

# The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

connecting people who care  
with causes that matter

Annual Report 2017 – 2018



Community Foundation  
NORTHERN IRELAND

# About Us



The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is a local, independent charitable foundation, connecting people who care with causes that matter. We help communities in need, drive social change and change lives, through impactful grant-making and by delivering innovative programmes.

**Supporting bespoke giving and providing philanthropic advice, we are a trusted, secure means through which donors choose how, when and where to give and we provide a range of management and grant-making services for charitable funds.**

Formerly known as Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and founded in 1979 with a grant of £1m from the government, the Foundation has awarded over £100m to date to groups and organisations across NI.

Rooted in a tradition of community connection, risk taking and innovation, we live in the world of balancing what donors want to fund, what we think is important, and what communities are telling us is important.

The charitable sector in Northern Ireland has an estimated total income of £1.3 billion. Much of this income (70%+) comes from public and statutory sources. As a centre of expertise for the promotion and practice of giving, the Foundation expects to encourage more and new funding into the sector to support social and civic innovation, and communities in need.

Working closely with partners such as individuals, corporates, professional advisors, sister organisations and government, we encourage and advocate for a better environment and appetite to support strategic philanthropy in a mixed economy.

## £100 million

The Foundation has awarded over £100m to date to groups and organisations across NI



## £1.3 billion

The estimated income of the NI charity sector



## 70% (approximately)

of charity sector income comes from public and statutory sources



# Chief Executive's Report



Andrew McCracken

The year 17/18 was a year where the Foundation made significant progress across three mission critical areas as it reached the halfway point of its current three year strategy.

I am delighted to report that in 17/18 we were able to award funding of £1,412,586, and to encourage and facilitate generosity across a range of new funds which have quickly made an impact within communities across NI.

It is a testament to the hard work of Foundation staff and board that we were able to support over 36,000 people in 17/18 with funding to help tackle a wide range of issues including mental health, life skills, education, isolation, housing and access to services.

Looking at a few examples, our funding helped reduce isolation and disadvantage for 5,040 people. We supported 1,633 vulnerable people, with 129 achieving independent living and no longer requiring support. 578 refugees and asylum seekers took part in community activity, 226 for the first time.

We have a target of supporting 2000 communities by April 2019, and having supported 1,296 communities between 16/17 and 17/18, we are on our way to realising that goal.

Foundation Staff continued working with grantees on our Big Lottery Fund NI supported Space & Place Programme to build amazing spaces across NI, including a vital new outdoor space in Boho and a vibrant community hub in Strabane. We are particularly pleased to have been a major part of establishing NI's first Autism Resource Centre in Dundonald through the Programme.

Building Change Trust (BCT) looked ahead to its final year of supporting change and transformation in the third sector. Whilst BCT is an independent charity formed with an award of £10 million from the Big Lottery Fund, I am proud that the Foundation has been able to play a key role in supporting them over the last 10 years.

I am particularly pleased that in 17/18 we were able to support BCT's Citizens' Assembly initiative and partner with them on the Community Innovators Programme which provided seed funding for organisations wishing to find new solutions to old problems. A number of new social enterprises and digital

products have been created from this collaboration and I am excited to see them go live in 18/19, and to take forward some of the Trust's work.

**As well as looking ahead to long-term goals, meeting immediate need and getting targeted funding to communities in distress was a crucial component of our funding in 17/18.**

August 2017 saw some of the worst flooding in living memory hit the North West, and we were able to launch an emergency appeal through the Acorn Flood Fund. We made £10,000 immediately available to communities and provided additional match-funding, raising over £46,460 to support some twenty-two community groups badly affected by the flooding.

Throughout the year we worked to make our funding more accessible for communities, and in the process, streamlined our grant application process, with the majority of applications now available online. To more effectively respond to need and to what people in NI have told us is important, we also tailored our unrestricted funds to better support some key issues, including Brexit, for which we established a Brexit Dialogue Fund.

