

## HELP AVAILABLE

### •Chronic Pain Management Scheme

provides individuals who are suffering chronic physical pain (as a result of a troubles related injury) with financial assistance 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 UK and Ireland.

### •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).

**For further details on any of the schemes contact Wendy on 028 9024 5965 or visit our website [www.nimf.org.uk](http://www.nimf.org.uk)**

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS PUBLICATION  
PLEASE CONTACT WENDY ON 028 9024 5965

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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](mailto:nimf@nics.gov.uk)

### WHO'S WHO IN THE FUND!

**HEAD OFFICE:** Carolyn Mada - Fund Secretary. Colin Corbett - Administrator.  
Roisin Coleman - Development & Communications Officer.  
**GRANTS OFFICE:** Wendy Hayes - Grants Office Manager. Nicola Ellis - Grants Officer.  
Valerie Hobson - Grants Officer. Kristen Horner - Grants Officer. Dale Rimmer - Grants Assistant.  
Amy Smyth - Grants Assistant.

Support and  
Reconciliation  
NORTHERN IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND



# Newsletter

Issue 4  
Summer 2006

## SHORT BREAK SCHEME

Summer's here and no doubt many of you will be thinking about a short break away.

Our Short Break Scheme offers breaks throughout the UK and Ireland. We have a good selection of breaks available ranging from coach trips to city breaks and weekends at hotels in Northern Ireland. We can also offer return flights or ferry crossings if you would simply like to visit friends or relatives.

If you have had only one break from the scheme, you may be eligible for a second.



Applications are invited from those who as a direct result of the Troubles;

- Have lost a parent partner or child
- Have sustained serious physical or psychological injuries which are ongoing
- Have become the registered primary carer for a close relative who has been physically injured

If you think you may be eligible for a break, please contact our Grants Office for further information. You may also download an application from our website at [www.nimf.org.uk](http://www.nimf.org.uk)

Conditions: Applicants may avail of a maximum of two breaks. Applications must be approved before travel arrangements can be made. All bookings must be made through NI Memorial Fund approved agents. NIMF cannot contribute towards breaks/holidays you have already arranged.

## SHORT BREAK SCHEME: Some consideration please

The Board of Directors are concerned to note that an unacceptable number of people have failed to turn up for their Short Break without prior, or indeed any notice given. This results not only in a loss to the Fund, but also prevents others from enjoying a short break away. Over the Easter weekend a total of ten people failed to take up their short breaks which had been paid for in full in advance of travel by the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund. This money cannot be recovered and represented a loss in excess of £2000. In addition, many families were prevented from travelling over this weekend as many of our breaks were fully booked. Please consider your travel arrangements carefully. If for genuine reasons you are unable to travel, please give us as much notice as possible. If you fail to turn up for your break, you will be unable to avail of another one.

## NIMF HELP REBUILD AFTER THE TSUNAMI

In conjunction with Habitat for Humanity N.I. and as part of our remit to promote reconciliation within the community, the Memorial Fund embarked on a building project in tsunami hit southern Sri Lanka. Our cross community party of fifteen (males and females) worked on building two homes for families who lost their homes in the tsunami which devastated the area.

The group were completely shocked by the scale of the devastation in the area and the conditions in which many families were still living. In many cases accommodation consisted of wooden shacks, not much bigger than a garden shed, with roofs of polythene sheeting or woven palm tree leaves. Some families were also living in tents, sanitation was very basic, no running water and the toilet was a hole in the ground. Despite the fact that we were basically working in the jungle in difficult conditions, we made excellent progress on both homes. We were able to complete one home to roof level and the other not far behind. Both houses should be ready within two weeks with the families and some local workers completing the final stages.



## CLOSURE OF THE AMPUTEE & WHEELCHAIR SCHEMES

Most readers will be aware from the NI Memorial Fund Newsletter (Issue 3) that the Amputee and Wheelchair schemes closed for applications on 30 June 2006. The schemes proved very successful over the past four years and provided 44 amputees with new prostheses and 42 disabled applicants with new wheelchairs totalling £375,000. These schemes closed as the NHS have indicated that they can now provide the high level of prostheses and wheelchairs that the fund has provided over the past four years. If applicants experience any difficulties replacing wheelchairs or prostheses through the NHS please contact Carolyn on 028 9052 0066.

