



LOWES

LOWES  
FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT  
CHARITY COMMITTEE

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Annual Report for Year Ended  
31 December 2018

As an established business Lowes is in the fortunate position of being able to not only acknowledge its social responsibilities, but to also provide support to a wide range of charitable causes. This is achieved through allocating a percentage of annual profits, as well as other initiatives including staff sponsored and supported events.

Our account with the Charities Aid Foundation (Registered Charity Number 268369) also benefits from contributions from third parties, being redirected product co-operation and distribution fees that would be due to Lowes but where the investor is a Lowes client.

Each member of the Lowes team nominates a preferred UK registered charity which will receive a minimum annual donation and new clients to Lowes are now asked to nominate or, select a charity to benefit. Lowes has continued to support staff as they participated in the Great North Run, Great North Swim, ziplines and sponsored walks in aid of charities. Beyond that, support is given at the direction of the Lowes Charity Committee with the funds coming either directly from the Lowes business bank account or, via the Charities Aid Foundation.

The Lowes Charity Committee comprises of four Lowes people who are volunteers from a range of departments within the business:

Mrs Belinda McFarling  
Miss Molly Clavering  
Mrs Dawn McDonald  
Mrs Mailryn Clarke

Meeting on a bi-monthly basis to consider funding requests and to review member research on proposals, the Committee has the authority to make decisions and to determine the level of funding that each charity receives.

Whilst many well-known national and

international charities are supported, where possible the Committee look to support charities at a grass roots level, where it is hoped that the funding will make a real difference to specific services or causes.

This year, Lowes asked new clients to nominate a charity of their choice for our support. So far, this initiative has resulted in over £12,000 being donated across multiple causes.

We are grateful that we are able to support many causes, but we appreciate that ours, is to a large extent, simply a 'cheque book charity' and many committed individuals dedicate much of their free time and more, supporting charities close to their hearts.

An additional purpose of the Committee is to embed the culture of charitable giving within the company and to raise employee awareness of the many, such unsung heroes who freely give their time and effort to help others less fortunate than themselves.



BELINDA MCFARLING  
LOWES CHARITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



As diamond sponsors to The Sunshine Fund, Lowes has continued to build upon our relationship through fundraising events and support. As a charity that helps children with disabilities and life-limiting illnesses to receive specialist equipment, that they would otherwise not be able to secure funding for, we are justifiably proud that our donation has provided comfort and greater accessibility for many children. This included specialist trikes, ipads with dedicated learning apps and powered wheelchairs designed to accommodate those with spina bifida.

Lowes has proudly supported Tyneside Cinema by funding their Dementia Friendly Screenings; one screening per month is held for those with dementia, their families and their carers. Screenings are made more welcoming by training staff as Dementia Friends, covering mirrors, ensuring the cinema remains slightly lit and not too loud, putting up more signage and padding nearby columns. Lowes has funded the screenings for 6 months.

My New Hair offers support and advice to individuals suffering from medical hair loss, training hairdressers to customise wigs and provide patients with hair aftercare advice following chemotherapy. Lowes' donation provided training for 100 new stylists to learn how to personally individualise wigs. Similarly, The Little Princess Trust, a nationwide charity which issues wigs free-of-charge to children with cancer, received a donation enabling 10 children to receive wigs.

Following a donation to The Percy Hedley Foundation, Hedleys North Counties school now have the resources to develop an outdoor area to provide children with cerebral palsy, communication impairments, sensory impairments and complex learning needs a safe environment to play in. The area

will allow children to explore, gain valuable physio-therapy and learning opportunities.

Centrepont is a youth homelessness charity which offers accommodation, health support and practical guidance to those aged 16-25. Lowes backed the cause by funding a safe warm place for 160 young homeless people to stay for a night.

As part of our local Christmas donations, Lowes donated to Crisis which has enabled 150 people to receive a bed for the night, 3 course Christmas meal, a shower, health check and expert advice. The People's Kitchen were also able to supply 300 Christmas meals, following a similar donation.

Lowes has also continued to support Search, a charity which provides leisure activities, counselling and support services for older people who have become isolated and lonely. Lowes has funded, for the entire year, the 'buy and bite' scheme. This allows door-to-door transport for elderly people to get their food shopping. The buy and bite scheme is the only way some of these people are able to leave their houses to get food; they can't afford any transport and they don't have any family or friends to rely on. Search also received a donation towards their community support and volunteering services.

