

ANNUAL REVIEW

2024



Portsmouth City of Sanctuary



BreakOut Youth

South Wight Area Youth Partnership



Southampton City Farm



Nigel Atkinson Esq.
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire and HIWCF President

I am delighted to invite you to read the 2024 Annual Review for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation, of which I am proud to be President. HIWCF has again done a fantastic job throughout the year to ensure that the grants they deliver reach effective community groups that support the most vulnerable and deprived in our communities, this year awarding over a million pounds in grants.

Our region is a great place to live, but there are hidden pockets of deprivation. Even in perceived wealthier areas, many people face real struggles - whether it's low-paid or insecure work leading them to a food bank, being a carer or perhaps adjusting to sight loss in older age.

This is just the kind of vital work HIWCF supports through small, local charities and community groups who know their communities inside out. These groups are the very fabric of our society, offering support with passion and compassion - and often on a shoestring. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers, and generous donors together with the HIWCF Fundholders who made this work possible again in 2024.



Amelia Riviere DL, HIWCF Chair

I was thrilled to be appointed Chair of Trustees for HIWCF in December 2024 and am already enjoying the role enormously. Many of you will know Rebecca Kennelly MBE, who stepped down as HIWCF's Chair last year after nearly 15 years of service as a Trustee and the last five as Chair. She leaves an incredible legacy, and I much look forward to continuing her fantastic work.

Born in Hampshire, I've spent the last 18 years of my life here and raised my son here. My time as High Sheriff of Hampshire in 2023/24, following years in business, as a magistrate and as a charity trustee, gave me the chance to see the Foundation's impact first hand. I was deeply moved by the power of small grants to transform lives – especially for people often invisible to wider society but known and supported by grassroots community groups.

I'm particularly passionate about work supporting people experiencing homelessness, helping vulnerable young people access sport and outdoor opportunities, and rehabilitation within the criminal justice system. I value the local groups HIWCF supports for their deep understanding of the communities they serve.

This is an exciting time to lead the Foundation as we grow our funding and bring our new strategy to life. With your continued support, I believe we can grow our £15 million endowment – and our impact – even further.



Strengthening support for young people

In 2024, we significantly stepped up our support for young people leaving the care system, as part of a national initiative involving 16 Community Foundations. This enables us to offer grants to organisations working with care leavers and directly to young people themselves - helping with essentials like rent deposits, interview clothes, or furniture. This programme was facilitated by CCLA, one of our investment houses, enabling a national impact with funds available from a set of local authorities' funds they manage. We're extremely grateful to Sovereign Network Group (SNG), who generously match funded this programme and which also made £40,000 for cost of living alleviation work in late 2023 and early 2024.

On the Isle of Wight, we were delighted to expand Young Island Lives, helping young people move from education into work, thanks to a generous anonymous donor. In 2024 we worked on a partnership with Creative Island, to develop a programme funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund this year. This programme will fund projects that celebrate and protect the Island's unique heritage and culture, with grants of £5,000–£10,000 for community organisations.

Working innovatively for long term impact

In early 2024, we awarded a small round of grants in Portsmouth using funds from SEHCO, a local charity that sadly closed. This is one example of how we can support Trusts and Foundations when succession of Trustees becomes difficult. Through our Trust Transfer service, endorsed by the Charity Commission, we can also offer a safe, long-term home for funds, protecting the original aims while continuing to benefit the community.

We also began a new partnership with SWEF in 2024. Through this programme, we're making direct small grants to young people who've faced barriers in life to develop their own businesses. A small grant can open big doors - and we've been inspired by their creativity and determination.

To every Fundholder, donor and partner: thank you. Your support is powering real change across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

Looking ahead: growing philanthropy in our region

Alongside our core grant-making, this year we've taken time to plan for the future. Working with our Trustees, we've agreed a bold new long term strategy: to grow our endowment funds from supporters across our region so we can fund more of the vital work happening in our communities – forever.

The challenges our communities face, from rising poverty to complex needs, are not easing. That's why we've set a long-term ambition to double our endowment fund over the next 15 years.

With your help, we believe this is possible.



