

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 a spouse or partner 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 the Grants Office 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

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Newsletter

Issue 5
Winter 2006

calling
all bored
teenagers!

See inside to find out more
about the NIMF's Youth Project

NIMF Youth Project

(Attention all bored teenagers!)

Recently many of the victim support groups have asked the Fund to look at the possibility of introducing a programme that would help teenagers who have been affected by the Troubles.

In response to this area of need the Fund has decided to put in place a Youth project which will run from February - September 2007. The project will be cross community and will include a series of days out and residential weekends which will be a mix of fun and topical issues which affect teenagers growing up in Northern Ireland. We anticipate that there will be a maximum of 40 places available on the project and places will be allocated strictly on a first come first served basis. All costs in relation to the project will be covered by the Fund. The project will be open to young people aged 16 - 19 years, whose lives have been affected by the Troubles, and who are willing to get involved in this cross community project. All teenagers who complete the programme will have the opportunity to travel abroad for 10 days to carry out a building project with Habitat for Humanity.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME ITINERARY

- February:** Information evening. **Get to know you!** One day activity raft building.
- March:** **Music Mayhem!** Weekend full of outdoor pursuits and a fun music workshop.
- April:** **Clowns & Artists!** Weekend of fun, have a go at circus skills and display your artistic talents in our creative art workshop. Session to raise awareness on alcohol & drug abuse.
- May:** **Growing up in a divided society!** Weekend of outdoor activities. Session on community relations and a look at what issues young people face in N Ireland. **Chinese banquet.** (Friday night get together!)
- June:** **'I'm a teenager - get me out of here!'** Challenge for teams to build their own shelter for the night and complete challenges for food. This activity will give the group a feel for what it's like to live without the comforts of a good home. Weekend will end with quad biking, BBQ and a treasure hunt.
- July:** **Wet & Wild!** Weekend of watersport activities. Pottery class also arranged for those who are not so brave! This weekend will also look how bullying affects young people.
- August:** **Habitat for Humanity project.** The team will work and live together abroad for 10 days to build two houses for families living in poverty who have been deprived the right of a decent home!
- September:** **Night at the Oscars!** Gala evening where the young people will be presented with achievement awards and will have an opportunity to display their artwork and pottery. All parents will be invited along to the event.

NB. The NI Memorial Fund has in place a child protection policy and all staff and volunteers will be trained in line with this policy and be subject to the relevant POCVA checks.

Over 60's Support Scheme

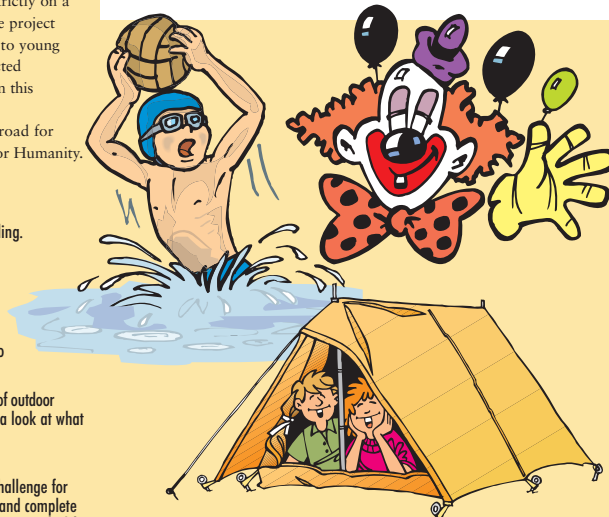
The Fund has introduced this scheme in response to the needs of older victims. This grant will help cover the costs of general household maintenance and living expenses that people incur when they get older.

The Over 60's Support scheme will run from 1 January 2007 until 31 December 2007, to help victims/survivors aged 60 years and over. Applicants can apply for a household grant of £150.

Applications will be accepted from those who are aged 60 years and over and who as a direct result of the 'Troubles' have:

- Lost a parent, partner, child or sibling
- Themselves been physically or psychologically injured
- Become the registered primary carer of a close family member who was physically injured

If you wish to apply please contact the Grants office on 028 9024 5965 for an application form.



If you are interested in the Youth project please complete the form below and return to our address at Head Office.

NIMF Youth Project

Name _____

Address _____

Contact No. _____

Date of Birth _____

Bereaved Injured Child of someone who was injured

Remembrance Commission

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.

If you have suffered bereavement/injury or displacement in the Republic of Ireland, or at a time when you were resident in the Republic of Ireland, you may be eligible.

There are a number of payments which can be made by the Commission: Acknowledgement Payments, Economic Hardship Payments and Medical Payments.

For further information you can contact the Remembrance Commission on 00-353-1-6696860.

Education & Training Scheme

Could I remind all of our readers that it is Fund policy not to reimburse applicants for courses/training which they have committed to prior to their applications being approved. To avoid disappointment regarding funding for courses we would advise all applicants to submit their application form to the Fund prior to embarking on any courses or training.

Days Out for older victims

Feedback received from a number of the victim support groups was that many of their older members did not avail of the short break scheme as they did not wish to be away from home overnight for various reasons.

It was commented that some older people would appreciate the opportunity to have a nice day out somewhere in Northern Ireland. In response to this the Fund is looking at the possibility of organising day trips in Northern Ireland for older victims who have not availed of the Short Break scheme. These trips will be arranged to different locations throughout Northern Ireland.

If you are 60 years and over and would be interested in one of our day trips please complete the attached form and return to Head Office as soon as possible.



DAYS OUT FOR OLDER VICTIMS

Name _____

Address _____

Contact No. _____

Have you ever availed of a Memorial Fund Short Break? Yes No

Pre 1991 widows/widowers trips

Some readers may be aware that in the past we have had several weekend breaks arranged specifically for those widowed as a result of the Troubles pre April 1991. These breaks are strictly limited to one only. We are now in the process of arranging a further trip, so if you were widowed before April 1991 and have never availed of one of our organised trips and would be interested in a weekend away with other widows/widowers, we would like to hear from you. You may also bring a companion.

If you are interested please complete the attached form and return to our Head Office address as soon as possible.

PRE 1991 WIDOWS/WIDOWERS TRIPS

Name _____

Address _____

Contact No. _____

Discretionary Hardship Scheme

Are you living in a low income household? Have you lost a spouse or partner or suffered a serious physical or psychological injury as a result of the 'Troubles'?

If so the Discretionary Hardship Fund may be able to help you 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 who lost a partner or were injured. We are unable to accept applications which fall outside this criteria. Note: The award of DLA is no longer included in our financial assessment.

You may apply once in a 12 month period.

What is a low income?

Each application is considered on its own 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 Head office.

DISCRETIONARY HARDSHIP SCHEME

Name _____

Address _____

How do you qualify for assistance?

I lost my partner _____

I was injured _____

Please give details of the item or service you require:

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