

# Fundraising News

Welcome to Southend in Sight's new slim-line edition of Fundraising News.

Back in March when the country went into lockdown, the outlook for our finances did look quite bleak. As a small local charity with no statutory funding, we did wonder how we would raise enough money to keep our services running.

Thanks to the generosity of both local and national organisations, we have received emergency funding from: Thomas Pocklington Trust, National Lottery, Essex Community Foundation, Will Charitable Trust, Fowler Smith & Jones Trust, Sport England and Tesco. These grant donations will help to keep us afloat for some months.

We are lucky too that some local groups have been in a position to support our work. Leigh Rotary Club has made a substantial donation, and the Southend Emergency

Fund (SEF) grant has enabled us to purchase essential PPE equipment to make safe deliveries to the most isolated and vulnerable visually impaired people in our community. The SEF were so impressed with our work, that they have since made a further donation to enable us to send out over 100 resource packs to adults containing partially sighted bags, lanyards and badges, black pens, signature guides and bump-ons.



Over 20 visually impaired children have also received bespoke activity packs (pictured above) containing cloth bags to colour in, scented pens, butterflies, dinosaurs and even cress seeds to grow at home.

Our charity shop has always been a great source of income to help fund our work. We are lucky enough to receive fantastic donations from the local community and our volunteers, led by Shop Manager Lois, create a wonderful atmosphere for our customers to shop in.

After 3 months of being shut, we were happy to reopen in June with hand sanitiser, floor signage, till point guard and limits to customer numbers in place. We are pleased to report that our customers are flocking back and feel safe and ready to spend their money with us!



Lois has been busy creating her window displays (her holiday themed one is pictured above) to entice customers in. Meanwhile,

our volunteers, after receiving appropriate health and safety training, have returned to man the till, sort and steam donations and even manage the flow of traffic into the shop!

Our popular fundraising events are cancelled for the foreseeable future and while they do raise money for the charity, they also provide an opportunity for our supporters to get together – something that we are all missing at this time.

We can offer online talks to any group or organisation that wishes to hear from us about our work, and you can, of course, fundraise on our behalf. Just look at how much Captain Sir Tom Moore raised for our wonderful NHS!

You can always donate to us on a monthly basis via our £5 monthly lottery – the Diamond Club. For more information on this and any other fundraising queries, please call **Catherine** on **01702 34 21 31**.