themustardseedproject
Supporting refugees & those in need

Application form

An initiative of GK Church

Goudhurst & Kilndown

www.gkchurch.org.uk

Introduction

The Mustard Seed Project is an initiative of Goudhurst and Kilndown church. Members of the church community felt called to be involved with the support of young asylum seeking teenagers arriving in the UK. This began with practical support through local welcome centres, including offering English language teaching, clothing, food and friendship. Alongside this a small fund was established to support initiatives aimed at supporting the young arrivals, and to equip them to live well in this country.

The Mustard Seed Project aims to provide small sums of money to organisations that are working with teenage asylum seekers.

The name is taken from a parable told by Jesus, who compared the Kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed saying this;

"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches."

Our hope is to provide small 'Mustard Seed' grants, which can grow to have a disproportionately large impact on those it seeks to support.

We aim to be quick in making decisions about grants, and to fund initiatives that are too small, or too creative for major funding bids.

Funding Criteria

When requests come in for funding for projects linked to support for local asylum seeking teenagers and young people, we will apply the following criteria:

1. We will fund things that others can't or won't fund - usually because they are too small scale, too innovative or too urgent;
2. We will fund things that will take too long to find money for elsewhere;
3. We are particularly interested in providing seed money for projects that will:
    i. Do something small which will have a multiplier effect - for instance providing cheap computers for young people to develop skills which can be used to get a job
    ii. Provide evidence for bigger funding appeals in the future - for instance paying for the first 'Sleep packs', from which research could be done to show they are effective, which can then be used to apply for funding to roll the packs out much more widely

Our aim is to give small grants of no more than £500, and often significantly less, unless there are exceptional circumstances and reasons for giving a larger sum.

We will process requests for funding within one week of receiving all the information required for us to make a decision.

We will not fund projects which should be funded by Government, Education Services, the NHS or Social Services. Not will we normally fund projects which the teenagers should be funding for themselves.

Recipients of funding from the Mustard Seed project will be required to write a simple report describing the project and its outcomes, including how the money was spent. This will be made available to interested parties on the church website, and may be used to publicise the Project and as part of our ongoing fundraising efforts.

The Mustard Seed Project team, who will make decisions on the distribution of funding is made up of the Vicar, the Treasurer and a third person appointed by the Parish Church Council.

What is the purpose of the project?

Who will benefit from the project?

How will they benefit?

Briefly describe how the project will work

Amount requested?

What is the total required for this project to be fully funded?

Should this project be funded by Statutory or other agencies? If so, why are they not funding it?

Organisation making the request

Contact for the project: Email:

Phone number:

For use by the Mustard Seed Project Team

Criteria	Yes/No	Notes
Will this project have a 'Mustard Seed effect' producing a benefit larger than the sum we put it?		
Is the sum requested less than £500?		
Is the requirement for the funding time critical?		
Has alternate funding from the following sources been considered (and discounted)?		
1. Statutory agencies		
2. The beneficiaries themselves		
3. Other sources?		

Decision: