



Newsletter

Spring 2005

• Small Grant Scheme

provides grants up to a maximum of £500 to those who are currently experiencing financial difficulties to assist with the purchase of essential items or services.

• Chronic Pain Management Scheme

provides individuals who are suffering chronic physical pain (as a result of the injuries sustained) with financial assistance (up to a maximum of £2,000) towards private medical consultations and treatments.

• Short Break Scheme

provides individuals and families with a short break away from their usual surroundings, responsibilities and commitments. Short breaks are available throughout the British Isles.

• Wheelchair Assessment Scheme

provides wheelchair users with a better alternative wheelchair to the one they are currently using.



• Education & Training Scheme

provides grant assistance to children and adults whose education or vocation has been affected by their experiences. This enables them to access education and training opportunities available to help them improve their employment prospects.

• Back to School Scheme

provides a grant to help families with school age children with the purchase of school uniforms and other costs associated with the beginning of the school year. (Operates from June - September).

• Discretionary Hardship Fund

provides a grant to those who have lost the main breadwinner in the household or those who have suffered very serious physical/psychological injuries as a result of the Troubles and are experiencing financial difficulties. (This scheme is means tested).

• Amputee Assessment Scheme

provides amputees with the best suitable prosthesis available.



For further detail on any of the schemes contact Donna on 028 9024 5965 or visit our website www.nimf.org.uk

Contact us at: The Grants Office, Albany House, 73-75 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AF
Tel: 028 9024 5965/9024 5949 Email: nimfgao@belfast.org.uk

Head Office: Northern Ireland Memorial Fund, Room B4.14, Block B, Castle Buildings,
Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SG Tel: 028 9052 0069 Email: nimf@nics.gov.uk

BACK TO SCHOOL SCHEME

The Back to School scheme will be reintroduced on 01 June 2005 and will run until 30 September 2005. The scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance to purchase school uniforms and help meet other costs associated with the start of the school year. This scheme will be open to applicants who as a result of the 'Troubles', have:

- lost a parent, partner or child, or
- themselves been seriously physically or psychologically injured, or
- become the registered primary carer for an immediate family member who has been injured.

If you are eligible and interested in applying please contact the Grants Office on 028 9024 5965 on or after 01 June 2005.

CHANGES TO SHORT BREAK SCHEME

You may be aware that in July & August 2004 the Fund held consultations with Victim Support Groups throughout Northern Ireland. One of the main issues raised during the consultations was how beneficial short breaks were for those whose lives had been affected by the Troubles.

In response to the needs identified the Fund would have liked to reopen the Short Break Scheme to everyone, however this was not possible for financial reasons. Therefore with effect from 1 January 2005 the Short Break Scheme reopened to applicants who have only previously had one short break from the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund. These applicants will only be entitled to a second break from the Fund and no further breaks.

If you have only received one break in the past and would like to reapply please contact the Grants Office on 028 9024 5965 for an application form.

FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED AND LOST BUSINESSES/ LIVELIHOOD

The Fund would like to hear from individuals or families who have been displaced as a result of the 'Troubles', and who as a result have lost their businesses or livelihood. This was an area identified during the consultation which the Fund would like to hear more about with consideration to providing some form of recognition or help. If you have experienced displacement and would like to contact us please call Carolyn on 028 9052 0066 or write to the Head Office address at the back of the Newsletter.

ADVENTURE WEEKEND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

- Are you in the age group 10 - 15 or 16 - 18?
- Do you look forward to the summer holidays and end up feeling bored after one week?
- Would you like to join other young people for an adventure weekend with the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund?

If you are interested in a few days away from your parents for a weekend packed with lots of fun and outdoor activities fill in this form and return to Carolyn at the head office address. *Come on - make the summer holidays more exciting!!!*

Please note: *children under 16 years of age will be supervised by youth leaders who have child protection clearance.*

Closure of Small Grant Scheme

This is to notify readers that the Small Grant Scheme will cease to operate on 30 June 2005. The Small Grant Scheme was introduced five years ago to assist those who were suffering financial difficulties as a result of their experiences in the Troubles. Throughout that period £3 million has been paid out in grants to approximately 7,000 households. In certain circumstances help may still be available through the Discretionary Hardship Fund. See back page for further details.

New Audit Requirements

Some of you may be aware that the Fund has recently started to ask bereaved victims/survivors for documentary evidence which establishes the relationship between the applicant and the deceased. We apologise if this has caused anyone distress however this is an audit requirement which we are required to adhere to.

For further advice on this issue please contact Head Office on 028 9052 0066.

STAFFING NEWS

In December 2004 Paul Brown left the post of NIMF Grants Office Manager on promotion to Dept of Enterprise Trade and Investment. We wish Paul well in his new career.

After the birth of a bouncing baby boy Donna McKee has returned from maternity leave to the post of Grants Office Manager.

Winter Assistance Grant

In the last edition of the NIMF Newsletter we advertised the launch of a Winter assistance grant for the over 60's. The scheme closed on 1 March 2005 and provided help with the additional costs associated with the winter months. £104,000 in grants was paid out to 692 applicants. Some grants are still being processed but should be paid over the coming weeks.

YOUTH FORUM

Are you young or just young at heart?

Would you like to see more happening for young people affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland?

Or have you experience in this area of work and would like to share your experiences with us?

The Fund was recently made aware of the lack of help and projects organised for young people in our community. The Fund would like to try to address this issue and are open to suggestions.

We want ideas from young people about what they really want in life and what opportunities they feel they miss out on in their communities. We also want their ideas on cross community projects. If you have any ideas or you want to join the NIMF Youth Forum to try and make a difference to the young victims/survivors in our communities fill in the form below or contact Carolyn on 028 9052 0066.

DISCRETIONARY HARDSHIP FUND

- Have you lost a spouse or partner?
- Have you suffered a serious physical or psychological injury?

If so, the Discretionary Hardship Fund may be able to help with the cost of essential household items or services. This is our only means tested scheme and is specifically aimed at low income households. Part of the application process involves assessment at your home.

If you meet the criteria and would like to apply for assistance, please complete the form below and return to our Head Office address (address at the back of the Newsletter)

Discretionary Hardship Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Background (Bereaved/Injured) _____

Service or Item required _____

Please enclose an estimate of the service or item you require.

Adventure Weekend!

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Parent or Guardians name _____

Have your family benefited from any of the NI Memorial Fund grant programmes in the past?

Yes No

Youth Forum

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Background _____

Date of Birth _____

Who's who in the FUND!

Head Office

Carolyn McCormick ...Secretary to the Fund
Colin CorbettAdministrator
Roisin ColemanDevelopment & Communications Officer

Grants Office

Donna McKeeGrants Office Manager
Kristen HornerGrants Officer
Nicola EllisGrants Officer