

BARNWOOD TRUST
“helping to meet special needs arising from disability”

GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

www.barnwoodtrust.org

INDIVIDUAL GRANT SCHEME

This scheme provides “one-off” financial help to make life a little easier for people with long term disabilities.

We help people who live in Gloucestershire and have:

- **Serious physical disability** (including terminal illness but not remedial conditions) and/or
- **Chronic or persistent mental illness** (but not substance abuse) and/or
- **Serious learning disabilities** (formerly known as mental handicap)

and have

- a reduced quality of life because of disability
- a low income and
- an exceptional need they cannot afford

and

- little or no savings

In 2008 we helped nearly 800 Gloucestershire residents with disabilities from all ages, areas, background, race and gender.

HOW DO WE HELP?

GRANTS

We give financial support to meet an exceptional need for items which will improve a person’s quality of life, reduce anxiety and help maintain independent living. Past grants have included disability related equipment for use at home (e.g. riser/recliner chairs, bathing aids and rented stair-lifts), domestic appliances (e.g. cookers, fridges, freezers), bedding, furniture, house repairs, carpets, utility bills, travel, clothing, spectacles, holidays and personal contributions to Disabled Facilities Grants.

AMOUNTS INVOLVED

Grants usually range from £50 to £750, the average grant being about £300. In exceptional circumstances, we do make awards over £750.

FINANCIAL LOANS

Financial loans are sometimes made to help people meet their personal contribution to a Disabled Facilities Grant. A loan would be secured against the person’s property and become repayable under the terms agreed with each individual.

POWERED RISER-RECLINER CHAIR LOANS

These special chairs can really help someone who has a terminal condition, needs to rest during the day but has difficulty getting upstairs. After being cleaned and serviced, each recycled chair is issued on short term loan (usually up to six months). It is delivered (and collected when no longer needed) for a charge of £30 which must be paid before delivery.

HOW TO APPLY FOR HELP

We ask the person to apply through the social or health care professional (e.g. occupational therapist, health visitor, community psychiatric or district nurse) or other key professional who knows about the problem and what is required to assist. This is because we do not employ people who are qualified to give advice or help people decide what may be right for the person applying.

If the key person doesn't have our form, then the individual needing help can ask us to send a form. However, the application must be endorsed by the key person before it is sent back to us.

Then we normally make a home visit to discuss the application in the privacy of the person's own home. All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Once we have all the information we need, the application will be considered carefully and as quickly as possible. We try to get an answer and let the applicant know within ten working days.

PLEASE NOTE:

The scheme is only open to people who live in Gloucestershire. This does not include the County of South Gloucestershire.

We do not help people with problems relating to drugs or alcohol unless they also have physical disabilities or a diagnosed mental illness.

We do not help with funeral costs, medical equipment, private health care (i.e. assessment, treatment or medication), counselling or psychotherapy, top-up nursing home fees, private education, university tuition fees, council tax, court fines, house purchase, rent deposits, rent in advance, regular payments to supplement income or needs of non-disabled dependants or carers.

Someone applying is expected to have sought all the State help they may be entitled to before approaching the Trust.

Grants are not awarded retrospectively or when an item or service has been ordered before applying.

In certain circumstances, homeowners asking for help with structural repairs or alterations to their home, may be expected to consider available equity release schemes.

Grants Manager

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