

• **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 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 Paul 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



Newsletter

Winter 2004

Hello!

Welcome to the first edition of the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund's Newsletter. We hope to bring you regular updates on what's new and what's been happening. We hope the newsletter will be both interesting and informative. We would welcome your comments and suggestions as to what you think we should cover.

Editor

Cross Community Reconciliation Projects

During 2004 the fund embarked on two reconciliation projects in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, a cross community Christian housing association. Two teams of young adults travelled to Csurgo, Hungary and Beius, Romania to work on a building site for a week to help build houses for families living in poverty. Two further projects have been organised for May and June 2005. If you are aged over 18 and fancy getting your hands dirty, a bit of hard work and some great craic, fill in the form below to register your interest, and return to Head Office (address on back page).



Cross Community Project 2005
Name _____
Address _____

Telephone number _____
Date of Birth _____
Background (Bereaved/injured) _____



New initiative for the over 60's.

Winter Assistance Grant



Consultation with support groups has highlighted a gap in help available to the over 60's.

On 1 December 2004 the Fund will introduce a Winter

Assistance Grant to help victims over 60 with additional costs associated with the winter months. A grant of £150 will be paid to all successful applicants. If you are aged 60 or over and have been bereaved (lost a parent, partner, child or sibling) or seriously injured, you may be eligible for assistance. One grant is available per household. Anyone wishing to apply should complete the form below and return it to the Grants Office with a copy of their birth certificate.

Name _____

Address _____

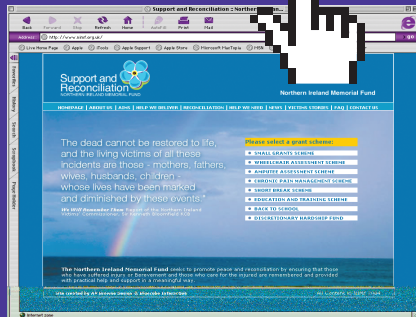
Telephone number _____

Date of Birth _____

Background (Bereaved or injured?) _____

THE SCHEME WILL RUN FROM 1/12/04 TO 1/3/05.

MEMORIAL FUND WEBSITE GOES LIVE



You can now access the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund on the internet. By logging on to www.nimf.org.uk you can keep up to date with all the latest news and schemes. You can also download application forms. We are happy to answer any queries you have by e-mail at nimf@nics.gov.uk.

CONSULTATION WITH VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS

During July and August the NI Memorial Fund staff carried out a consultation with victim support groups throughout Northern Ireland.

The Fund is very grateful to those groups who participated and took time out of their very busy schedules. The views expressed on the work of the Fund, and the suggestions for change or new initiatives have now been collated into a report. This report will be considered by the Board in December.

Any changes or new initiatives arising out of the consultation will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

For anyone who was not involved in the consultation but would like to have an input please write to: Carolyn McCormick, Fund Secretary, Northern Ireland Memorial Fund, Room 4.14, Block B Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SG

DISCRETIONARY HARDSHIP FUND



In September 2003 the NIMF introduced the Discretionary Hardship Fund to help those suffering real financial hardship. Applications can only be considered from those on low income who meet the following criteria: -

- (1) Those who have lost the main breadwinner in the family, e.g. spouse or partner, as a result of the Troubles.
- (2) Those who have suffered severe physical injuries, as a result of the Troubles, which has affected their ability to work.

The scheme is targeting applicants on low income who require essential household items or services e.g. cookers, heating appliances or essential maintenance/repairs for their home. Applications can be made by completing the form below and returning it to Head Office - see address at back of Newsletter. An estimate for the item or service needed should also be enclosed and successful applicants will be required to submit receipts. NIMF staff will carry out a home visit to assess the application.

Discretionary Hardship Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Background (Bereaved/Injured) _____

Telephone number _____

Item or service requested _____

Estimate enclosed _____

COMPETITION FOR KIDS ONLY

PANTO TIME!



Your answers.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How would you fancy a trip to this year's pantomime at Belfast's Grand Opera House or the Millennium Forum? Tickets are up for grabs at both venues on selected dates. To be in with a shout all you need to do is complete the quiz below along with your own details and send to us before 19th November 2004. This competition is only open to families who have benefited from the Fund in the past.

1. What gifts did the Three Wise Men bring?
2. What date in December is known as St. Stephen's Day?
3. On the fifth day of Christmas what did my true love bring to me?

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Age _____

Number of tickets required (max 4) _____

Millennium Forum

Belfast Grand Opera House