

## **GRANTS AWARDED FROM THE GENERAL ACCOUNT 2016**

During 2016 some 175 grants were awarded, totalling £8,639, an average of £49.37  
Were given for:

### **Personal needs**

Contributions were made towards

- Essential clothing
- Work clothing
- stereos, CD players, cassette players
- hobby/craft materials
- citizen cards and photographs, birth certificate
- DAB radios
- gym memberships
- football club membership
- clipper grooming set
- full driving licences, lessons, practical tests and disqualification recovery fees
- instrument cables
- an acoustic guitar
- film ribbon cassette for typewriter
- drink- drive reduction course
- art and craft materials
- books on the study of meditation and Yoga

### **Living outside**

Contributions were made towards

- bedding and furniture
- bathroom repairs
- accommodation deposits
- household essentials- cookers, fridges, carpets
- baby clothing, a highchair and feeding bowls
- rent deposits
- travel from approved premises to medical appointments
- mobile phone to enable contact with Probation

### **Compassionate reasons**

- GP letter to support housing application
- tent and sleeping bag
- baby clothes
- top ups for gas and electricity meters
- Two unaccompanied Resettlement Day Releases

### **Employment needs**

Contributions were made towards

- Forklift courses
- Personal Track Safety & Track Induction Courses
- JIN electrician's CSCS card fee
- replacement ID to support job application
- work trousers for carpentry course
- suitable clothing for job interviews
- CSCS Skill cards to enable employment in construction

### **Educational purposes**

Contributions were made towards

- Bucks Adult Learning Advanced Italian language course
- Open University Beginners German language course
- Spanish language course

- Open University BA Hons Law degree course books

## GRANTS AWARDED FROM THE ERANDA FUND 2016

Grants from this Fund are divided into two sections:

1. Employment and Education
2. The 6 Book Challenge

During 2016 some 52 grants were awarded totalling £3,936, an average of £75.69

Were given for:

### Employment needs

Contributions were made towards

- Personal Track Safety & Track Induction courses
- CAT SCAN course to raise PTS / TIC qualification level
- CPCS Forward Tipping Dumper courses
- CPCS 360 Excavator courses
- full driving licences, theory and practical tests to facilitate travel
- Interview clothing
- plumber's tools
- painter & decorator's tools
- bricklayer's tools
- CSCS Skill cards to enable employment in construction
- CBT course

### Educational purposes

Contributions were made towards

- Open University BA Hons Law degree, course books
- Open University MSc in Mathematics, course module fee
- Open University BA Hons Business Management, course materials
- Project Management Qualification, course book PRINCE 2
- Open University Italian language course books
- instruments for units of a Level 1 Award in Music Technology accredited by the exam board NCFE
- Open University BA Hons Law degree revision aid books

## 6 BOOK CHALLENGE / READING AHEAD 2016

In addition to its core activities, for the past three years BACO has supported the "6 Book Challenge", now renamed "Reading Ahead". Promoted by The Reading Agency and organised by the prison librarians, the scheme encourages prisoners to each read 6 books and review their reading in a diary. This has been shown to help build the readers' self-confidence and their personal fulfilment and enjoyment. as well as encouraging positive interaction with staff, colleagues and family.

In 2016 190 book prizes were given to those men who had completed Reading Ahead, 130 in HMP Grendon, 25 in HMP Springhill and 35 in HMYOI Aylesbury.

The prizes cost £1,989, an average of £10.46

BACO thanks Heart of Bucks for their generous grant to enable BACO to purchase the prizes for Reading Ahead Completers.

## CLOTHING GRANTS

During the year

- 58 prisoners in HMP Grendon and 34 in HMP Springhill received clothing to the value of £3,090, an average of £33.59 person.
- 30 people on Probation received clothing grants to the value of £1,670, an average of £55.66 per person.

## WORDS OF THANKS FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS

### *From Grendon prisoners*

*Dear Ted and all at BACO*

*I would like to say a big thank you for your help. If I did not of asked for your help I do not now what I would have done so a big thank you all*

*Dear Ted (BACO)*

*Can I thank so much for my six book challenge and I received my lovely Dictionary which will help me with words spelling reading and help me for the future and lets you yourself have a prosperous year.*

*Thank you so much*

*'To Ted and everybody else connected to BACO, I just want to acknowledge all your interest, as well as your obvious support. I know you do so much for so many. I have never been to a prison which offers anything similar to BACO.*

*First, you helped me to purchase a stereo which I could not (sanely) live without, but even more than that, I have been able to call on your assistance in regards to help with purchasing books.*

*These books are extremely priceless to me in my 'quest' to gain a law degree, and I pray subsequently, to society as a whole, as I will have the knowledge, desire and hope of being able to put right, just some of my wrongs that I have unfortunately inflicted on society.*

*So, yes, I can not express exactly how much your charity has helped me to live a better life, just knowing that people care is so meaningful to me.'*

*'Just a quick note to say thank you very much for helping me to sort out the books for my degree. The whole process was really quick once I'd spoken to you and I'm now using all of the books to help me study. I will definitely be asking for your help again when I start a new module next year!'*

*'Thank you for helping me get a pair if trainers. I was able to go to the Gym, having a pair of trainers keeps me active with the whole community. I am able to join in with activities and build good relationships. I am grateful for the help and your organisation need thanking for all the time you put in to help others in need.*

*I hope you continue doing baco because you are a kind and good man.'*

*'When I first arrived at Grendon I believed it was weak to ask for help and it was scrounging to accept charity. I have done a lot of targeted work to change these beliefs, but to be honest the things that benefited me the most in changing, was receiving help from BACO and interacting with Ted. I have not used the service as much as I could have, but each time I have used it, the help I received gave me back some self-worth as well as changing my views. This couldn't of happened without BACO and its supporters, so thank you. I would especially like to thank Ted who answered my questions to help me see why people would want to help those people cast away by society.'*