Enabling communities in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton to flourish

Despite many communities across our region experiencing economic challenges during 2024, HIWCF is proud to have awarded more than £1 million pounds worth of grants to help alleviate some of our communities' most pressing issues. We continued to see the impact of the cost of living crisis on people on low incomes as household staples continued to increase in price. There will be little change in 2025, with further increases in energy and other costs expected.

Our fundamental purpose is to help local communities to flourish by making charitable grants to community groups tackling poverty, disadvantage and inequality. HIWCF provides a professional route for philanthropists, funders and donors to make a lasting impact with their generosity, through our endowment model. We have appreciated the support of fundholders like Vivid and Sovereign Network Group in enabling us to make grants worth £255,000 on poverty alleviation.

In 2024, our 'Health & Wellbeing' impact theme received the biggest "share" of support. As a funder we recognise that people living in poverty face health inequalities. Our grants help to tackle this through community projects that provide both direct wellbeing services and signposting to wider health provision. We fund grassroots work such as a mental health support group for young people, or an Alzheimer's cafe helping to tackle isolation for participants and their carers.



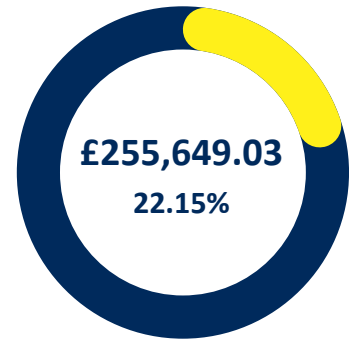
HIWCF is hugely grateful to its fundholders and donors for continuing to support small charities and community groups across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. Through one-off programmes and long term endowment Funds, our approach gives philanthropists and businesses the chance to enable local organisations to support people facing complex and challenging lives.

All our grants are awarded under one of six key impact themes explored in this report - in 2024, we awarded over £1.15 million in grants aligned to these themes. Our core theme, Poverty & Inequality, runs as a golden thread through all our work, recognising the deep interconnection between poverty and other social challenges.



Poverty & Inequality

Tackling poverty and inequality is at the heart of everything we do. We focus on supporting grassroots organisations across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight delivering funding where it's needed most. With rising financial hardship and increasing complexity of need, demand for community services has never been higher. Much of our funding in this theme supports direct poverty alleviation efforts - such as food banks - but all our grants across our six key impact themes help people facing poverty or inequality.



Of total funds awarded went towards Poverty & Inequality themed work

Support for care leavers grows thanks to partnership funding

Transitioning from the care system to independent adulthood presents significant challenges, and this can be a particular challenge for young people leaving State care. In Hampshire alone, more than 2,500 young people aged 18 to 25 face this critical juncture.

To address these challenges, HIWCF launched a three-year funding programme in 2024 in partnership with the Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT) and Sovereign Network Group (SNG). Originally £90,000 over three years, this fund was generously doubled by SNG. This programme provides targeted support to care leavers, helping them navigate the complexities of transitioning to adulthood and aiming to reduce the risk of poverty at this critical phase of their lives.

Becky Pollard, Director of Services at Youth Options, a charity funded through this programme, said: "Our aim with working with HIWCF through this grant round is to support care leavers to develop and maintain healthy relationships, creating safer, healthier and happier lives for themselves.

In a short space of time we have been able to achieve just that: we have increased the opportunities available to young care leavers, increased our key work services, allowing us to offer more activities and address more needs, and we have also planned in a residential trip for the New Year where we will be able to really solidify the work we have been doing.

We are incredibly grateful to HIWCF for the opportunity to make this possible."



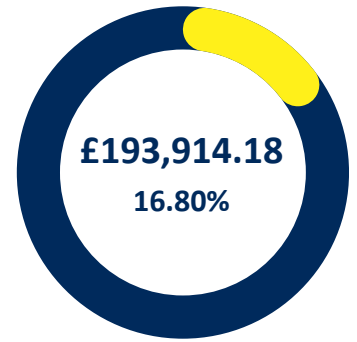
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We know from data that care leavers face particular challenges and normally lack secure support networks of family. Targeted interventions have the potential to make a real difference to their lives... we are delighted to be working to maximise the benefit of this funding with HIWCF

**Andrew Cooper,
SNG Head of Partnerships & Funding**

Flourishing Communities

Stronger communities are built through connection. Our Flourishing Communities themed grants support a diverse range of local charities and groups, funding activities from lunch clubs for older people to mentoring for young people excluded from school. These projects are focused on bringing people together, and our community groups create an incredible array of ways to achieve this, that work for their clients. These initiatives help reduce isolation, provide trusted support, and can help individuals transform their lives. By investing in local services, we help communities to move beyond just surviving to thriving and flourishing.



