

# Crisis Grants news

2010

from the Surrey Care Trust

## One small bed... and one very happy little girl



image from istockphoto.com

Paula and her young daughter, Vicky, had recently moved from a women's refuge into their own flat, safely away from the threat of domestic violence.

They managed to take most of their possessions with them but Vicky had now outgrown her bed and Paula had no means of buying her a new one.

That was where the Surrey Care Trust stepped in, as we do so often to help people who are coping in extraordinarily difficult circumstances and struggling to afford basic essentials that most of us take for granted.

Between April and December 2009 Crisis Grants helped more than 200 people, and one of them provided Vicky with a new bed.

The family's social worker explained what it meant to mum and daughter: "Close your eyes and picture a four-year-old girl with a big smile on her face skipping up the stairs to show off her new bed in her new home."

"This grant has made a world of difference to Vicky. Seeing her happy has brought a smile to Paula's face. This funding meant that Paula and Vicky could move into their new home without delay and begin settling down to normal family life."

Close your eyes and picture a 4-year-old girl with a big smile on her face skipping up the stairs to show off her new bed in her new home. This grant has made a world of difference to Vicky.

Surrey social worker

THE SURREY CARE TRUST works across Surrey helping people who face disadvantage. We have been giving Crisis Grants since we were founded in 1982 and help hundreds of people every year in this way.

Today we are also working for the longer term through education to transform the life chances of people who live on the economic edge because of their lack of skills. We also nurture the talents of young people who have struggled in mainstream school.

01483 426990

[www.Surreycaretrust.org.uk](http://www.Surreycaretrust.org.uk)

A registered charity, number 285543

Donations from these companies provide vital funding for the Surrey Care Trust Crisis Grants Fund:



Surrey

Surrey  
Care Trust  
our CRISIS GRANTS  
help people in great need

# Touching lives, week in week out

Penny is one of the many people living on a financial knife edge whom we help with Crisis Grants. When something basic like a washing machine, a cooker or a fridge, stops working and the money just won't go any further, the stress of making ends meet tips over into real distress.

Penny's resources were stretched to the limit supporting her two children and paying the bills, so when her fridge broke down she had no way of replacing it. A Crisis Grant was a real life line.

"I was in desperate need of a fridge and your generous grant has helped us to buy one," she explained in a thank you letter. "We are a struggling one parent family and could not have afforded to buy it ourselves."

Linda and her two young children came to the UK as LAsylum seekers several years ago but had to wait until this year to be given indefinite leave to remain.

They were living in an overcrowded and damp flat on an extremely limited budget. Now the family have finally found a place of their own to live but initially they lacked the basic necessities for setting up a home and had no money to buy them.

A Crisis Grant enabled them to purchase household

essentials such as bedding, kitchen utensils and cleaning products.

Their Family Support Worker told us: "The Crisis Grant has enabled Linda to care for her children in a normal family environment. The long-term impact on the family is that they can now fully integrate into our society and their local community."

Graeme was a homeless teenager, stripped of his benefits and often sleeping rough. While waiting for a place to live and his job seekers claim to be processed, Graham ran out of money and was left with nothing, not even enough to buy food.

A Crisis Grant kept Graham from going hungry until his allowance came through and we are delighted to hear that he had come through this low period and stopped sleeping rough. He was attending a training course and looking forward to the future.



image from istockphoto.com

All names have been changed

## Company in the spotlight SV Energy

We are delighted to welcome SV Energy, a Stacey Ventures company, to the group of businesses who are supporting Crisis Grants. SV Energy provides consulting services and investment in the oil and gas and wider energy sector.

“We support Crisis Grants because it provides immediate practical assistance to people in our community with real and immediate needs with help not available elsewhere.

The two biggest uses of the grants this year have been for beds and bedding and school uniforms.

Other practical help being provided includes cookers, food and groceries, and baby equipment to people in desperate circumstances.

In all conscience, we can't see people with such needs and do nothing.”

Mike Stacey, SV Energy

Stacey Ventures

Applications for Crisis Grants always come through professionals such as social workers, health visitors, probation officers and careers advisers. They turn to the Surrey Care Trust when there is no statutory funding for the needs of people they are helping. **Whatever the request, we always aim to respond swiftly, turning round 80% of applications within three working days.**

## Christmas SHOPPING EVENING

A Christmas Shopping Evening organised at the Pirrie Hall, Brook, near Godalming, by two Surrey Care Trust members of staff who wanted to make a personal contribution to Crisis Grants, raised more than £500.

**YOUR COMPANY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW. IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

Crisis Grants provide modest financial help to people facing hardship in towns and villages across Surrey. To find out how your company can support this vital service contact our Chief Executive Elaine Tisdall on 01483 412758.

Surrey Care Trust  
changing lives

Crisis Grants News is produced by the Surrey Care Trust, 1 Old Elstead Road, Milford, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 5EE

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