Throughout the year, Lowes helped several client causes; Community Safety Uganda has objectives to create a safe, secure and sustainable environment for the communities of Uganda. Lowes funded two volunteers to travel to Uganda, to deliver a school education programme so children can learn about fire safety, with the aim of reducing fire related deaths and injuries.

A complete list of the charities we supported in 2018 is overleaf.

Throughout the course of 2018, the Lowes Charity Committee was in the fortunate position to provide over £100,000 of financial support to the following charities (UK Registered Charity Numbers shown):

- Action for Children - 1097940
- Alzheimer's Research UK - 1077089
- Alzheimer's Society - 296645
- Anthony Nolan - 803716
- Ark on the Edge - 1116552
- Arthritis Research UK - 207711
- Balham Vineyard Church - 1162655
- BBC Children in Need - 802052
- Bloodwise - 216032
- Blue Cross - 224392
- Blyth Valley Disabled Forum - 1076929
- Braintrust - 1114634
- Breast Cancer UK - 1138866
- British Heart Foundation - 225971
- British Red Cross - 220949
- Butterwick Hospice - 220949
- Cancer Fund for Children - 20142681
- Cancer Research UK - 1089464
- Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) - 1050845
- Cash for Kids - 1122062
- Centrepoint - 292411
- Children North East - 222041
- Children's Heart Unit Foundation (CHUF) - 1160831
- Chronicle Sunshine Fund - 1133293
- Community Foundation Trust - 700510
- Community Safety Uganda - 1118765
- Crisis - 1082947
- Cystic Fibrosis Trust - 1079049
- Darlington & District Samaritans - 219432
- Dementia UK - 1039404
- Diabetes UK - 215199
- Down's Syndrome North East - 1061474
- Durham Wildlife Trust - 501038
- Eagles Community Foundation - 1112997
- Fighting All Cancers Together - 1130258
- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust - 1112023
- Genes for Jeans - 1141583
- Giraffe Conservation Foundation -
- Godden Charity - 1057301
- Gosforth and District Peter Pan Society - 227440
- Grace House North East - 1100682
- Great North Air Ambulance - 1092204
- Guide Dogs for the Blind - 209617
- Heel & Toe Children's Charity - 1125695
- Help for Heroes - 1120920
- Jerry Green Dog Rescue - 1155042
- LD:North East - 1054535
- LIVERNORTH - 1087226
- Lymphoma Action - 1068395
- M S Society - 1139257
- MacMillan Cancer Support - 261017
- Marie Curie - 207994
- Mary's Meal - SC022140
- Medecins Sans Frontieres - 1026588
- Mental Health Concern - 2073465
- MIND - 219830
- Momentum Skills (Rehab) - SC004328
- Morpeth Mental Health - 1124547
- Motor Neurone Disease Association - 294354
- My Name's Doddie - SC047871
- My New Hair - 1130815
- Newcastle Dog & Cat Shelter - 220506
- Newcastle Women's Aid - 1139393
- North East Promenaders Against Cancer (NEPAC) - 1048119
- North Music Trust - 1087445
- North of England Children's Cancer Research - 510339
- Northumbria Blood Bikes - 1166689
- Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust - 1152034
- NSPCC - 216401
- Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund - 1155322
- Parkinson's UK - 258197
- Percy Hedley - 515943
- Plastic Oceans - 1139843
- Polycystic Kidney Disease - 1160970
- Projects Aboard Foundation Limited - 5401312
- Prostate Cancer - 1005541
- Rap Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland - 508177
- Rare Disease Registry Framework (RDRF) - 526129
- RNLI - 209603
- RSPCA - 219099
- Ryedale Foodbank - 251549
- Search - 1159907
- SHAK - 1125159
- Sir Bobby Robson Foundation - 1057213
- Smile for Life - 1129935
- Special Olympics Gateshead - 800329
- St Oswald's Hospice - 503386
- St Teresa's Hospice - 518394
- Stannington First School - 1043698
- Street Pastors - 1127204
- Teenage Cancer Trust - 1062559
- The Bradley Lowery Foundation - 1174333
- The Dystonia Society - 1062595
- The Little Princess Trust - 1176160
- The National Autistic Society - 269425
- The Peoples Kitchen - 1036149
- The Percy Hedley Foundation - 515943
- The Salvation Army - 214779
- Thomas Marshall Education Fund - 1154635
- Tiny Lives - 1150178
- Toma Fund - 1142271
- Tyneside Cinema - 502592
- UCL Development Fund - 1135220
- Walk the Walk Worldwide - SC029572
- Washington Mind CIO - 1156010
- Washington Riding Centre - 1155770