Reducing isolation for elderly people in Portsmouth

At the start of 2024, elderly people in Portsmouth who were experiencing isolation and struggling financially found companionship and support thanks to SPARK Community Space, a small charity making a significant impact in the local community. With a focus on inclusivity, SPARK welcomes those who feel marginalised, including those with medical conditions, disabilities, or limited qualifications.

A £5,000 grant from one of our Portsmouth endowment funds enabled SPARK to expand its community cafe and social activities helping to provide a sense of belonging and self-worth to older people who are struggling.

As Sandie Davis, Partnerships Co-ordinator at SPARK, notes: “We give people a place to belong, to be part of a community of support, to heal together and to spark back into life. We aim to help people rediscover their value and self-worth. We are incredibly grateful for funding from HIWCF which has allowed us to grow and develop our offer to the community. HIWCF supports us in providing everything we offer, the services we have are very informal and can sometimes be overlooked as ‘just a cup of tea’, we are so grateful that HIWCF recognises the value of what we deliver and understands the needs of the community we serve.”



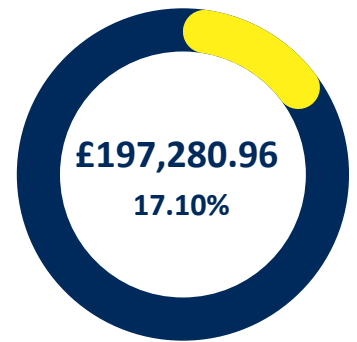
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We give people a place to belong, to be part of a community of support, to heal together and to spark back into life.

Sandie Davis, Partnerships Co-ordinator at SPARK

Employability & Skills

HIWCF invests in projects that empower people with the skills and confidence to succeed. From mentoring and employability training to early literacy support, our grants help individuals unlock opportunities for a better future. While employment fosters financial resilience for individuals and whole families, it also strengthens social connections, boosting overall wellbeing and community bonds. By funding innovative, tailored support, we help people build brighter, more secure futures.



Josh's story: from impossible to "I'm Possible"

Josh, who is autistic, had long struggled with employment, leaving him feeling anxious and defeated. Job interviews were overwhelming, and years of rejection took a toll on his confidence. But everything changed when he joined Positive Path Foundation (PPF), a charity supporting young people and adults with autism and other hidden disabilities.

Through PPF's drama workshops, Josh discovered his passion for acting, securing the lead role in a production of Aladdin. Encouraged by the PPF team, he auditioned for a short film and won the starring role in Snapshot, an award-winning short film production. This success boosted his self-esteem, proving that he could overcome barriers and achieve his goals.

With growing confidence, Josh sought employment in the arts. Funding from the Charles Burnett Memorial Fund enabled Josh to join an Employability Scheme offered by Positive Path Foundation and Minstead Trust.

With support in place, he received job application guidance and interview strategy training and has now secured a part-time role at a major regional theatre - a milestone he once thought impossible. Josh's journey highlights the urgent need for inclusive employment pathways. With tailored support, autistic adults can break through barriers, gain independence, and contribute their talents to the workforce.

Chris Hillman, Head of Empowering Employment, Minstead Trust said: "We are excited about the PPF members joining our programmes, they are exceptional young people who will be key to the workforce of the future. We are also glad to offer the social benefits of PPF to some of our participants, for many of them, this is their first step out of education so socialising with others on the same journey is paramount to their success."