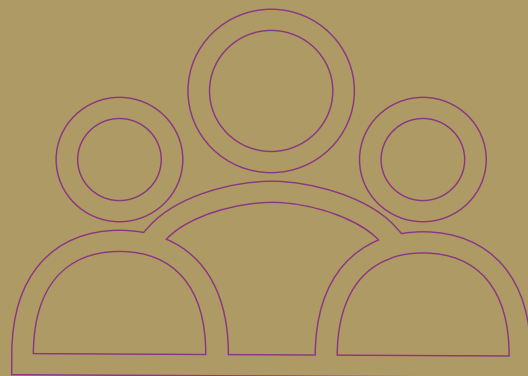
We also responded to the hardship faced by refugees and asylum seekers by providing bursaries for destitute asylum seekers. This fund is a poignant reminder that small amounts of funding are equally as vital as larger grants given that one of these bursaries enabled a father to buy a Christmas present for his child – something which he didn't think he would be able to do prior to receiving the bursary.

Meanwhile the Peace Impact Programme, a vital part of our peace building activities, which we deliver on behalf of the International Fund for Ireland, continued to deliver real and positive community transformation through sensitive interventions in areas that have not previously, or only partially, participated in peace building and reconciliation activities.



# 36,000

people supported in 17/18  
with funding for a wide range  
of issues



## Encouraging Generosity

The Foundation continued to encourage, recognise and support generosity in Northern Ireland and we were pleased to set up six new donor advised funds in 2017/18 across a range of issues and geographies.

Our work with professional advisors progressed during the year when we organised a number of events in partnership with professional and regulatory bodies – with Philanthropy Fortnight in May 2017 being a particular highlight. Whilst we have some way to go in encouraging planned and structured giving in NI, we are very encouraged by the increased profile of giving, and people's continued generosity.

## Community Leadership

Against a backdrop of increasing uncertainty for communities with Brexit and the continued suspension of the Assembly, the Foundation sought to provide support through a range of unique funds and initiatives based on civil action including the Pressure Group Fund and Social Justice Fund.

We are well on our way to achieving significant gains with regards to community leadership - notably through our Vital Signs Report which in 17/18 focused on key areas including mental health, and the Education System in NI. Following the report, we worked with donors to help target some of the issues identified, providing support where it was most needed and creating meaningful connections between donors and communities which will hopefully prove fruitful for the future.

We also endeavoured to develop stronger relationships with grantees including through a range of events such as our Brexit Seminar looking at the impact of Brexit on the community and voluntary sector. We brought together a range of groups working in support of asylum seekers and refugees leading to a more concerted effort to tackle the issues they face.

