the worry away on if I am going to be able to keep the kids warm or be able to provide hot water for a bath.”

Please click here to join our Friends
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Green Community Fund
This fund is open to voluntary and community groups and awards grants for projects designed to improve the environment and/or public spaces for the benefit of residents. For example: educational projects, environmental improvement schemes, increasing biodiversity, reducing carbon footprint, improving sustainability and/or enhancing community transport.

EOI deadline: 24th August  Application deadline: 14th September

Green Schools Fund
This fund is open to primary and secondary schools and awards grants to support environmental projects initiated by the school's students. Funding is for environmental improvement schemes or services which are designed to: reduce waste, improve biodiversity, reduce litter, reduce energy consumption and/or enhance community transport.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 14th September

Health Equity Fund
Grants of up to £15,000 are available for projects which address one or more health inequalities that impact on the life expectancy and quality of life for some people from ethnic minority communities, across our county.

This fund is currently ongoing and there is no application deadline

Kop Hill Climb Fund
Grants are available from £100 – £7,500 and can be used to support capital or revenue costs. Priorities include Princes Risborough and surrounding areas; projects that demonstrate social inclusion or need; projects which are new, or existing projects looking to expand their reach.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 12th October

Help Us, Help You: Improving Cancer Outcomes
Working in partnership with the NHS, this fund supports not-for-profits to develop and deliver innovative and creative solutions to improve cancer outcomes, particularly for groups that traditionally have poorer health outcomes.

Grants of £1,000 to £7,500 are available.

This fund is currently ongoing and there is no application deadline.

Flood Recovery & Awareness Fund
Grants can be used to support capital, revenue and project costs and expenditure must relate to flood damage/prevention or awareness in the form of training or education. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for by Bucks voluntary and community groups that are charitable in purpose and town/parish councils.

EOI deadline: 24th August  Application deadline: 14th September

Heart of Bucks general fund
Made up of a number of private funds with different priorities, our general fund may be suitable if your project does not fit any of our other specific funds. We always act in good faith in working with our donors and carry out due diligence checks on the sources of funding we make available.

We award grants of up to £5,000 to a broad range of causes and welcome applications from both new and established groups.

EOI deadline: 24th August  Application deadline: 14th September

Kop Hill Climb Fund
Grants are available from £100 – £7,500 and can be used to support capital or revenue costs. Priorities include Princes Risborough and surrounding areas; projects that demonstrate social inclusion or need; projects which are new, or existing projects looking to expand their reach.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 12th October

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply

Areas of focus for the fund include:
- Improving education and employability
- Facilitating cultural activity
- Sports and physical activity

Be the first to know when this fund is launched by signing up to our WhatsApp group from your phone [here](#).

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply
Join the Bucks Funding Alert WhatsApp group

Be the first to hear(64,90),(917,112) about our new funding opportunities for your charity or community group!

Click here from your phone to join the WhatsApp group

“There are so many places to check for funding, and I’m always worried I’ll miss something. The Heart of Bucks WhatsApp group is great because we know we’ll never miss a funding announcement.”

- Lee Lloyd
Florence Nightingale Hospice

Please note: your profile picture and number will be visible to other members of the group. You can find out more about WhatsApp’s privacy settings here.

Click the image below to donate online

Follow us on social media

Get in touch

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