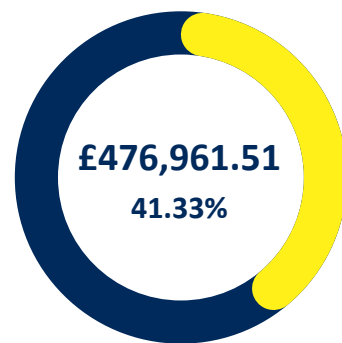
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I had hit rock bottom, and my confidence was at an all time low because of endless job rejections and blows to my self-esteem. Positive Path has transformed my life and for that I'm eternally grateful

Josh, PPF participant

Health & Wellbeing

We all know that good mental and physical health is key to a fulfilling life. Many people face challenges that prevent them from fully participating in their communities, and our grants fund essential support services that can help to break down these barriers. Whether improving mental wellbeing, promoting physical activity, or providing emotional support, our funding ensures individuals, families, and communities can lead healthier, more connected lives.



Four-legged friend helps Jasper gain a sense of wellbeing

Jasper is the proud recipient of Ability Dog, Jack, who provides everyday support both in his home and out in the community.

19 year old Jasper feels confident when he travels to university with Jack by his side. Without him, Jasper says he wouldn't have felt able to make the commute for his studies. Dogs like Jack are trained by a dedicated team of volunteers supported by a highly skilled team of Trainers at Isle of Wight based Ability Dogs 4 Young People. Ability dogs help people with disabilities or learning challenges feel more confident, safe and connected in the community, helping them achieve their aspirations and live fulfilling lives.

It takes two years to train a puppy to become an assistance dog. Once qualified, the dog goes on to support young people in the community with physical and learning disabilities or challenges including cerebral palsy, autism, diabetes and epilepsy.

These special dogs are not limited to supporting practical tasks such as picking up items, opening doors and helping their recipients to dress and undress. They also build confidence and self-esteem in their young person, enabling many to access further education or gain employment without needing support from a carer. Ability Dogs are fully funded throughout their working lives by the charity, which pays for food, equipment and vet bills – giving young people all the benefits without an added financial burden.



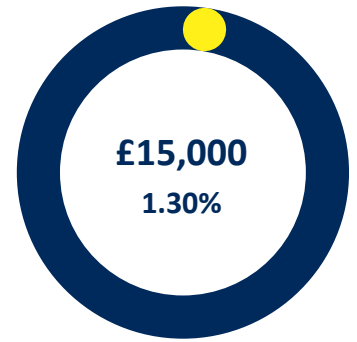
Jack came to me in 2020 and really helped me through the isolation of the pandemic. It's because of him that I feel safe to travel to the mainland for my studies. He gives me a sense of responsibility and he's a brilliant ice breaker. People ask me about Jack all the time and that really helps me to make new connections and talk to people.

Jasper, recipient of Ability Dog, Jack, from Ability Dogs 4 Young People



The Environment

By investing in environmental initiatives, HIWCF aims to invest in the futures of our local communities. We support local projects that protect and enhance our natural spaces, but we want to do more. With additional funding, we could expand our impact by empowering communities to tackle their own climate challenges and create a greener, more sustainable region. If you can support this work, we'd love to hear from you.



Growing futures: the Nature Nurture Project

The Nature Nurture Project run by Andover Trees United is helping young people reconnect with the environment while gaining valuable life skills. Supported by HIWCF, the project invites at-risk and disadvantaged young people to design and lead their own environmental initiatives at Harmony Woods in Andover.

Through hands on conservation, training, and creative activities, participants develop a deeper understanding of the natural world while improving their health, wellbeing, and future prospects by developing key life skills like teamwork and communication. The Nature Nurture project, which was awarded £7,035 from the Including Communities programme, is fostering the next generation of environmental stewards.

A young participant of the project said: "I like volunteering with Andover Trees United because it's about getting outdoors and getting involved. It's also great to socialise - everyone has a really good sense of humour! I've learned outdoor skills like mulching and even archaeology in the summer."

The impact goes beyond learning about the environment. As one spokesperson shared, the pressures of exams weighed heavily on participants in June: "Some arrived looking despondent, but pond dipping and leaf bashing in the fresh air turned them around. Their enthusiasm was infectious as they spotted tadpoles growing legs and mastered wood splitting techniques to craft mallets for their next Young Carers camp."

