



The Garfield Weston Foundation reveals the 20 charities it is supporting as part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge

To mark the close of the [Garfield Weston Foundation's 60th anniversary year](#), the Foundation is running an exclusive 'Matched Funding Challenge' as part of this year's Big Give Christmas Challenge.

The Trustees of the Garfield Weston Foundation have committed up to £500,000 to support twenty selected charities through a simple 1:1 matching fund, enabling them to raise up to £50,000 each.

The 60th anniversary year has also seen the Foundation donate its billionth pound and given away over £11m as part of the Weston Anniversary Fund for capital projects.

The Garfield Weston Foundation's Director, Philippa Charles, says:

"We know that charities are facing high levels of need and are really stepping up to deliver services in lots of different ways. However to do this they need support. In celebration of our 60th anniversary year we are delighted that our selected charities now have the opportunity to engage donors to raise these much needed funds."

The twenty charities selected for the Christmas Challenge range from national to regional organisations addressing some of the toughest social challenges facing communities in the UK today.

[The Key](#), based in Gateshead, inspires belief in young people (aged 11-25) facing challenging circumstances across the North East by helping them realise their potential and discover what they are capable of. Working in teams young people plan, pitch, deliver and evaluate their own projects building their confidence and developing key skills.

Hannah Underwood, Chief Executive of The Key, says:

"We were over the moon to be selected to take part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge by the Garfield Weston Foundation. It's a fantastic opportunity! Through the challenge we're hoping to raise enough funds to transform the lives of 500 North East young people who are facing challenging circumstances, whilst also spreading the word about the amazing work our small, but ambitious, charity does."

– ENDS –

Notes to Editor:

The Twenty Selected Charities:

174 Trust - a Christian charity that serves the local community of North Belfast, as well as the whole city, through the provision of a safe, shared space where reconciliation is the focus.

Aberdeen Cyrenians provides food, shelter and a range of services to people affected by homelessness in the Aberdeen and surrounding areas.

Best Beginnings helps educate and empower parents and parents to be, increasing their confidence, knowledge and skills to give their children the best start in life.

Cleanup UK's encourages volunteer litter collecting groups throughout the UK and, in particular, in more deprived areas to make communities safer and more welcoming.

DisAbility Cornwall & Isles of Scilly is run by and for disabled people, delivering information, advice, support and services to provide disabled children, adults, their families and carers with equal life chances and opportunities.

Forget-me-not Chorus is a Cardiff-based charity that supports people with dementia and their families in the community and care homes through weekly singing sessions and creative workshops in seven choirs throughout Cardiff, the Vale and Newport.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields, based in York, helps the city tackle its environmental challenges - supporting people reduce their carbon footprint, improve recycling, enjoy practical conservation and connect to nature to improve wellbeing.

Heeley City Farm is a friendly farm and environmental visitor centre in the heart of Sheffield. Staff and volunteers work with young people, adults with learning disabilities and with local communities to promote regeneration, environmental education and health and well-being.

Kainos Community works inside prison and in the community to reduce reoffending and enable men to live purposeful lives inside prison and after release in the community.

Lost Chord is dedicated to improving the quality of life and wellbeing of people with dementia using musical stimuli to increase awareness and build self-esteem across Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It runs satellite schemes in London, Cardiff, Coventry, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich.

Sporting Marvels is a sports charity that partners with schools and youth-focused initiatives in the Rhondda Valleys of South Wales, one of the most deprived areas in the UK.

Thames Reach works with homeless and vulnerable adults to find decent homes, build supportive relationships and lead fulfilling lives. It runs numerous hostels, along with outreach services that help those sleeping rough in London to move off the streets.

The Boathouse Youth provides a full youth service to children and young people in the Bloomfield and Grange Park areas of Blackpool with an aim to help each child reach their full potential.

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The NeuroMuscular Centre (NMC) is the Centre of Excellence for people affected by neuromuscular conditions across a community of over 3000 people from all over the North West and beyond.

The Preshal Trust supports a range of clients of all ages with complex needs who may be affected by social exclusion and isolation in the Govan area of Scotland, which has high levels of unemployment, low education attainment and serious poverty levels.

Valleys Kids has changed the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children, young people and families. It is based in ex-mining areas of South Wales and has 4 community hubs, a Flagship Eco-Learning Residential centre on the Gower and a centre for creative industries in Porth.

Venture Scotland runs an outdoor-based personal development programme for young people who are seeking help to overcome complex and difficult problems and make positive, lasting changes in their lives.

Warrington Youth Club exists to support young people's social development, offering them opportunities to increase their skills, self-awareness and confidence, enabling them to make positive life choices. Its guiding values are learning, choice, participation and diversity.

Youth Initiatives NI aims to awaken hope, inspire initiative and mobilise young people to make a vital contribution to their community and to a shared future in Northern Ireland.

For further information, or to request an interview, please contact:

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Garfield Weston Foundation

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2018, the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) is a family-founded charitable grant-making foundation which supports causes across the UK with grants totalling over £60million each year. 2018 also marks its £1billionth donation since it was established.

One of the largest and most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason amongst others - a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Over 1,500 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.