

Aston Wood Golf Club:

Supporting children and young people with chances for change



Thank you to Aston wood golf club for your very generous donation of £58,016.36.

This gift will be split equally between our two programmes – **Chances for Children** grants and **Support for Boarding**.

Our **Chances for Children grants** support children and young people impacted by poverty and crisis through packages of support up to the value of **£2,000** – though averaging around £1,200. These grants pay for everyday things that all children should have, but some parents and carers cannot afford such as child's beds and school uniforms, while also supplying extra resources to overcome crisis and to unlock their potential, such as counselling, therapy or IT equipment and transport to college.

For some children we support, the home environment is so chaotic that being there full-time is not always the best option. We have seen that **supporting boarding education** can provide a stable environment, with good emotional and social support, as well as the opportunity to improve educational attainment.



"With the grant my children have all the tools they need to be able to actively learn and play in their home and their own room. They are now able to feel settled and without worry. They are thriving."

– grant beneficiary

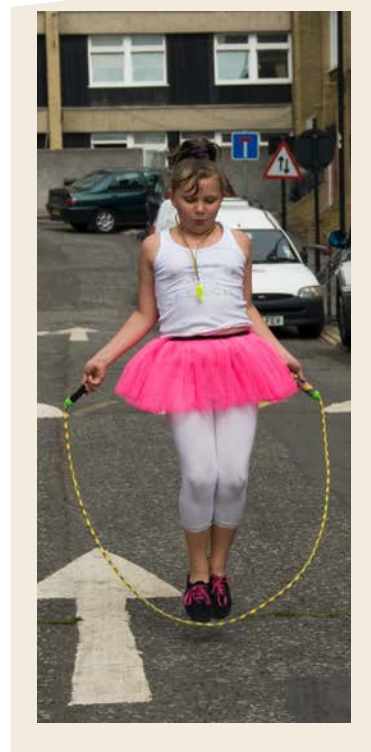
Birmingham and the West Midlands

35% of children in the West Midlands live in poverty despite more than 70% of them having one or more working parents. This makes it the third highest region for child poverty in the UK. The West Midlands have consistently ranked in the top two areas for our grant giving, and last year, we support 384 grants, providing over £525,000 worth of grants, with 60% of those going to children and young people living in Birmingham.

We also partner with four boarding schools in the West Midlands, who have committed to working with us to support vulnerable children through co-funding boarding for children referred through our programmes.

Top 10 Items distributed in West Midlands

Item/Description	No. of Items	Value of Items
Laptops/ Tablets	138	£49,352
Home Appliances	112	£46,721
Beds & Beddings	115	£41,120
Toys and Games	144	£31,404
Storage Furniture	92	£26,605
Furniture & Furnishing	89	£26,101
Children's Clothing	100	£23,945
School Uniforms	101	£20,333
Carpeting & Flooring	43	£13,466
Therapy & Counselling	17	£8,029



Case Studies (names changed to protect anonymity)

Last year, Annie (aged 9) Lauren (aged 4) and William (aged 3), along with their mother Kathy, ended up in a women's refuge after their father's aggression and violence hospitalised Kathy. The children witnessed many of the attacks and this has had a lasting impact. Being in the refuge has also been tough. Annie was really upset to have to leave her school and friends, while Lauren has been acting out and aggressive with other children.

The family has recently secured new accommodation and is looking forward to a permanent home. However, with all the chaos of the past couple years, Kathy has been struggling to meet the basic needs of the three children, let alone set-up a new home.

Thanks to our Chances for Children grant, we were able to give Annie, Lauren and William a fresh start. After everything they have been through, their bedrooms were a top priority, so we funded beds, bedding and soft-furnishings for all the children. They also needed proper storage, so we provided wardrobes as well. The children's education has been disrupted, so we funded a laptop and tablet for the children to learn and play on. The children had taken almost nothing with them to the refuge, so we provided toys and games that they can enjoy together. Finally, we provided a fridge/freezer and cooker to help Kathy cook healthy, filling meals for the whole family.

