

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue Nine | Autumn 2021

Hello There!

This is my first Newsletter as CEO at NewstrAid having been in the role since mid-September. The first thing I want to do is to thank you for your amazing support of the charity.

The importance of your support really came home to me at the recent NFRN National Conference in Bournemouth, where I had the chance to meet up again with so many retail friends after such a Covid enforced absence. I thoroughly enjoyed everyone's company at the conference, but what really struck me was the affection people have for NewstrAid and the work that we do in supporting colleagues who have fallen upon hard times. With your continued support, we will always be there for those newstrade colleagues who need some extra support in whatever form that takes.

In this edition of our Retailer Newsletter we are focusing on a number of case studies that illustrate how we were able to help those that needed support in recent months. If you know of anyone in our industry that might need our help, don't hesitate to get in touch.

The energy crunch crisis and the cut in Universal credit is affecting so many

people in the UK right now, including the beneficiaries that NewstrAid supports. On page 4 you will read how we are doing our best to ease their financial burden as we head towards the winter months. Another example of how your support is improving people's lives.

Finally, I am delighted that we will be holding our first live event since 2019, thanks to the generous support of our industry friends. On Monday 6th December our St Bride's Christmas Carol Concert will be taking place in the spiritual heart of the newspaper industry, Fleet Street. Full details can be found on page 4, as well as information about the online broadcast we will be organising to ensure the event is as accessible as possible for everyone. I would love to see you there, either live or virtually and together let's kick off Christmas in style.

Stay safe, keep well and I hope we can meet up over the festive period and toast the great work we are doing together.

**Neil Jagger and
The NewstrAid Team**

Winter Comfort Grant

In direct response to the soaring energy prices and cuts to Universal Credit which are directly and adversely impacting the wellbeing of our regular beneficiaries, our Board of Trustees have agreed a supplement to the rate of our Winter Comfort Grants this year.

Issued to 389 of our most vulnerable households, the Winter Comfort Grants allow hundreds of beneficiaries from the newstrade to keep warm over the winter months with recipients using the money to help with heating bills, buy warm bedding and purchase winter clothes ready for the months ahead. If you are struggling to cope, contact our welfare team on 0800 917 8616.

NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade OLD BEN

We are the helping hand of the news trade



**Financial
Support**



Grants



**State Benefits
Advice**



**Support For
Disabled
& Carers**



**Help For
Children**



**Almoner
Home Visits**



**Debt
Advice**



**Anxiety
Support**

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Did you know?

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How your money helps

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Carol Service

Page four
Universal Credit Changes

Free Helpline:
0800 917 8616
www.newstraid.org.uk

Did you know?

...**£10** WILL HELP US TO PROVIDE A VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD WITH SUPPORT FROM ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEER ALMONERS FOR ONE YEAR.

...**£25** WILL FUND A TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SESSION FOR A COLLEAGUE DEALING WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

...**£50** WILL FUND A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GRANT FOR A FAMILY FACING HARDSHIP.

...**£100** WILL HELP TO PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE FOR A NEWSTRADE COLLEAGUE IN NEED.

...**£12.50** A MONTH WILL FUND A WINTER COMFORT GRANT FOR A VULNERABLE PERSON.

...**£3** PER WEEK WILL HELP PROVIDE TOILETRIES AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PERSONAL ITEMS FOR AN ELDERLY PERSON IN A CARE HOME.

...**£1** PER WEEK WILL FUND THE PURCHASE OF A WINTER COAT FOR A VULNERABLE ELDERLY PERSON.

True or False?

Calls to NewstrAid's Wellbeing Helpline are monitored and will cost me money.

False!

All calls are totally confidential, and the number is completely free of charge to call.

How your money helps

In this edition of the newsletter we are focusing on how we have helped newstrade colleagues over the last 12 months, thanks to your ongoing support.