By investing in young people today, Nature Nurture is ensuring a greener, more engaged future for all.



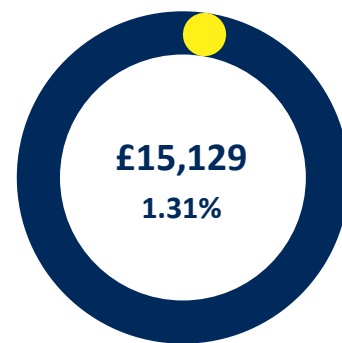
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I like volunteering with Andover Trees United because it's about getting outdoors and getting involved. It's also great to socialise - everyone has a really good sense of humour! I've learned outdoor skills like mulching and even archaeology in the summer.

Nature Nurture project participant

Crime & Safety

At HIWCF, we fund community based interventions that help to reduce crime and support individuals and communities affected by its impact. From youth diversion programmes to victim support services, our grants enable local organisations to build safer, more resilient neighbourhoods. With additional funding, we could expand this vital work - supporting communities to tackle the root causes of crime and create safer places to live, work and thrive. If you're able to support this work, we'd love to hear from you.



Supporting young men at risk in Portsmouth

A Band of Brothers (ABOB) is a community group dedicated to guiding young men towards fulfilling their potential, building positive connections, and finding purpose. Through structured mentorship, ABOB supports young men aged 18-25 who are involved with, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system in Portsmouth.

With a grant of £8,500 from HIWCF through the Moneybarn Social Impact Fund, ABOB is able to deliver a three-stage mentoring programme, designed to help young men transition from adolescence into responsible adulthood. The journey begins with a 10 week one to one mentoring programme, followed by an intensive Rights of Passage (ROP) weekend. The final stage is a 12 week mentoring programme, focusing on self-awareness, personal responsibility, and setting life goals around financial independence, healthy relationships, and community contribution.

Mentoring is delivered by trained volunteers, many with their own lived experience of the kind of issues these young men face. Weekly group development sessions take place at the Havelock Community Centre in Portsmouth, fostering a sense of belonging and accountability.

Tony Hill, Volunteer leader for ABOB said: We provide a safe space for these young men to share experiences, get to understand themselves and what has led them to this point, and then through our rights of passage weekend and quest for community programme, we support them in taking steps to become the men they want to be.

The impact is clear: young men who engage with ABOB report feeling more connected, accountable, and hopeful about their future.



“

ABOB has helped keep me on the straight and narrow by helping me see I'm accountable for my actions.

