

Fundraising News

Welcome to Southend in Sight's spring edition of Fundraising News.

We want to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who responded to our letter at Christmas and made a donation to us online, over the phone or by post. We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters and with the accompanying notes of praise and encouragement for our services – it makes everything worthwhile.

We are pleased to say that over 100 people donated and together you helped raise over £4000 for Southend in Sight – a fantastic achievement.

Our grant funders have not let us down either. The Charities Aid Foundation awarded us a £10,000 grant just before Christmas, which has helped keep our finances ticking over. The competition for grants is fierce so we consider ourselves lucky!

And we have just received news that Rayleigh Town Council has awarded us a grant of £850 to stay connected with our Rayleigh members. Our Talk and Support team will be on the case to contact those living with sight loss in the area.

Our charity shop managed a flurry of activity in the first 3 weeks of December, taking over £4,100 in 15 days of trading – a phenomenal amount. This was helped by the fantastic window display (pictured below) created by Shop Manager Lois, and the endless Christmas-themed baskets of gifts made by our volunteer Viv. We really cannot wait to open up and see all our customers again.



While we are in lockdown, there are still a number of ways you can fundraise for us. If you are having a clear out at home and selling items on Ebay, you can choose to donate anything from 10% to 100% of your sale to charity (please choose Southend Blind Welfare Organisation – our registered Charity name). And if you are shopping from home for essential items and using Amazon to deliver, please go to:

www.smile.amazon.co.uk

and choose Southend Blind Welfare Organisation. We receive a small donation from Amazon every time you shop.

One of our shop and “tech team” volunteers Gary (pictured above right, on duty in our Sight Loss Centre) decided to raise funds for us instead of receiving birthday gifts while in lockdown. He set up a fundraising page on Facebook and invited his friends and family to donate, raising a fantastic £175 for Southend in Sight in the process. Gary is visually impaired himself but said that

the process was easy and would encourage others to do the same. If you would like help or advice on doing something similar, please do get in touch. Thank you Gary!



We can offer online talks to any group or organisation that wishes to hear about our work, and you can, of course, fundraise on our behalf. Why not take on a challenge now the weather is improving and set up a “Just Giving” page for friends and family to sponsor you to walk every day for a month?

You can always donate to us on a monthly basis via our £5 monthly lottery – the Diamond Club. For more information on this and any other fundraising queries, please call **Catherine** on **01702 34 21 31**.