



August 2017

Transforming lives through education



Making a real difference Working with local communities

Kusuma Trust UK (the Trust) supports selected community projects in London and Gibraltar that make a real difference to the lives of people in local communities. In India, the Trust promotes community participation in local schools. The Trust strives to make a positive contribution through supporting events, local projects, grants and partnerships with organisations that benefit their community.

Since 2015, community grants in the **UK** have supported a range of projects including science workshops, after school clubs and bullying therapy. This year the Trust has awarded three community grants in the UK totaling £178,750 thus far:

- **'Bring Learning to Life'** is a programme implemented by the Royal Parks Foundation to encourage children to connect with nature. Students use an iPad to explore nature in detail using magnifying technology. The grant enables 300 more students from State schools to participate in the programme.
- With funding from the Trust, the **Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospital Charity** purchased a new genetic testing sequencer¹. The equipment saves lives by providing fast and accurate test results and has the ability to double the number of tests compared to previous years.
- The Trust funded the **Children of St Mary's Intensive Care Charitable Trust** to enhance their intensive care unit treating critically ill children. The grant will fund two new long stay isolation rooms that provide a private space for children and their families to spend valuable time together.

In **Gibraltar**, the Trust funds training for charities and community groups to enable them to operate more effectively. The Trust also awards a range of community grants which include the following this year:

- **Childline Gibraltar** works to safeguard children and educate people on child protection issues. Funding from the Trust is used to train volunteers who operate the help lines which receive over 600 calls per year; deliver outreach work to raise awareness of issues young people face; and, run positive parenting classes.

- The Trust provides opportunities for charities to participate in training sessions with the **Directory of Social Change (DSC)**. All charities in Gibraltar are invited to attend a one-day seminar on the latest legal and other relevant developments in the sector. One charity is then awarded a grant to receive six further training sessions tailored to their specific needs with the DSC.

- Community grants have been awarded to **Knit Gibraltar**, a small community group that produces handmade items for sale to raise funds for local charities, and the **Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry Society of Gibraltar** to cover the costs of producing their journal for people working in the mental health sector.

In **India**, Kusuma promotes community involvement in schools to raise awareness of the value of education, address barriers for young people to access education, hold teachers accountable for the quality of teaching, and to serve as advocates for education in their local community. Kusuma also encourages community participation in Parent-Teacher Associations and School Management and Development Committees.



Students participating in the Royal Parks 'Bring Learning to Life' Programme
Photo: Royal Parks Foundation

¹ A genetic testing sequencer tests for genetic disorders such as heart disease

Our mission is to facilitate and increase access to education and other life opportunities for children and young people

Coaching and Mentoring Award

In 2015-2016 **Clubhouse**, a mental health charity in Gibraltar, received the Kusuma Coaching and Mentoring Award which includes one-to-one support from the DSC to develop their work further, improve systems and procedures, become more efficient and achieve greater impact.

Since receiving the award, Clubhouse has made big changes in the way it operates. It has developed a three-year business plan, a long-term fundraising strategy, clear policies and procedures, a staff handbook, and restructured the charity. There are now weekly staff meetings, more contact between the executive team and the Board, and social media pages have been created. Clubhouse believes their public image has improved hugely as a result of the coaching and mentoring.

“With the help from Kusuma and the DSC our charity has become more focused, a new funding strategy has made us more professional in our approach and every member of staff is on-board. It’s really helped with public perception of our services.”

Kevin Fowler, Senior Programme Manager at Clubhouse

Young Entrepreneur’s Photography Company

In 2015 the Trust partnered with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for two years to deliver their ‘Young Upstarts’ programme. Young Upstarts aimed to give young people from former Yorkshire coalfield communities the skills and confidence required to run their own business. Participants received support on how to turn ideas into a viable business plan, business mentoring, and on-going practical guidance to start up a business and begin to trade. The programme reached over 1,800 young people through workshops and has so far seen 36 new businesses established.

Jess participated in the programme and has set up her own photography business whilst still studying full-time at college. She learnt the business skills required to launch her company including marketing, finance and received a personal business mentor to support her development. Her company runs after school photography clubs in local primary schools. Jess says:

“I am so proud of myself! The only achievements I really have are as a result of this programme. I have been helped so much and am now able to be proud of myself and have real belief in my own abilities and my business.”

Jess has since won an award from ‘Celebrating children of achievement in Wakefield’ and has become a volunteer Youth Ambassador for the programme. Jess is about to leave college and hopes to expand her business to at least two more schools next academic year.



Jess leading one of her photography sessions at an after-school club
Photo: The Youth Association

Kusuma Launches Small Grants Programme

In the UK, the Trust offers small grants of up to £10,000 to charitable organisations in England. Grants will be awarded to selected organisations that target young people aged 11-21 years from disadvantaged and deprived backgrounds, and provide pathways to higher education and/or employment.

Applications are now open for 2017-2018 with a closing date of 29 September 2017. To apply for a grant organisations must be registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, have a registered bank account in the name of the organisation and complete a concept note that is available on the Trust’s website².

Last year **The Centre Place** was awarded a grant of £9,946 to provide training for 16 to 25 year-olds in Nottinghamshire who were unemployed and not in education. The training aimed to give young people the skills required to secure employment or commence further education, including interview techniques and building self-confidence. Ten young people have now re-entered education and a further seven have secured jobs. Others who participated in the training are continuing to receive support and advice to achieve their goals. The funding gave over 90 young people the chance to find out more about their employment and education options. Feedback from the young people who participated was very positive with one saying:

“I really liked the self-esteem and assertiveness sessions because it taught me to not let people take advantage. As a result, I now know what I need to do to boost my confidence in order to help me get a job.”

Other small grant recipients were Bright Futures, East Riding Voluntary Action Service, and Team Up for Social Mobility.

² <http://www.kusumatrust.org/our-work/united-kingdom/small-grants/>