

HELP AVAILABLE

•Chronic Pain Management Scheme

provides individuals who are suffering chronic physical pain (as a result of the injuries sustained) 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 British Isles.

•Wheelchair Assessment Scheme

provides wheelchair users with a better alternative wheelchair to the one they are currently using. This Scheme will close in June 2006.



•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. This Scheme will close in June 2006.

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

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

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

Support and
Reconciliation
NORTHERN IRELAND MEMORIAL FUND



Newsletter

Issue 3
Winter 2005/6



ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF £1.5 MILLION

Some readers may have heard the announcement made by the Secretary of State on 26 October 2005 of extra government funding of up to £1.5 million for the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund. The Secretary of State also indicated that he anticipated that the recently appointed Interim Victims Commissioner will report on the work of the Fund in December 2006 and that the money he announced will allow the Fund to continue its work in the interim. The Fund very much welcomes this announcement and as you will see from the figures opposite this money is vital in sustaining our much needed grant programmes.

ACCOUNTS TO 30 JUNE 2005

	NI Government Funding	Direct Charitable Expenditure
2000	£2,000,000	£317,194
2001	£1,340,710	£539,610
2002	£1,366,578	£1,851,950
2003	£2,560,000	£2,789,702
2004	£0	£887,738
2005	£0	£1,943,395
Total	£7,267,288	£8,329,589

The Remembrance Commission was established by the Republic of Ireland Government in October 2003 to provide assistance to those who suffered as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland. There are a number of

REMEMBRANCE COMMISSION

payments that may be made from the Commission: Acknowledgement Payments, Economic Hardship Payments and Medical Payments.

Eligibility criteria:

• **BEREAVEMENT** If you had a family member who died as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland and that person died in the Republic of Ireland or was normally resident there at the time of the incident.

• **INJURY** If you have suffered a serious injury as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland and you sustained your injury in the Republic of Ireland, or you were normally resident in the Republic of Ireland at the time you were injured or you are normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and have been for at least three years prior to the date of your application.

• **DISPLACEMENT** If you had to move from your normal place of residence in Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland as a direct consequence of the conflict, can satisfy the Commission that you suffered economic hardship as a result of this move and now wish to return to Northern Ireland you may be entitled to help.

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For further information or to establish if you may qualify for any of the above mentioned awards, please contact 00-353-1-6696860 Or write to The Remembrance Commission, 1A Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2.

CLOSURE OF AMPUTEE & WHEELCHAIR ASSESSMENT SCHEME

The Fund has operated the above schemes since 2002 to provide the best prostheses and wheelchairs available to Troubles related amputees and wheelchair users. Both schemes were set up to help those who have suffered, due to the fact that in 2002 only basic provision was available through the National Health Service (NHS). More recent discussions with the NHS have indicated

that they can now provide the high level of prostheses and wheelchairs that the NIMF have been funding over the past three years. In light of this development the Fund will close both schemes on 30 June 2006. A small discretionary budget has been set aside to deal with any exceptional cases which cannot be covered by the NHS.

CROSS COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION PROJECTS

Over the past three years the Fund has embarked on reconciliation projects in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, a cross community Christian housing association. Teams of adults worked together on building sites to help build houses for families living in poverty. Two further projects have been arranged for 2006. If you are over 18, would like an adventure and don't mind a lot of hard work, fill in the form opposite to register your interest, and return to Head Office.



Cross Community Project 2006

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Background _____

Bereaved (Lost a close relative) - please advise of relationship _____

Injured (or child of injured applicant) _____

CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Currently all successful applicants to the Chronic Pain Management Scheme are awarded a grant of up to £2,000 in a twelve month period. From 01 March 2006 only £500 of the total grant can be used for alternative or complementary therapies. Any applicants who have been approved before this date may continue on the old system using the £2,000 grant for treatments until their current grant period expires. When re-applying the new rules will apply to all applicants.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

Over the past few months Royal Mail have advised that they are holding mail for the Fund which has insufficient postage paid. As the current application forms are printed on quite heavy paper, sometimes a first class stamp is insufficient. In these instances Royal Mail retain the letters until the full price of postage is paid. This has resulted in administrative difficulties and has caused concern for applicants whose forms were not delivered.



In future when applications are being sent to the Grants Office and if you are in doubt as to the correct postage, we recommend that you have the envelope weighed at the Post Office and the appropriate postage is paid.

WINTER ASSISTANCE GRANT

Last year the fund launched a Winter Assistance grant for those aged 60 and over who were bereaved (lost a parent, partner, child or sibling) or seriously injured. Due to the large backlog of work in the Fund's grants office we were unable to run the scheme in December 2005. However we would like to offer a Winter Assistance grant of £100 to all who meet the above criteria. Everyone who received a grant last year and who are still eligible, will have automatically received a payment by now and need not apply. If you have not received a payment and would like to apply please complete the form below and return to the Grants Office as soon as possible. The scheme will run from 01/02/06 - 01/04/06. Applications can not be accepted after 1st April 2006.

Winter Assistance Grant

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Background (Bereaved or injured?) _____

NB. If you have not already done so please provide a copy of your birth certificate.
ONE APPLICATION ONLY PER HOUSEHOLD

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. Please note that a home visit will form part of your application and that the total household income will be taken into account. If you meet the criteria and would like to apply for assistance, please complete the form below and return to our Head Office address.

Discretionary Hardship Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Background:
as a result of the Troubles has the applicant:
(a) Lost a spouse or partner?
(b) Suffered serious physical or psychological injury?

What service or item do you require?

Please enclose an estimate of the service or item you require.
NB. APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED FROM THOSE WHO MEET THE ABOVE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

DELAY IN PROCESSING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Over the past few months there have been delays in processing grant applications. This is mainly due to a large uptake of the grant programmes and staff shortages. We have now additional staff in post and all outstanding applications have been logged on computer and can now be processed. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused. Telephone lines have now been opened from 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday.

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.