The Difference a Chances for Children grant makes

Our grant giving aims to increase both children's emotional and social wellbeing and their capacity to engage in education and learning. They do this by stabilising the child's home environment, where that is appropriate, and helping them to access opportunities to learn and socialise in the wider community. Where home is not the best place for the child, a boarding place can help stabilise their environment, as well as support their wellbeing and learning.

90% of children more engaged in education



95% of children are happier and less anxious



95% of children have a better physical home environment



100% of boarding students receive 5 or more GCSE's A*-C

What our grant recipients say:

"It helped getting the items needed for our home and her bedroom as well as a few toys and new clothes which was so very helpful to help us start again. My daughter is happy with her room and chose all the clothes/ toys that she wanted and is also now doing dance classes which I hope will improve her confidence around other people."

"For my children's wellbeing, the outdoor play equipment has been amazing! I'm so grateful for this grant. My children love the trampoline and will use it everyday. It also helps my older 2 children when they are feeling strong emotions, to let off steam. They also loved having new clothes, both for outside school and for school as it us difficult financially to buy brand new clothes regularly. Education wise, my children have loved their new technology and it has helped with home learning which normally was difficult to do with 4 children of a variety of ages and academic needs."

"The fact that they have a home that's got most of what they need now and the peacefulness in their rooms and the swing chair is in a reading nook area very chill. They have been through a lot!"



Case Study (name changed to protect anonymity)

Piper is currently 16 years old and from the West Midlands. Both of her parents have serious, deteriorating health conditions, that have put her in the position of being their carer. Her parents have been unable to work due to their health, and the family's finances have been slowly deteriorating as they have become more and more dependent on benefits to get by.

Piper had always been a strong student, but her parents were concerned that their health was impacting her life more and more. Already they had had to move further away from her school to find affordable housing and Piper was taking on a lot of responsibilities for cooking, cleaning and caring for both her parents.

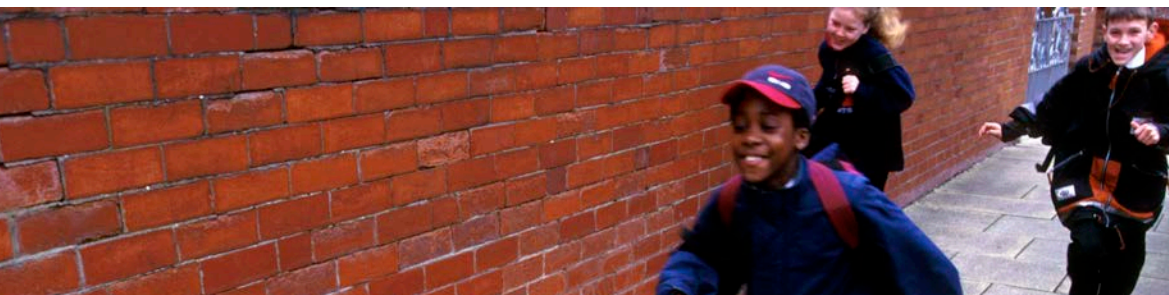
Piper's parents felt boarding school would give Piper the space to pursue her studies and also to enjoy being a teen away from the pressures of home. Piper qualified for a boarding school place, but the family could not afford it. The school was a Buttle UK Support for Boarding partner, and we were able to work with the school to cover not only her tuition, but to secure extra support that covers additional costs such as school supplies, school uniforms, trips and experiences.

Piper has thrived for the past two years in her boarding school. Her grades have continued to be excellent, and she has become involved in music and the school play. The school has committed to full-funding for her when she begins her A-levels.

What students have to say after completing their GCSEs

'It has been a good experience. I enjoyed all the opportunities that I had such as sports and school trips. It was a better atmosphere away from home. Lots of good new food. I don't sleep on the floor at school.'

'It was a big learning experience and I was really glad to get such great GCSE results. I'm glad I experienced boarding school life. There were ups and downs and times when I felt isolated and missed my family, but in the end it was generally a positive period in my life and a great opportunity I wouldn't have had in my normal life.'



As a result of the legacy of **Buttle UK's** founder **Frank Buttle**, the Charity can meet all of its administration costs – this means that **100% of the funds raised** go to providing our **Chances for Children** grants for some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK today.