



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

Media Brief 2022/23



Grant recipient
Akram Khan Dance Company

What is the Garfield Weston Foundation?

Established in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded charitable grant-making trust which gives away around £90 million a year to charities across the UK.

Each year the Foundation gives away its income and donations have continued to grow. Since it was established, it has donated over £1.4 billion, of which over half has been given away in the past 10 years alone. In the most recent financial year the Foundation gave away nearly £90 million to over 1,980 charities across the UK.

- Having established one of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees today remain highly active and hands-on. The Foundation's funding was established with an endowment of shares in the family business – a successful model that still endures today and as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.
- Typically, around 2,000 charities of all sizes across the UK benefit each year and a significant majority of grants are for projects and organisations across the UK's local communities and volunteer organisations.
- The Foundation is well known for flexibility as its strategy is deliberately responsive and adapts to need. Those at the frontline of providing services generally create the most effective solutions and the Trustees back talented people with practical ideas rather than impose direction.
- The overarching theme is an approach to quality and excellence, with work or projects demonstrating clear outcomes and benefits. Support for core costs is a particular strength of the Foundation as unrestricted income is especially valuable for charities and is often difficult to secure. Similarly the Trustees often make multi-year commitments in the knowledge that these grants are vital to help organisations plan for the future, particularly during periods of financial insecurity.
- The Foundation also benefits from having highly active and engaged Weston Family Trustees – all Trustees are related to the Founder and they volunteer a significant amount of their personal time to review applications, visit charities, conduct referencing and meet with individuals across the charity sector to ensure they remain well-informed.
- Diversity is central to what we do – and we believe that diversity comes in many forms. We adopt a range of approaches to ensure multiple perspectives are embedded in our organisation, the way we work and our grant-making decisions. Our dedicated team members bring with them diverse experiences, backgrounds and voices, ensuring our grant-making process is fair and reaches the range of organisations across the country who most need our help. As an open and accessible national funder, our donations and the applications we receive reflect the wonderful diversity of the UK.
- As a responsible and transparent funder, the Foundation is mindful of a range of important factors that shape our society and we have statements accessible on our website on key issues such as the environment, safeguarding and modern slavery.



Where does the Foundation's income come from?

- When the Foundation was established in 1958 it was endowed with shares in the Weston family business – Wittington Investments – Garfield Weston effectively gave away 80% of his wealth for the benefit of the nation and this legacy has grown over time.
- The Foundation holds a majority stake (79.2%) in the family-owned holding company called Wittington Investments. Wittington has a diverse portfolio, of which the largest investment is a 54.5% stake in Associated British Foods (ABF), a publicly quoted company. Other investments include hotels (such as The Grand Hotel in Brighton), property and retail interests (such as Fortnum & Mason).
- The fact that donations have grown year on year is a direct result of the success of the underlying investments such as ABF (which owns businesses such as Primark, Twinings and Ryvita, and which provides employment for over 130,000 people). The fact that these businesses are predominantly owned by a charity enables the business to plan for the long-term which in turn creates sustainable income for the Foundation to give away.

Examples of recent donations

While the Foundation funds across a broad range of categories, the underlying ethos remains consistent – to support charities with talented people and effective ways to meet a clear need. The Trustees adopt a deliberate strategy to empower people and charities to create their own solutions rather than to impose a particular model or viewpoint – it is this flexibility that enables the Foundation to respond and adapt to changes in need, while embracing the most effective solutions and ideas.

While the Foundation is an independent grant-maker, the Trustees have developed a series of strategic partnerships with delivery charities and other funders in the knowledge that working together increases impact. The Weston Charity Awards, now in its eighth year is one of the longest standing partnerships as is the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. More recent examples include, Weston Communicating Climate, a partnership with the Media Trust and Weston Heritage Internship programme with the Mary Rose Trust, both of which were developed within the past year.

Recent examples of grants made in 2022 are below and further case studies and the full list of last year's grants can be found on the Foundation's website www.garfieldweston.org

Community This year over 300 grants were made to grassroots charities supporting their local communities across the UK. Ninety-two grants were made to support improvements to local facilities across the UK including the Seghill Colliery Institute in the North East, Neuadd Elanor Village Hall in Wales and Love Withington Baths in the North West. Revenue grants included £60,000 for Business in the Community's job coaching programme, and core costs to local support organisations such as Thanet Community Development Trust (£50,000 over two years).





Youth 2021/22 was a record year for donations in Youth with grants totalling £18.6 million. This was the result of targeted, proactive work to develop new partnerships and over 40% of charities supported were new to the Foundation as a result. The Trustees also made a series of strategic capital grants to invest in the sector's infrastructure and facilities including £3 million to Onside to support the future development of Youth Zones in disadvantaged areas. The Trustees made a series of major grants to enable established charities to scale their programmes up to reach greater numbers of young people from marginalised communities including £304,596 to Girlguiding UK and £300,000 to the Construction Youth Trust.

Welfare We have a focus on grassroots organisations that continue to support the vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged. Grants totalling £14.4 million were made across the UK, including support for the elderly such as £50,000 over two years to Moor Allerton Elderly Care in Leeds, £30,000 to Essex Dementia Care and £35,000 to Alive Activities Ltd which works in a large number of care settings across the South West. Revenue grants to organisations supporting families included £60,000 to Gingerbread towards its advice and information for single parents, £20,000 to Felinfoel Family Centre in Wales and over £450,000 to 23 Home-Starts. Grants totalling £2.1 million were made to 60 homeless charities including £210,000 to St Mungo's digital recovery college and smaller grants to local charities such as St Petrocs in Cornwall and the Cyrenians in Edinburgh. Over £3.7 million was granted to organisations supporting people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities including £225,000 to Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy and a capital grant of £250,000 to Sense for its new learning hub in Loughborough.

Health While grants made in 2022 related to the ongoing effects of the pandemic on the nation's mental and physical health, an increasing number of grants were made towards major research and capital projects that are being reinstated as charities' fundraising has slowly recovered. Grants included £500,000 over three years to a partnership between the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families and MIND to provide secondary schools with mental health support, £450,000 over three years to the Stroke Association to support its national telephone support services, £225,000 over three years to Diabetes UK for research into gestational diabetes and a major investment of £1 million to Cancer Research UK into the Francis Crick Institute's digital infrastructure that underpins the research institute's important work into human diseases. In total the Trustees granted over £11.4 million to Health charities.

Environment In recognition of the scale and complexity of challenges facing our planet, the Trustees remain committed to supporting a broad range of charities and issues from landscape preservation, species conservation and food systems to vital research and social action.

Total donations to environmental charities reached a new record of £7.4 million. Grants varied in scope and scale from £7,500 to support Avon Wildlife Trust's local beaver protection project to £1.5 million over three years to support the Zoological Society of London's conservation research programmes which have national and international impact. Weston Communicating Climate, the Foundation's partnership with The Media Trust, saw the first cohort of 30 environment and climate charities graduate from a six-month intensive communications skills training programme, with a further 420 charities participating in communications workshops with the support of 480 corporate volunteers.