## The next chapter

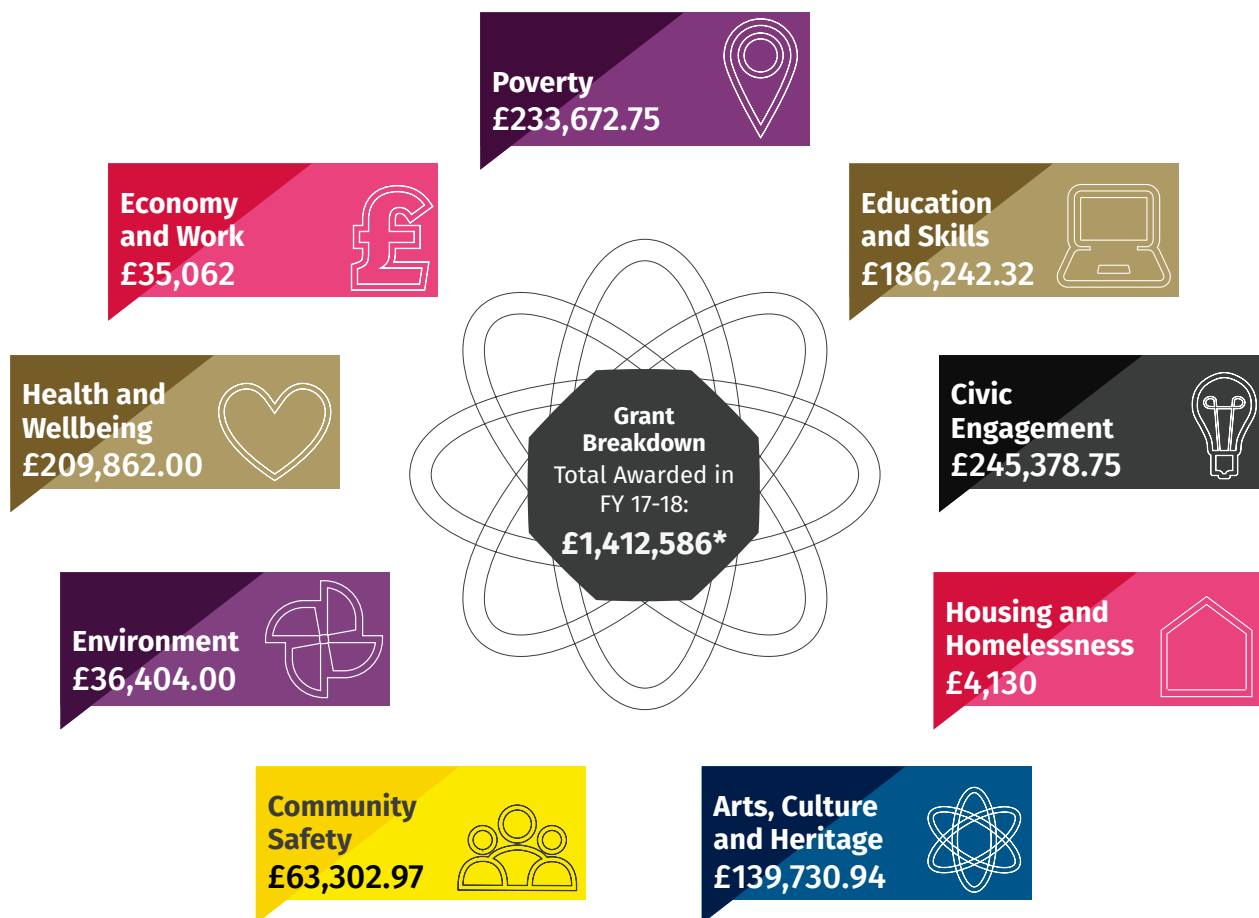
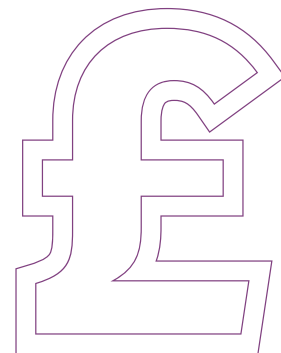
Looking ahead to 18/19, I can see a number of challenges and opportunities. Our Space & Place Programme will conclude its work supporting communities to develop new shared facilities on the site of underused or contested spaces - it is the last capital grants programme of its kind for the foreseeable future, and as such is another example of how the third sector is coming under increasing pressure with a decreasing amount of funding opportunities available.

Building Change Trust will also complete its mission having delivered £10 million to the sector in support of collaboration, sustainability and learning. However the end really is just the beginning. As a Foundation, supporting communities to thrive is written in our DNA, and we will take up the baton of innovative funding from BCT, and will continue to find new ways to support communities, harnessing our expertise to enable both large and small scale donors and funders to have an impact on communities who need it most.

**I am excited for what the future holds at a time when it really is all up for grabs given the current political climate. The Foundation has a strong track record of responding to community need, and we have ambitious plans for continuing to work innovatively with communities in 2019 and beyond.**

**Andrew McCracken**, *Chief Executive*,  
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

# Grant Breakdown 2017-18

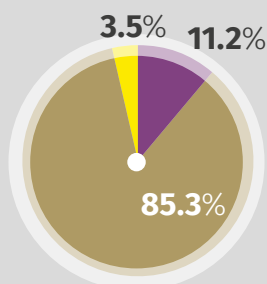


\*Figure for grants awarded appears lower in 17/18 due to large Space & Place awards made in previous years with final funding awarded in 16/17.

## Summary Statement of Financial Activities for Year Ended March 2018

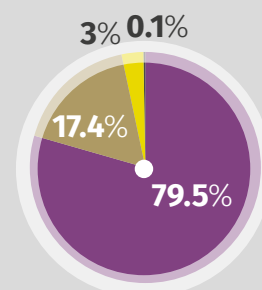
### INCOME

Donations	£1,019,886
Funding Received	7,746,686
Investment Income	£315,469
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£9,082,041</b>



### EXPENDITURE

Grants	£6,352,320
Programme Development and Support	£1,394,339
Fundraising and Communications	£235,604
Governance	£13,608
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£7,995,871</b>



# Chair's Summary



Maeve Monaghan

In a year of much uncertainty and a real lack of political leadership here, I am heartened to look back on the work of the Community Foundation in the past 12 months. There is no doubt that local independent and philanthropic funding is needed now more than ever.

