

Immediate support – thanks to you. MWA H&O paper: June 2026

Thanks to the generosity of MWA members, yes that's you, the Central Committee were left with the pleasure of having a further £4000 to distribute immediately to charities. The ones covered this month will each receive £500.

DEBRA: a charity that supports research and people suffering with EB¹. This is an incredibly painful genetic skin disease that causes the skin to blister and tear at the slightest touch. With skin as fragile as a butterfly's wings, EB is often referred to as 'butterfly skin'. Thankfully rare, thought to affect about 5,000 people in the UK, and yet vital to support.

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN: WCK aims to be the first to frontlines of disasters to provide fresh meals. They respond to humanitarian, climate and community crises around the world. They understand that whatever is happening, people will feel better with a fresh meal cooked to meet their needs and tastes. They are often found in areas where other NGOs² do not go or feel it is too unsafe to stay.

CANDLELIGHTERS: on their website it states that 'Candlelighters bring light and hope to families touched by childhood cancer in Yorkshire. We provide lifetime support services and invest in vital research.'

RAINBOW BABIES BANK: this charity may step in to support new mothers for various reasons – domestic abuse, financial problems, displacement due to war. It provides disadvantaged families and mothers-to-be with new and pre-loved baby equipment, nappies, toiletries, clothing up to age 18-24 months, baby food and infant formula.

RUDDI'S RETREAT: founded in 2011 by Ali Waterworth (Ruddi's mum), Ruddi's Retreat offers a holiday opportunity at a time when most needed. From six months old, Ali was going through the most awful treatment for cancer. From that experience his mum developed the idea of a retreat to provide similar families with a special holiday. There are now two retreats – Filey and Blackpool. Families with sick children or handling bereavement can apply for the chance to create happy memories.

I hope you can see that your hard work in raising funds helps to make a real difference to local, national and international charities. Next month I will outline the final five charities who have received immediate funds. Later this year I will provide details of those for which we are currently raising money.

Please let me encourage you to buy the MWA Memories booklet if you haven't already. Also, if you are on Facebook please pop to the MWA page and add a comment – it is your page, I am simply making sure it is there for any who want to engage with social media.

Sr Mary Holmes

¹ EB: Epidermolysis bullosa

² NGOs: non-governmental organisations.