Anonymous participant, ABOB

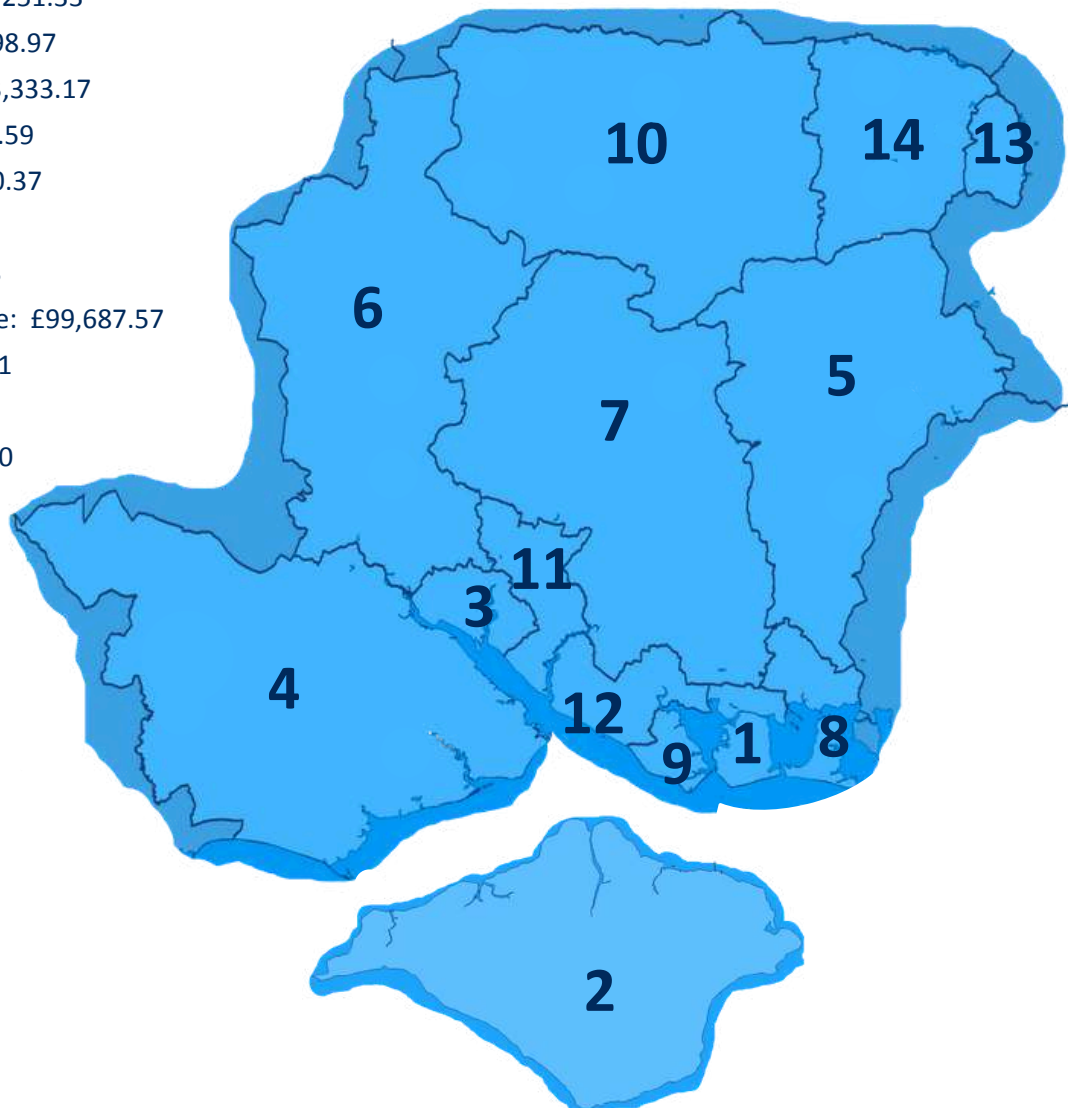
For the year ending 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2,921	260,121	16,481	279,523
Investment Income	16,113	6,037	354,583	376,733
Total Income	19,034	266,158	371,064	656,256
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	83,750	-	-	83,750
Charitable Activities	324,912	1,087,014	-	1,411,926
Total Expenditure	408,662	1,087,014	-	1,495,676
Operating Income	(389,628)	(820,857)	371,064	(839,420)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	(154,737)	1,407,941	1,253,204
Net (expenditure)/income	(389,628)	(975,594)	1,779,006	413,784
Transfers between funds	257,305	948,159	1,205,464	-
Net movement in funds	(132,323)	(27,435)	573,542	413,784
Fund balances brought forward	457,688	455,028	15,238,795	16,151,511
Fund balances carried forward	325,365	427,593	15,812,337	16,565,295

HIWCF funding reaches all corners of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

This map shows how our grant funding was spread across the region during 2024.

1. Portsmouth: £241,154.37
2. Isle of Wight: £200,501.48
3. Southampton: £120,251.33
4. New Forest: £258,198.97
5. East Hampshire: £13,333.17
6. Test Valley: £33,595.59
7. Winchester: £22,360.37
8. Havant: £34,706.94
9. Gosport: £30,553.63
10. Basingstoke & Deane: £99,687.57
11. Eastleigh: £22,365.71
12. Fareham: £4,220
13. Rushmoor: £3,700.00
14. Hart: £7,004.36



HIWCF Team

HIWCF President

Nigel Atkinson Esq,
His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire

President of Isle of Wight Community Fund

Mrs Susie Sheldon,
His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight

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Thank you to our generous donors

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Nicholson Family Fund
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre Fund
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Portsmouth City Community Funds
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The Martin Wheeler Trust Fund
The Watts Family Funds
SEHCO
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