There is much to be proud of in so many respects as we encouraged and facilitated generosity by bringing in new funds and continuing to build upon our service to donors. Both our grant-making and work with donors in 17/18 has helped ensure that we contributed greatly to our aim of connecting people who care with causes that matter.

**I am therefore delighted that we have been able to contribute to helping lessen that gap having secured **six new funds** which have already been making great strides towards supporting communities who need it most.**

These include individual donors and trusts who have chosen to work with us such as the ARN Foundation, the McCall Foundation, the Murlough Foundation, and the Karen Mortlock Fund. Their grants have supported a range of causes including learning disability, mental health, older people and social isolation.

As we refined our ability to target funding to where it was most needed, our Vital Signs report gave us some fantastic insights into the need for funding of mental health issues, as well as associated factors such as low confidence and isolation which we were able to use as a guide for donors wishing to make an impact on critical areas.

We have also used our connections and experience to help other funders reach into local communities including the Wesleyan Foundation which was established in 2017 to support various good causes throughout the UK and MARS which has made an impact in NI with its grants aimed at investing in local communities.

Alongside other Community Foundations across the UK we are keen to build our ability to be flexible and responsive to local crisis, so I was particularly proud that the Foundation's quick response meant we were able to provide essential support to communities in the North West affected by flooding in August 2017 when it mobilised a match-funding campaign to raise over £46,000 for affected community groups.

Alongside our work with donors, the Foundation also hosted a large number of events in 17/18 which have given us an opportunity to connect with the world of business and financial advisors, helping ensure the work of the Foundation is highlighted and strengthened by forging new relationships for the future.

The Foundation wants to nurture innovation, and in 17/18 this can be seen in our investment in the Citizens' Assembly which we feel has given communities a vital voice in the current political wilderness. Our independence from Government enables us to lead on initiatives like this and we hope to continue with similar projects in the future.

This desire for funding innovation also lies at the heart of a joint venture with Building Change Trust known as the Community Innovator's Programme, which has seen organisations being given the opportunity to develop new ideas for tackling old problems - with generous seed funding available.

I am pleased that both of these initiatives have seen the Foundation providing new and novel approaches to supporting communities, something which the Foundation has been striving for in its current three year strategy.

**In a year of many highlights, I was delighted to welcome broadcaster Jon Snow to Northern Ireland for a joint event with the University of Ulster in support of the NI Human Rights Fund, which the Foundation manages.**

This event not only helped raise vital funds, it also successfully highlighted the work being carried out by the benefiting organisations, including their role in examining the human rights issues posed by Brexit - a major external factor bringing uncertainty to many communities in 17/18.

## 25 events

hosted by the Foundation in  
17/18 connecting us with the world  
of business and financial advisors



The Foundation is supported by a committed staff and board and I would like to welcome new members to each. We are fortunate in having a wonderful board which is comprised of individuals from a variety of backgrounds including business, finance and communications, and our board has been strengthened further by the addition of David McCurley and David Gavaghan - both of whom bring a wealth of experience to the Foundation. I would also like to thank outgoing members for their dedication and support.

As we look ahead to 18/19, I know there is more to do to strengthen the Foundation for the years ahead and I look forward to seeing the impact the Foundation can continue to make in communities across NI.

**As we near the end of our current strategy, I know that one thing will continue and that is **our commitment to ensuring that we work tirelessly to help tackle poverty and inequality, and to promote a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive society.****