*'Just a short letter to let you know how much BACO has helped me.*

*I don't get money sent in, and your donation helped me so much. The trainers and track bottoms and socks were such a big help.*

*I would like to say a big thank you to you for your support.'*

*'I have been at Grendon for a number of years and in that time I have asked ted (baco) a number of time for help to buy clothing and hobby items and each time I have been given the help when needed.*

*I do not believe that I would of achieved half of what I have if it wasn't for the help of ted and baco. So I would like to say a big thank you to baco for all the help and support you give to myself and to others.*

*With the grants from baco I have made many hobby items which I have raffled off and made over one thousand and five hundred pounds for Helen Douglas House our wing charity, and I*

have also sent items to Koestler and auctioned them off and made over eight hundred pounds for Victim support.

*I could not have done this without the help BACO have given me.'*

*'I personally haven't asked BACO for support regarding the purchasing of items for myself. Saying that, as part of the community I see the benefits on various levels for BACO providing support for individuals.*

*My involvement with BACO-Ted is to do with our community tropical fish tanks. Recently we have focused our attention on bringing our fish tanks up to a standard befitting our very large tank – as a show piece so to speak. Ted was approached in the first instance to ask whether there was any available funds that we could ask about to go towards the project. The community has spent over £300 to date but tank maintenance and fish food will be a continual outlay for as long as we keep tropical fish. I believe Ted will be pursuing a grant in our behalf at some point.*

*In the second instance Ted has put in place a system where we can purchase fish through himself and that he brings in on days that are convenient for him.*

*The benefits of having healthy active and colourful tropical fish tanks are immeasurable – especially in a therapeutic community. Supporting us to take on responsibilities is one as most prisoners are used to having everything done for them. Being responsible for other living creatures can be a step in getting individuals to care for each other. Also, individuals can derive calmness simply by spending a few minutes looking at the fish – after a heavy therapeutic session this can be of considerable emotional value.*

*Ted – BACO – is/are an asset to Grendon in so many ways. Simply offering people the opportunity to ask for constructive help may well be a step forward on their therapeutic journey.'*

*'I would sincerely like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved within your organisation to bring about change within me. The commitment and dedication your members show towards your own cause is absolutely remarkable. Each and everyone of you should be immensely proud of all your achievements to help and support those in need.*

*When I came to Grendon nearly 3 years ago, I did not know who I was or where I was heading to be honest with you all. I went into reading, only the form of the horses, then an opportunity arose about a 6 book challenge event. What's this I thought to myself I'm not doing that I kept telling the inner child, the child that had kept me safe all my life.*

*After mulling it over for quite sometime I took the plunge and dived in head first, one of the first books I picked up was about horses but this was different.*

*I went looking for the winner and the feeling it gives you when you gamble, I was now taking in something quite new, I was now reading about their heritage, their past and traditions.*

*After completing the 6 book challenge I was awarded a box set of dictionaries, what are these I now pondered to myself.*

*These books then took me in a different direction, I was now able to learn new words and what they meant. With this I started to write my life story, and it was here I approached Ted from Bako about getting a typewriter, for just short of 2 years now I've been tapping away in my cell, it not only brings me peace, but it's something I'm good at and like.*

*Last year I entered a written piece of work to the Koestler awards (Frozen Tears) where I received a certificate for my work.*

*I'm now doing short stories and poems about my life, and I want to thank you all so much for this, because, writing for me today, is all so about letting out trapped feelings states that have been buried for many many years.'*

### **From Springhill prisoners**

*I would like to say a big thank you for help in sending me £25 to my spends account.. I am so grateful for the money, I am sending it to my wife to help with the outgoings at home.*

*We are both pensioners and have a 34 year old disabled son who lives at home.*

*'I was recently provided with a grant of £150 towards my Personal Track Safety course.*

*I have now completed the course successfully and am in the final process of setting a job with Coyle Rail.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and BACO for making this life changing course possible and securing a good, stable job that will enable me to turn my life around.'*

*'In recognition of the valuable contribution to the general facilities of HMP Springhill as well as the valuable help and assistance BACO offers the residents here would like to run a special Charity event to raise funds directly for BACO.'*

### **From Thames Valley CRC**

*David and I would like to thank you / the committee for his grant.*

*He was absolutely delighted on Friday at the thought of sleeping under cover and was really pleased with his purchase.*

*Thank you for the donation to allow this to happen so quickly*

*Chris asked me to pass on his thanks*

*We went to the shops on Friday and picked some household bits for his house. He was extremely grateful for the money and was surprised at what he could buy.*

*We have £30 left over which he is hoping to get some pots and pans with.*

*On behalf of Chris and myself thank you very much for the grant it has been greatly appreciated.*

## **SUPPORT SERVICE**

In HMP Grendon the Service is run by one volunteer on the second Thursday in the month.

- 12 sessions took place
- 138 prisoners were seen by BACO

In HMP Springhill the Service is run by one volunteer on the last Thursday in the month.

- 12 sessions took place
- 179 prisoners were seen by BACO

In Aylesbury YOI the Service is run by one volunteer

- 7 prisoners were seen by BACO

While BACO Support Service temporarily ceased during 2016 thanks to the support of AYOI staff and a new volunteer it is due to restart in mid 2017

In HMP Woodhill the Service is run by one volunteer

- 9 prisoners were seen by BACO

The Support Service had to be withdrawn in April 2016 due to lack of support and liaison by Woodhill staff.

## **Working with other organisations**

BACO is pleased to have worked with **Bucks YOS** and **New Leaf** supporting mentees with grants towards

- essential clothing