

End of Grant Feedback

Name: **The Brigitte Trust**

Date Approved: **06/12/2024**

Total Amount Awarded:
£2474.00

Amount Awarded by Fund:
**Mole Valley Community
Fund
£2474.00**

Project Summary:
Funding to train three local residents as volunteers for a local charity that offers free non-medical emotional and practical support for people facing life-threatening illness.

Primary Beneficiary:
Local residents

Primary Age Group:
All Ages

How many people benefitted?

10

What difference has the grant made?

The grant from the Mole Valley Community Fund enabled The Brigitte Trust to deliver a dedicated volunteer recruitment and training programme within the Mole Valley area, helping us strengthen local support for people living with a terminal diagnosis.

Using the funding, we delivered a volunteer training course aimed at recruiting local residents to become home-visiting volunteers. We were delighted by the response from the community and successfully recruited six new volunteers from the catchment area. Following training and induction, five of them have begun supporting clients in their homes.

Our volunteers provide emotional and practical support to people facing terminal illness, serious neurological conditions and bereavement. This can include offering companionship and a listening ear, helping reduce feelings of anxiety and isolation, sitting with clients while carers take a short break, assisting with shopping or appointments, and providing reassurance during an extremely difficult time in people's lives.

The importance of this support can be seen through clients such as S, who lives in Mole Valley and has been supported over the last year. S is living with multiple sclerosis, melanoma and, more recently, COPD. She lives alone and her Brigitte Trust volunteer is now her main source of regular contact and emotional support.

When we began supporting S, she was undergoing treatment and struggling to manage day-to-day life afterwards. Her volunteer visits regularly to provide emotional reassurance as well as practical help with daily tasks and attending medical appointments.

S experiences poor mental health and has told us that having a volunteer has “changed her life”. She has always loved jazz music and now looks forward each week to visiting the grounds of Polesden Lacey with her volunteer to listen to live jazz performances. Her border terrier is also a hugely important companion to her, and her volunteer supports her to continue caring for and walking him.

As S’s condition has progressed, our volunteer has also supported her to talk through and make end-of-life plans, including her wish to die at home with support from Princess Alice Hospice.

While S was supported by one of our existing volunteers, her experience demonstrates the importance of continuing to recruit and train local volunteers so we can provide this level of compassionate, practical and emotional support to more people across Mole Valley. The funding has helped strengthen our ability to respond to growing demand locally and ensure more residents can access support when they need it most.

The project has already begun making a meaningful difference to beneficiaries by increasing the availability of support within the Mole Valley area and helping us respond more quickly to referrals. Having volunteers based locally also helps build stronger community connections and enables support to be delivered in a way that is personal, compassionate and rooted within the local area.

The wider community benefits through increased volunteering opportunities, stronger local networks of support, and improved wellbeing for vulnerable residents and carers who may otherwise feel isolated or overwhelmed. By investing in local volunteers, the Mole Valley Community Fund has helped create a sustainable source of community-based support that will continue benefiting residents into the future.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the Mole Valley Community Fund, which has enabled us to expand our reach and continue providing compassionate support to people and families during some of the most challenging times of their lives.

Thank you so much for your support!