

# Fundraising News

Welcome to Southend in Sight's winter edition of Fundraising News.

It has been a difficult time for all charities countrywide over the last 6 months, and we know that the next few months and even years will be challenging for us to raise the funds to keep our services running.

We count ourselves lucky to have built up the trust of both local and national funders over the last 5 years and would like to extend our thanks to all of them for their ongoing support. We know how important the service we provide is to the local visually impaired community, but it is especially gratifying when grant funders understand it too.

We are particularly pleased to be supported by the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Essex Community Foundation and the Will Charitable Trust, all of whom have granted extra funds to

Southend in Sight during the pandemic.

Since our last update, we have been relying on the income from our charity shop to see us through, although this was closed on 5 November along with all non essential retailers. Our volunteers, led by Charity Shop Manager Lois, have all gone above and beyond in trying to maximise sales. Our spooky Halloween window (pictured below featuring ghoulish garments), garnered particular praise from our regular customers.



Just before the second lockdown, we had very little time in which to dress an early Christmas window, organise and display our Christmas stock and create a Christmas grotto (pictured below) in our currently out-of-action changing room. We rose to the challenge and managed to take £924 in just 3 days!



Lockdown has meant that we have had to become more creative in generating income. We now have a “call and collect” service operating from our shop window. Passers-by can call and pay for an item they see in the window and collect from our side entrance. If you happen to be walking past and see something you like – we have an array of fantastic Christmas jumpers,

decorations and gifts on offer – then please call us on **01702 34 21 31** to pay for your goods and book your collection slot. Simple!

In with this newsletter is a donation form for anyone that is able and willing to send us a gift. Now more than ever we need your help in raising funds to keep our essential services running. Every little helps, and if you can gift aid it, we can claim an extra 25% on top of your donation as well.

We can offer online talks to any group or organisation that wishes to hear about our work, and you can, of course, fundraise on our behalf. Why not take on a challenge over the winter months and set up a “Just Giving” page for friends and family to sponsor you?

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**.