## REVIEW OF GRANTS SCHEMES

Over the next few months the Fund will undertake a review of all existing schemes. Questionnaires will be issued randomly and we would ask for your co-operation in this exercise. If you have any views on our current schemes - (good or bad!) or suggestions for improvements, please send all comments to Carolyn Mada at our Head Office address.

## TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE EDUCATION & TRAINING SCHEME

If you thought our Education and Training Scheme wasn't for you, maybe it's time to reconsider.

You don't have to go back to school to benefit from the Education & Training scheme. Perhaps you would like to learn to drive, play a musical instrument, take up a new hobby? Just take a look at some things other people have been doing!

HGV lessons, music lessons, engraving, forklift truck driving, childcare course, computer skill, extra tuition, learn a language, counselling, beauty therapies, reflexology, dressmaking mechanics. Check out what's on offer at your local college and contact us to discuss whether your chosen course will qualify for assistance. Your application must first be approved before you commit to any course.

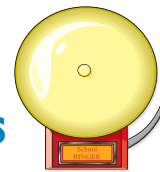
## WINTER ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The introduction of the Winter Assistance Scheme in December 2004 proved very successful and we received positive feedback from many recipients. As a result the scheme was repeated and was available for applications during the period 1<sup>st</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> May. The scheme was available to applicants aged 60 (at time of application) who, as a result of "The Troubles," were:-

- (a) bereaved i.e. lost a parent, partner, child or sibling, or
- (b) sustained a serious physical or psychological injury which is ongoing, or
- (c) have become the registered primary carer to someone who has sustained a serious physical injury.

The scheme, which pays a grant of £100, is restricted to one application (each grant period) per household. A total of 966 applications were approved in comparison to 712 the previous year. The scheme has now closed for applications.

## BACK TO SCHOOL SCHEME OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS



The Back to School Scheme provides a grant to help families, with school age children, purchase school uniforms and assist with other costs associated with the beginning of the school year. The scheme will open for applications from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September. We will not be able to process applications received after the closing date.

The scheme is open to parents who have children, aged 18 or under in full time education, living at home with them and who, as a result of "The Troubles," have:-

- (a) lost a parent, partner or child, or
- (b) sustained a serious physical or psychological injury which is ongoing, or
- (c) have become the registered primary carer to a close relative who has sustained a serious physical injury.

We may require further information to support your application, e.g. long birth certificate for each child and if your child is aged 16 or over we will require written confirmation from the school that the child is returning to full time education. However, our Grants Office staff will advise as necessary.

## ARE YOU LIVING IN A LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD?

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

The *Discretionary Hardship Fund* may be able to help with the purchase of basic household items or services. This is our only means tested scheme and is reserved for our lowest income households. Applications are strictly limited to those *widowed or injured only*. We are unable to accept applications which fall outside this criteria.

### What is low income?

Each application is considered on its merits. An assessment will be based on the household income, outgoings, number of dependants and living conditions. If you think you may qualify, please complete the form below and return to; NIME, Room B4.14, Block B, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SG.

Are you living in a low income household?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you qualify? Please tick one of the options below

I lost my spouse/partner

I was injured

Please give details of the item or service you require. \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifying applicants will be visited at home to have their case assessed. The scheme is discretionary and an award is not guaranteed.

## CROSS COMMUNITY PROJECT-ROMANIA<sup>2006</sup>



In June 2006 the Fund embarked on its fourth cross community reconciliation project to Romania in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. A team of 17 adults both protestant and catholic whose lives have been affected by the Troubles packed their bags and headed off to Beius, Romania for the experience of a lifetime!



Despite having suffered so much hurt in their own lives these willing bunch of volunteers put their troubles behind them and worked hard to make the dreams of the Sorec family come true by building them a house in just one week.

Prior to the blitz build the family (Dorin, Vioreca and Darios) were living in one room of Vioreca's family home which didn't even have a bathroom or running water.

The team spent a week working hard to complete the house in time for the dedication of the family home and were able to hand over the keys to a very happy family.

At the end of the week 17 complete strangers had become good friends. Members of the group commented that although everyone in the team was coming from different backgrounds, they were able to come together, share their experiences and realise not how different they are but how much they have in common.

If you are interested in participating in a reconciliation project in the future please contact Carolyn on

028 9052 0066.