



City of Westminster  
Charitable Trust

## The Community Contribution Fund

Thank you

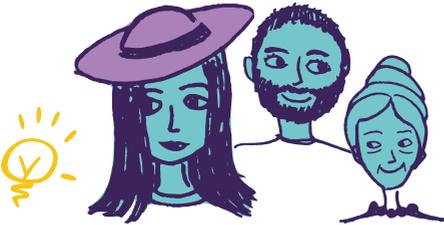
# How your donations are making a difference



## Steering life away from gangs

London Basketball Association BOOST programme uses basketball to help socially excluded and vulnerable young people. They particularly help those with behavioural and learning difficulties and those on the margins of crime and gangs.

Their aim is to improve physical and mental health and increase employment in deprived and disadvantaged communities through vocational training and work experience.



## Learning new skills to move away from the streets

Dignify Community Interest Company creates work opportunities for people excluded from wider society through homelessness, mental health and addiction.

By providing opportunities through things like creating puzzle books this reduces people's dependency on services and increases responsibility by giving them a sense of purpose and belonging in the wider community.

**I love doing things with Dignify. It reminds me of when I used to go to things with my Grandfather. They were good times. It helps me focus more on what I want to be doing and gets me away from the street corner.**

TJ, after selling items with Dignify at a car boot sale

## Helping the homeless and young people

Thanks to the generosity of your donations, the Community Contribution Fund has raised over £900,000, which is increasing opportunities for young people across Westminster and helping rough sleepers rebuild their lives. Front-line charities are supporting people off the streets, helping young people in Westminster live independently and steer their life away from gangs.

However, there is more we can do. With your continued support, we will get hundreds of rough sleepers off the streets, help thousands of young people to get the best opportunities in life, and combat loneliness in people of all ages across the City.

In this leaflet are some some examples of how your money is helping. For details on all the schemes benefiting and to donate to the Community Contribution visit: [westminster.gov.uk/westminster-trust](https://westminster.gov.uk/westminster-trust)

## A helping hand for young people with disabilities

Caxton Youth Organisation is helping young people with disabilities aged 11-25 live as independently as possible. They are taught skills so they can live on their own, make friends, find work and develop their life skills so they can contribute to their local community.

Ever since I started school I wanted to go to University, but for many years I felt I couldn't as my disability limited my chances. I had no skills and felt isolated. The Youth Workers at Caxton Youth Club knew me and understand about my Asperger's and they helped me with one-to-one support sessions, and that's when my confidence increased. I stopped feeling isolated. Months later I got the grades for University and now I'm doing Environmental Biology.

24-year old Jason



## Former rough sleepers helping others off the streets

Riverside's Street Buddies is a unique outreach programme led by former rough sleepers – mostly volunteers – who work to get entrenched rough sleepers off the streets.

As former rough sleepers or people with lived experience of homelessness, addiction or trauma, they understand the complex challenges that entrenched rough sleepers face on their journey back into society.



**I've been homeless twice. The first time I was 18 and ran away from the children's home. The second time I lost my flat because of my gambling problem. I've been volunteering with Street Buddies for five years now. Building a connection and trust takes time. One guy, I've been seeing for more than three years. He'd been on the street over 25 years and now he's moved into his own flat. When you see someone in their own house, it gives you hope.**

Fernando, Street Buddy

## Inspiring young people to learn a musical instrument

Musicus provides inspirational education, teaching disadvantaged children and young people a musical instrument. After finishing their sessions, they go on to perform in community concerts to showcase their achievements. Musicus' ethos is to help build confidence, artistic talent and above all encourage children to have fun.



**I had been wanting to learn for a long while, but to have lessons, usually you would have to pay. At first, I started learning a couple of things but now I am doing songs of my own, which is really good.**

Frank – aged 10

## Practical help to leave the streets for good

St Mungo's Westminster SOS team travel across Westminster to find people sleeping rough and offer them a route away from the street. The funding is being used for a new recovery fund for small grants for essential items to allow people to take the next steps to rebuilding their lives.

This includes things like bedding and curtains so someone can leave a hostel and move into their new home, or a suit so they can attend job interviews and find work. This money will give people the best possible start in their new life and ensure that they not only recover from homelessness, but never become homeless again.



**My state of mind has changed and I am looking forward to a future living with a purpose.**

St Mungo's client in Westminster



## Finding rough sleepers a home

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust believes that everyone deserves a home and supports people to find a place to live. The grant from Community Contribution Fund is helping ten rough sleepers in Westminster find accommodation and a place they can call a home.

**In the back of my mind I was thinking 'what do they want from me?' No one gives anything for nothing. It took me a long time to realise that they didn't want anything from me, other than for me to go away, but to go away in a nice way. Basically, to go and get myself sorted out and in accommodation. I've started to hold this place quite dear and become quite protective of it. Because I've seen what it can do for people. That's what it's done for me.**

Dennis, helped to find accommodation and is now on the St Martin-in-the-Fields return to work programme

// We are incredibly grateful to the people of Westminster for their donations which enable us to reach out to more entrenched rough sleepers and make a difference to their lives. //

Amanda Clark  
Riverside's Regional Operations Manager

These projects are just the start of awarding grants to help improve the lives of people living in Westminster. Thanks to your generosity, the Westminster Charitable Trust will continue to award money to projects that make a real difference to young people and the homeless.

The fund will also be used to help combat loneliness and isolation not just for older people but across the generations. For further information on the Community Contribution Fund visit: [westminster.gov.uk/westminster-trust](https://westminster.gov.uk/westminster-trust)