**Maeve Monaghan**, *Chair*,  
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

## LIST OF FUNDS & SUPPORTERS

Acorn Fund  
Ann McGeeney Trust Fund  
ARN Foundation  
Ballygrainey Fund  
Brockaghboy Community Benefit Fund  
Building Change Trust  
Carnhill Community Benefit Fund  
Cloonty Community Benefit Fund  
Comic Relief Community Cash  
Comic Relief Core Strength  
Community Arts Fund  
Corby Knowe Community Benefit Fund  
Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund  
David Ervine Fund  
Dunbeg Community Benefit Fund  
Dungannon Community Trust  
Dunmore Community Benefit Fund  
Energia 3 Windfarms Community Benefit Fund  
Energia Crighshane Community Benefit Fund  
Energia Longmountain Community Benefit Fund  
Fulton Fund for Destitute Asylum Seekers  
Global Learning Project  
Hope for More Foundation  
Human Rights Fund  
Inishative Community Benefit Fund  
Karen Mortlock Fund  
Local Giving Project  
Magilligan Fund  
MARS Goodness Knows  
Mike Fulton Fund  
Mike Moloney Fund  
Monnaboy Community Benefit Fund  
Murlough Foundation  
Older People's Fund  
One Small Step Fund  
Patron's Fund  
Peace Impact Programme  
Pears Foundation  
Raj Darshna Fund  
Rathsherry Community Benefit Fund  
RJ Hunter Fund  
Social Justice Grants  
Space & Place Programme  
Staff Trustee Fund  
Telecommunity Fund  
The McCall Foundation  
Thomas Devlin Fund  
Thornog Community Benefit Fund  
Ulster People's College Fund  
Wesleyan Fund  
Women's Fund  
Youthbank International

# Community Impact Through Grantmaking

The Community Foundation is a local independent charitable foundation. We help communities in need, driving social change and changing lives through impactful grantmaking and delivering innovative programmes.



As the gap between rich and poor widens and inequality in Northern Ireland is ever prevalent, the Foundation is committed to addressing the challenges, as well as supporting social entrepreneurs. Working in partnership with communities and donors, we encourage them to be proud of who they are, to work together, to be innovative and take risks in trying new solutions to problems.

## St Joseph's Centre For The Deaf



In July 2017 St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf received support from the Telecommunity Fund towards the costs of its lunchtime clubs. The project promotes social inclusion and active participation with members of the deaf community.

Explaining the importance of the funding Father Devlin said; "The project has been running weekly from September and provides an environment for people to learn new skills, promote inclusion and gives people an opportunity to participate in an activity with other like-minded individuals.

"The Deaf Community at the Centre have found these opportunities life giving and treasure their times together. Not to be alone through-out the year and especially at Christmas makes life worth living!"

## Jon Snow



In November 2017, Award winning journalist and news presenter Jon Snow took part in an 'In Conversation' event with Professor Paul Moore from Ulster University at the invitation of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund. Sharing some of the stories behind his career so far, Jon talked about the role of journalism in the age of 24 hour news, fake news and social media.

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland supports four organisations committed to realising the vision of the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement and the principles of democracy, equality and human rights which underpinned it as well as sharing Northern Ireland's lessons on peacebuilding internationally. It has more recently been challenging the threat to human rights posed by Brexit. A dinner was held after the event in support of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund which raised over £30,000. This money has been used to further the work of Human Rights organisations in NI.



# Our Grant Making 2017 - 2018

Between April 2017 and March 2018 we received:

**960** grant applications

Total amount requested  
**£3,892,918**

**473** grants awarded

Total amount awarded  
**£1,412,586**

We assessed grant applications **889\***

**40%**  
increase in  
applications



**268 more applications**  
received compared to  
previous FY 2016/17

**£8.683 million**  
requested in 2016/17

**18 more** grants awarded  
compared to FY 2016/17

\*Note: some applications deferred or to be presented at panel in FY 18-19, 10 have been withdrawn or cancelled since end of FY

**54%**

of assessed applications  
were successful

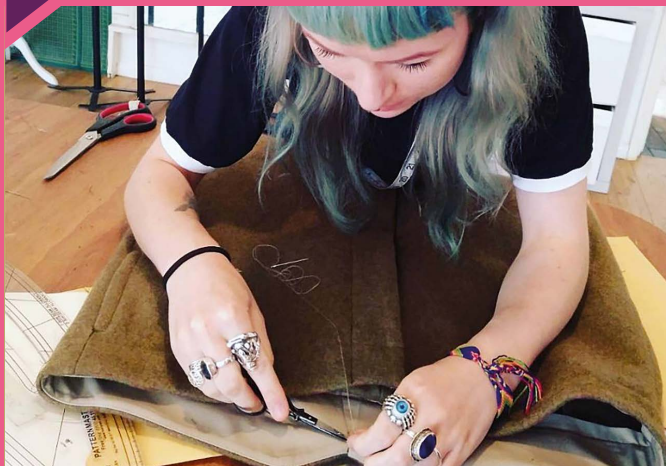


**720**

communities  
supported



## Women's Fund - Jude Leonard



Jude graduated in Fashion Design three years ago and had since really struggled to break into the costume industry as a costume maker. Having completed various internships and worked as a costume standby and trainee, she found it increasingly challenging getting work in a costume making workroom without any formal training in this area. Jude received funding towards the living expenses she needed whilst attending a specialised course. Her wish from the course was to work as a costume maker in Northern Ireland, a very difficult career to break into. Jude finished the course and secured a job working as a costume maker for a Large Scale TV show filmed in Belfast.