BENEFITS ADVICE & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Julie contacted us on the advice of a friend. She had been a self-employed newsagent for more than 10 years but was forced to cease trading when a supermarket opened nearby, drastically reducing her trade. The stress of the business closure had impacted on her mental health, and she was diagnosed with depression and placed on medication. To make ends meet, she started a dog walking business, which she enjoyed but, when lockdown was enforced, she found herself without customers or any income and, once again, her mental health deteriorated.

We immediately offered guidance on state benefit entitlement, so she could claim the relevant benefits. We also arranged for an immediate referral to our Wellbeing Suite so that she could access professional support to help her manage her mental health. Following a financial assessment, a hardship grant was awarded from our In-Work Support Fund to help her make ends meet until her benefits were processed and we also funded a new fridge freezer, as she did not have sufficient funds to purchase this essential appliance.

Julie has now recommenced her dog walking but stays in regular contact with us, safe in the knowledge that she can always re-apply for assistance should the need arise, as her time spent as a newsagent will always mean she is eligible to apply for financial assistance. As a registered user, she continues to avail of our Wellbeing Suite, and she will always have access to our free helpline.

“Your financial support made such a difference in allowing my mother to spend her final years in a lovely care home.”



FRESH START ASSIST

Self-employed newsagents, Nadeem & Shilpa, had recently closed their shop when Shilpa was suddenly diagnosed with advanced terminal cancer. Whilst waiting for a hospice bed to become available, Nadeem had to care for his wife at home, while dealing with the business closure, which had been struggling for some time. Business debts had accumulated over time, and they were living off the proceeds from the sale of stock, which was running out fast. The plan was to sell the shop, clear the debts and move somewhere affordable but short-term hardship was evident due to lack of income.

The Welfare Team gave immediate advice and guidance on state benefit entitlement and a referral was made for advice regarding their debts. Access to emotional support was offered via our Wellbeing Suite and finally a grant from our Fresh Start Assist Fund was awarded to help them meet living costs until their state benefits were processed and their business premises sold.

“...seeing my almoner and having a chat with head office really helps.”



ONGOING SUPPORT DUE TO LONG TERM DISABILITY

Peter had a very long trade connection until a life changing accident put a sudden stop to his work. Due to his ill health and immobility, his flat required costly wheelchair-friendly adjustments and appliances adapted for wheelchair users.

Having heard about NewstrAid from a colleague he contacted us to see if there was any help we could offer him.

After assessing his needs and reviewing his financial situation we were able to award regular financial benefit, as well as provide funding for essential new appliances to his recently modified flat.



IN-WORK SUPPORT

John & Nikki owned and ran their own newsagents for a number of years but eventually had to cease trading when business declined. John began to run a private taxi firm but once the pandemic hit was unable to work for an extended period of time. Due to this, the couple's income significantly decreased and they were finding it difficult to make ends meet and pay their bills. John and Nikki were aware of NewstrAid from when they ran their news agency and so decided to contact us to see if there was any help available.

Due to their long trade connection and following a full financial assessment we were able to award a sum of money from our In-Work Support scheme. We also referred them to our Debt Advice Service so that a personalised budget could be drawn up to help them live within their means going forward.

“I am so grateful for all you have done for me”



ONE-OFF GRANTS AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Shop worker Mina contacted us because she was living in shared accommodation and usually had to work overtime to cover her rent. Unfortunately, her landlord had drastically increased the rent and, with no overtime available due to the pandemic, she could no longer afford to live there. Mina also had ongoing issues with her mental health, which were exacerbated by the worry of her housing situation. She was forced to move out, and thankfully the council subsequently offered her alternative accommodation that was within her weekly budget.

However, all her financial reserves had been used to meet her rent so she had no means to fund essential items for her home.

Following a financial assessment we awarded a one-off grant from our In-Work Support Scheme to help her buy essential appliances for her new home and we also referred her to our Wellbeing Suite, where she has access to a trained counsellor and lots of self-help materials to help her manage her mental health.

“The grant I recently received has increased my mobility immensely... Thank you very much!”

SUPPORT FOR DEPENDANTS

Anna's husband had worked in the newstrade for many years when he left the family home. Anna struggled to look after their two teenage children as a single parent and her situation was made even more difficult when she was diagnosed with progressive MS, when both children were still dependant.

