

The Princess Of Wales Memorial Fund

The trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, made the decision early on in the life of the organization, to 'spend out' the money raised after Princess Diana's death. Therefore it has not been actively raising money for the last five years.

The reasons were:

They didn't want the Fund to compete with other charities for the public's donations to charities.

They didn't want the Fund to spend part of its money staffing a fundraising department.

The amount of capital, although large, would not have generated enough money to make a big difference to its target beneficiaries.

They wanted the charities it funds to be the best legacy for Diana.

Over the past ten years the Fund has given some 70 million pounds in grants to 350 organizations in the UK and around the world. The types of beneficiaries have been people affected by HIV/AIDS; people with serious health problems; communities affected by landmines and other post conflict issues; people needing counseling, in particular bereavement counseling; families of offenders in prison; and young refugees and asylum seekers.

Until it closed down, the Fund will focus on three areas. The trustees thought that these would be the best way to continue Diana's legacy of supporting the most disadvantaged people in the world, and in the UK. In particular helping young vulnerable people, as well as courageously embracing unpopular or marginalized causes.

The three areas are:

- 1 - The Palliative Care Initiative
- 2 - The Refugee and Asylum Seekers Initiative
- 3 - The Partnership Initiative

The Fund will spread up to 10 million pounds on its Palliative Care Initiative for people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-limiting illnesses in nine countries English speaking countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It supports a number of hospices and centers that provide palliative care, and is working to change health policy in these countries so that more resources are provided to deliver appropriate treatment. In the centers supported by the Fund, palliative care addresses the patient's individual concerns, including his or her emotional, spiritual and family needs as well as the appropriate medical treatments.

The Fund will also spend 10 million pounds on the refugee and asylum seekers initiative. This will fund organizations working in the UK to encourage positive attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers, support unaccompanied children, promote children's rights and stop the detention of children.

Young people who are refugees and asylum seekers are among the most vulnerable groups in the UK today. The Fund hopes to make public opinion more positive towards this group and change policy that currently makes it difficult for the rights of young refugee and asylum seekers to be upheld.

The Partnership Initiative will provide 5 million pounds to partner organizations that will deliver the Fund's goals. Currently it is working with the Cluster Munitions Coalition to get cluster munitions banned at an international treaty meeting in Oslo in 2008. It is also involving the Prison Reform Trust to work towards changes in policy and practice that prevent young offenders being held in prison or other places of detention, and supports other more appropriate ways of dealing with these often vulnerable and disadvantaged youngsters.



Diana

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THE WORK CONTINUES