

How we help

SUPPORT NETWORK

Institution of MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

The Benevolent Fund



Stuart Aitken has cerebral palsy, cannot sit or walk unaided and has limited communication. Support Network has helped with

equipment including a specialist buggy and an adapted vehicle, allowing the family more freedom to get out and about. His father, Robert Aitken said: "Stuart requires 24-hour care for all his needs which, as parents, we provide. However, we consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have a son with such a happy nature who is always full of fun and giggles. We contacted the Fund as a last resort, never really expecting any success with our request, and it was a breath of fresh air to find an organisation that could provide assistance without the usual fight. Support Network has helped enormously to enrich not only our son's life, but the whole family's life and for that we will always be extremely grateful."

ARCHITECTS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



Rob has a degenerative muscle disease. ABS helped him to purchase specialist mobility equipment so that he could get around and continue to practice as an architect. Rob says "I

want to continue working as long as I can, and the new wheelchair is invaluable around the office. When I was diagnosed with a degenerative muscle disease I did not look too far into the future. Things got worse but my wife and I dealt with each issue as it arose: stairlift; wheelchair, adapting the house, etc." With advice from an ABS Welfare Officer and some financial assistance to supplement State support, Rob was able to purchase a heavily adapted Fiat Multipla and a new wheelchair with specially adapted controls.

comect

Jon was made redundant in his thirties as a result of several multiple sclerosis relapses.

IET Connect paid him a monthly grant towards living costs and prescriptions and advised him on state benefits. "It was a big shock going from earning a reasonable salary to suddenly not having an income. When you're working, you just concentrate on doing the job and getting on with life. You don't think that you will ever need to turn to IET Connect for help, but they have proved to be my safety net. Just knowing that they are there really helps when you're facing a difficult situation." Jon is now working again for a pharmaceutical device development company and no longer needs help.



About us

Current members of Property Benevolent Funds include:

the benevolent fund
of the institution of civil engineers

comect
The IET Benevolent Fund

LionHeart
FOR RICS MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

ARCHITECTS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



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Registered Charity Nos
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PROPERTY BENEVOLENT FUNDS

We are here to help you

Who are the **PROPERTY** BENEVOLENT FUNDS?

PBF (Property Benevolent Funds) was established in 2007 as a joint venture by five benevolent funds, all of which are registered charities, to raise awareness of the help that they are able to provide to members (and the dependants of members) engaged in the property and construction industries who experience difficulties including bereavement, accident, ill-health, disability, the separation of families or problems in retirement.

PBF provides charitable help through grants and loans, advice, information and counselling, and in some cases through the provision of residential care and sheltered housing.

Well over a million professional members and their families, from birth to over 100 years of age, are eligible for our support. They could benefit from the services provided:

- Welfare benefits and referral to debt and legal advice
- Information and counselling
- Residential care and sheltered housing
- Visiting and befriending
- Assistance with daily living expenses
- Equipment for disabled living
- Employment, coaching and mentoring advice
- Community, residential, nursing and respite care
- Financial help

How we help

LionHeart At the age of 24 Piers suffered a horrific snowboarding accident. One minute he was a fit, active young man and the next he had severe spinal injury - tetraplegia – leaving him unable to walk, and with limited arm and hand function, which means he will remain a wheelchair user for the rest of his life. Piers spent 18 months in the spinal injuries unit at Stoke Mandeville hospital and a further 12 months in a nursing home whilst his Local Authority adapted a suitable property for disabled living. He now lives in the adapted house with a resident carer. He has developed keen interest in gardening and is now following a diploma course in Art and Design. A few years ago Piers took part in a 400km charity cycle ride from Mount Kenya to Lake Victoria alongside other disabled hand cyclists and able-bodied cyclists. LionHeart continues to give financial help to Piers.



comect Mike is in his thirties and was facing redundancy; he contacted IET Connect for legal advice. "The legal helpline was great. When I went in to negotiate my redundancy package, I knew what my rights were and what my employer was and wasn't allowed to do."

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Mark was left paralysed from the waist down following spinal surgery to remove a tumour. Grants and loans from the Fund helped convert the Greenwood's bathroom and provide essential equipment such as a standing frame, a specially adapted vehicle and a new wheelchair. Although the hospital recommended that Mark have a new wheelchair, the NHS could only offer a voucher for part of the cost of the preferred chair. Mark said: "I was determined to be as mobile and independent as possible but to continue to improve I needed some specialised rehabilitation kit at home. I had not been able to work for a year and we were living on savings. Support from the Fund allowed me to progress in terms of my fitness, and to get back to work as an independent consultant."

How we help

the benevolent fund
of the institution of civil engineers

The Benevolent Fund of the Institution of Civil Engineers owns thirty-three properties at Mill Hill Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The properties are designed for ICE members and/or their dependants in need and are suitable for those that can live independently Set around formal gardens and an ornamental pond, the houses and flats provide a tranquil haven for any member in need who is struggling to find suitable accommodation.

"I am so looking forward to moving to Mill Hill Close. I really do feel exceptionally lucky... It just proves that good things can happen even later in life."



Had somebody told me 6 months ago that I would be enjoying the quality of life that I now do; I would have said that they were dreaming. Living in the straitened circumstances as I was, and with no prospects to change it, this is indeed a dream come true. I am quite overwhelmed by the generosity that has been afforded me and am most grateful."



LionHeart

Ray was 39 when he developed a severe heart condition and retired from work on grounds of ill-health. Ray is married with 2 young children. If he is to survive long-term he will need a heart transplant, but his prognosis is not good. Just imagine what that means to a young family. Ray's wife works part-time. He receives disability benefits and a pension but their income and life-style has changed drastically. LionHeart provided the family with much needed holiday where they could spend some quality time together – they are seen here during their trip to Disneyland Paris. They also provided grants to help with daily living expenses, and regular telephone counselling for Ray. The family greatly appreciate the support and friendship of LionHeart's volunteer representative and staff at this difficult time in their lives.