NewstrAid recognised that, due to her health, her situation was unlikely to improve and that her needs were long term. Due to her husband's long connection with the newstrade we agreed to support Anna with regular assistance to help meet ongoing living costs. In addition we funded one-off expenses, such as essential household repairs and other adhoc costs that she simply could not have met, being dependant on state benefits.

Regular almoner support, financial assistance and access to our advisory services and Wellbeing Suite ensure that Anna will continue to be looked after, as her condition progresses.



ACE CHILDREN'S GRANT

Kim was referred to us by her manager, after her young daughter was diagnosed with a severe and serious genetic medical condition, which meant both she and her husband had to attend multiple hospital appointments. The condition is extremely rare and required appointments at different hospitals, with one hospital located over 20 miles away.

With no entitlement to paid compassionate leave, they were both forced to take unpaid leave once their annual leave allocation had been used up. They also had to meet petrol/parking costs at the hospital and childcare costs for their other child, so the situation had put the family under huge financial stress.

After a financial assessment, an immediate grant of £1,000 was awarded from our ACE Children's Fund to help the family through this difficult time.

Carol Service

This year we are delighted to be offering two versions of our Annual Carol Service. A live event will take place at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street on Monday 6th December and then a recording of the service will be broadcast online, on Wednesday 15th December.

As usual the event will include Christmas Carols and seasonal music featuring the St Bride's Choir, as well as festive readings to help put you in the Christmas spirit.

We very much hope that by running two versions of the event, as many people as possible from the industry will be able to join us. Full details of how to attend both events can be found on our website www.newstraid.org.uk

This event has been made possible thanks to support from:



Principal Sponsors: DMG Media, Reach Plc, Smiths News, Guardian News & Media, News Printers, News Team Group, Seymour, Frontline Ltd, withersworldwide.

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Are you struggling to cope following the recent Universal Credit changes?

Over 200,000 working people in receipt of Universal Credit will see a cut in their income this winter because of the Covid supplement being withdrawn by the Department of Work and Pensions.

Some households will see their income drop by more than £1,000 per year, which will undoubtedly cause hardship for many families.

If you are aware of any colleagues who are directly affected and are struggling, please refer them to our free welfare support line 0800 917 8616. Remember, our state benefit advice service is available to everyone in the newstrade, so please contact our team to enquire about entitlement, particularly if you have children and/or disabled or elderly family members to look after.

Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

£150 of Amazon Vouchers!

Thank you to everyone who entered our Winter edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their vouchers at the beginning of September. The correct answer to the question: How much money did we raise during 5K May was £2,539.

If you would like to enter the next prize draw, please answer the following question:

On what date is the broadcast of our Carol Service taking place this year?

As always, the answer is in this newsletter. Please send your answer to oldben@newstraid.org.uk

All correct answers received before 31st December 2021 will be entered into the prize draw. Terms and conditions apply. See the NewstrAid website for details www.newstraid.org.uk/about/newstraid-policy-documents/

If you no longer want to support NewstrAid

Thank you for making a regular contribution to NewstrAid through your news wholesaler's weekly invoice, either as a 40p a week Retailer Charitable Donation (RCD) / NewstrAid Charitable Donation, or by membership of the NewstrAid 200 Club / Old Ben 200/400.

Your money allows us to make a real difference to the lives of people from our own industry who need help. We are very grateful for this support. However, if you would like to cancel your Retailer Charitable Donation, your membership of the 200 Club, or both, please do one of the following:

- Email your supplying wholesaler using the relevant address from the following:
Menzies Distribution: enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com or
Smiths News: mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk
- Fill in the opt-out form on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/
- Email NewstrAid at: oldben@newstraid.org.uk
- Write to us at: NewstrAid, Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7TD
- Call us on 01279 879569 or on Free Helpline 0800 917 8616

You can also use any of these contact details to let us know that you no longer wish to receive this newsletter but please be aware that this will automatically cancel all contributions.



NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7TD

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

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