Jude says the funding proved vital: "Without the Women's Fund, living away from home would have been financially difficult, short courses like mine do not get the financial support they need even though they are for vocational purposes. It is fantastic that The Women's Fund could provide me with this support and I am so appreciative of this."

# Community Leadership

As a Community Foundation we believe we have a role to play when it comes to Community Leadership. The grants we make have the ability to empower citizens in their relationships with government, business and other sectors.



Whether through social justice grant-making such as our Pressure Group Fund, or convening conversations around issues such as destitute asylum seekers and refugees, or even through carrying out research into vital issues such as mental health, we want to help communities advocate publicly and

privately with both elected decision makers and donors on issues of concern. This work all contributes towards ensuring that funding is directed to where it is most needed, and to creating meaningful connections between communities and the sectors which impact their lives.

## Vital Signs



In October 2017, our Vital Signs report highlighted the fact that many communities here are struggling to cope with a range of mental health issues due to a lack of support and interventions.

Conflict related trauma, access to perinatal mental health support, and concerns about high rates of self-harm and suicide, are just a few of the issues communities raised with the Community Foundation as part of the research. Following the report's findings, the Foundation announced £50,000 in grants specifically for mental health projects made possible thanks to the ARN Foundation.

### Convening on refugee & asylum seekers



Over the past twelve months we have increased our engagement with a range of organisations working on issues facing asylum seekers and refugees.

This has included bringing people from the sector together for conversations on the best ways to offer support, and to create a space where ideas and solutions can be developed working in partnership with each other, guided by what refugees and asylum seekers tell us are the major issues they experience.

These relationships have been valuable in enabling a cohesive and sustained effort at offering support to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees, and have inspired our new destitute asylum seekers and refugees awards scheme which offered £500 to individuals in recognition of the contribution made by those newly arrived and those living here for some time who have despite their own difficult circumstances, been actively engaged in supporting others in many ways. We look forward to this work and these relationships continuing in 18/19.

### Brexit Conference

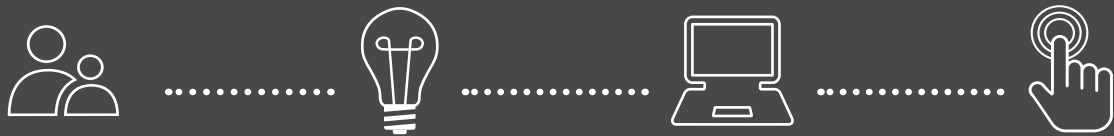


In March 2018, we brought together organisations who received funding from our Brexit Dialogue Fund to find out how communities are faring in the midst of the uncertainty created by the decision to leave the EU.

We had funded ten very diverse projects, and heard the views from a range of voices including young people, the BME community and rurally isolated communities. These conversations have given us a good understanding of the concerns felt in communities and have provided information essential in our work with donors and grant-making.

# Encouraging & Facilitating Generosity

The Foundation hears from across NI the issues that people are facing within their communities. We work to encourage and facilitate generosity connecting people who care with the causes that matter, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.



We live in a community where there is significant poverty and inequality - a boy born in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland could expect on average to live 7 years less than one born in the least deprived, there are 100,000 children living in poverty and more than half of our households spend 10% of their income keeping warm.

## Acorn Flood Fund



## £46,640.65

the amount the fund raised.  
Grants were given ranging in size  
from £1,000 to £2,500



In August 2017, 63% of the average August rainfall fell within an eight to nine hour period. When the stories of utter chaos and destruction in Derry, Eglinton, Drumahoe, Claudy, The Glenelly Valley and the wider North West region began to filter through, we decided to launch an emergency Acorn Fund Flood Fund with a match fund of £20,000.

This was the first local emergency fund the Community Foundation had established and we were able to use our local knowledge and partner with Derry City and Strabane District Council who were on the ground co-ordinating support with the community. The fund raised £46,640.65 and has supported 22 community organisations badly affected by the flooding with grants ranging in size from £1,000 to £2,500.

Huge thanks to everyone that donated to the Acorn Flood Flood. Your donations enabled some of the costs of replacement of premises, equipment, resources, clear up and clean up, relocation expenses and other significant costs. In times of crisis we have seen that communities do rally round, and although the scale of destruction drew most of the attention, it is important to highlight that local people not only put their arms around each other but also physically saved life and limb.



## Facilitating Generosity



## Reaching the projects and causes that matter most to people is a core service of the Foundation.

We continued to advise over 60 individuals, families, businesses and trusts to give with impact across NI, and we worked with a range of professional advisors to help encourage more strategic and effective giving. We engaged our donors in conversations with the sector, and educated about impactful giving.

Our Champions and Ambassadors help to raise the profile of our work and in June and December we celebrated the work of our donors and grantees together at Clandeboyne Estate and Belfast City Hall.

New partnerships with Insider Media and Business Eye attracted match funding from the Foundation, and raised much needed resources for charitable projects, whilst a series of project visits and bespoke training events encouraged and facilitated generosity.

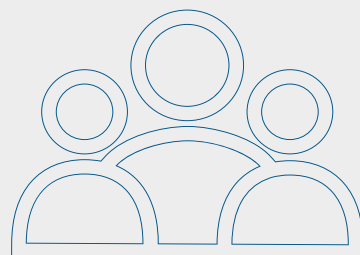
Our knowledge and experience of local issues means that we often work with other funders to deliver programmes creating impact where it is most needed in our community.

17/18 has been a remarkable year for these programmes, and has seen the delivery of some amazing initiatives across NI. Programmes and partnerships included the Space & Place Programme and Building Change Trust both of which are funded by the Big Lottery Fund NI. We also act as managing agent for the international Fund for Ireland's Peace Impact Programme where we continued to support peace-building activities across NI. Other partnerships throughout the year included support for YouthBank International which focused on youth-led grantmaking, and LocalGiving which supported local charities and community groups to fundraise.

## Programmes



# Our grant making has had the following impact



**36,763**  
people supported

**739**  
children and  
young people

**250**  
long term  
unemployed

**335**  
men

**140**  
older people

**84**  
with learning  
disabilities

**40**  
homeless

**675**  
**volunteers**  
participated in  
projects

**5,862**

connected with the **arts,  
culture and heritage**



**595**

accessed and **engaged with the  
environment** and public spaces



**6,276**

advanced their  
**health and wellbeing**



**46**

activities took place to **enhance people's  
physical, mental and emotional health**



**100**

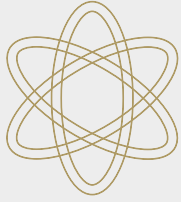
**engaged in sport and exercise**  
who had not before, and 397 had increased  
access to sport, exercise and leisure activities



**672**

reported **significantly improved health  
and well being** as a result of our funded projects





**5,040**

**reduced isolation and disadvantage** and had improved access to services and facilities



**3,144**

people attended regular social activities, 387 for the first time



**4,677**

**felt less isolated**



**1,633**

**vulnerable people were supported**, with 129 achieving independent living and no longer requiring support



**2,674**

accessed and reported **improved community facilities**



**838**

accessed support services, **308 for the first time**



**1,254**

improved their life skills, education, employability and enterprise



**578**

refugees and asylum seekers took part in community activity, 226 for the first time



**17,586**

maximised their ability to strengthen community cohesion



# connecting people who care with causes that matter




A **gift in your will** to the  
Community Foundation  
can make a **lasting impact**

For further information or media queries please contact:  
[info@communityfoundationni.org](mailto:info@communityfoundationni.org)

**communityfoundationni.org**

 @CFNIreland

 @CommunityFoundationforNorthernIreland

Community House,  
Citylink Business Park,  
6a Albert Street, Belfast, BT12 4HQ

**T 028 9024 5927**

Unit 4, Ráth Mór Centre  
Bligh's Lane, Cregan  
Derry/Londonderry BT48 0LZ

**T 028 7137 1547**

Registered Charity Number: NIC105105



UK COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS

MEMBER



Community Foundation  
NORTHERN IRELAND