



THE FUNDING NETWORK
LIVE CROWDFUNDING: TRANSFORMING LIVES
2nd December 2013



PRESENTING CHARITIES:

Peace Brigades International – Presented by **ZOE WANAMAKER**
Environmental Justice Foundation – Presented by **KATHERINE HAMNETT**
Jessie's Fund – Presented by **VICTORIA WOOD**
Helena Kennedy Foundation – Presented by **SANDI TOKSVIG**
Medical Aid Films – Presented by **GURINDER CHADHA**

THE FUNDING NETWORK is excited to announce its next live crowdfunding event in London on **Monday 2nd December 2013**, where five fledgling UK charities will showcase their incredible work and ambitions, in order to raise vital funds, transform lives and create social change.

An incubator network investing in young startup charities, **The Funding Network** has created a community of givers through its pioneering live crowdfunding events and has to date successfully raised over **£5 million** for more than **800** grassroots projects.

With charitable projects sourced and endorsed by The Funding Network's membership, each live event is open to the general public to attend and donate, in an inspiring, quick fire series of presentations and pledging sessions. The five charities that will present their impactful work at the 'Celebrity' edition of **The Funding Network** hosted at RBS, London, are:

Peace Brigades International – Presented by **Zoe Wanamaker**

- PBI wants to mount a strategic campaign to make the struggle of environmental defenders more visible

Environmental Justice Foundation – Presented by **Katharine Hamnett**

- To prevent industrial-scale illegal fishing by foreign trawlers in Liberia and in the border areas of Sierra Leone

Jessie's Fund – Presented by **Victoria Wood**

- Jessie's Fund enables children at a hospice in Blackpool – many of whom cannot speak – to communicate and express themselves through music therapy

Helena Kennedy Foundation – Presented by **Sandi Toksvig**

- HKF aims to break unequal cycles of opportunity in the UK by connecting disadvantaged students with employers

Medical Aid Films – Presented by **Gurinder Chadha**

- MAF works to improve the identification and treatment of cervical cancer for women in Sub-Saharan Africa, through film-based training.

An early model for the now ubiquitous 'crowdfunding' and collective online giving, **The Funding Network** often takes the first risk to back charitable start-ups at an early stage, many of which have gone on to become highly regarded and able to attract significant funding elsewhere. **The Funding Network** has previously crowd-sourced early funding for groundbreaking initiatives including climate change film **Age of Stupid** and related **10:10** campaign; political campaign group **38 Degrees**; **One Mile Away**, the social enterprise resulting from Penny Woolcock's acclaimed documentary, as well as influential local initiatives including **FoodCycle**, **Hackney Pirates**, **Vision Housing** and prison rehabilitation music project, **Changing Tunes**.

An opportunity to see and meet extraordinary people working at the front line of social change, **The Funding Network's** events are aimed at the general public and everyday donors, as opposed to high net worth individuals. Events offer the empowering experience and thrill of communal giving, highlighting the exponential, positive impact and sense of possibility created by collective philanthropy.

The Funding Network's unique model of philanthropic engagement and social change activism has just launched in the USA, and has recently been adopted in countries as far flung as Canada, South Africa, Australia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Editor's Notes:

Events Information: Date: 2nd December Time: 6pm

Venue: RBS, **RBS, 250 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AA**

Information: www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk

Contact: Sonal@thefundingnetwork.org.uk

The Funding Network Events - How it Works:

Each event hosted by The Funding Network invites members to put forward and endorse fledgling charities. For each event, four to five charities are chosen to present their work, following an initial round of applications and interviews. Members and the public are invited to discover the work and ambitions of the individual charities, followed by a pledging round for each project. Each charity has a fundraising target and individual pledges start at £100. The Funding Network hosts approximately 20 events per year across the

UK, including special editions aimed at young philanthropists, families, corporate groups and specialist industries.

The Funding Network - Membership:

The Funding Network is open for membership applications. Membership allows individuals to recommend and put forward charitable organisations to take part in the live crowdfunding process, as well as additional benefits such as special members-only talks and lectures with high profile speakers. Most recently, members were invited to an exclusive lunch with broadcaster and Channel 4 newsreader Jon Snow, Patron of The Funding Network.

Members come from all walks of life, with a broad range of experience in donating to causes (from nascent to seasoned, dabbling to dedicated) and a shared common passion for social change and a desire to learn from one another. Members can expect to be stimulated and challenged by their contact with a wide range of issues and the social entrepreneurs tackling them.

Jan Stimpson, Member and Trustee of The Funding Network says: *“As a home owner with a family and work responsibilities that I care about deeply, I realised there were limited ways at least in the short term I could make a difference. When I attended my first The Funding Network event, I realised this was not true. The proximity and understanding offered by this charity to the people working in hard to reach places spoke to me in a way that changes my life. I could get involved, offer support, pledge money, witness and participate in the often phenomenal, against the odds changes that followed, to people facing the challenging and sometimes insurmountable problems that the world can throw at us. Without judgment or superiority I can access and contribute to work that matters to me in a way that is accountable, respectful and effective. It has made a huge difference to my life and I hope a difference to others along the way.”*

Who The Funding Network Supports:

The Funding Network supports charitable projects whose aim is to achieve enduring, positive, transformational social change for individuals, communities, and/or society and the environment. The Funding Network support projects which:

- Address issues of inequality and disadvantage
- Create advocacy, campaigning or dissemination with the potential to change society for the better
- Wish to change attitudes, behaviour, laws and public policy
- Attempt to find a new/better solution to an underlying problem
- Focus on personal development to change the way beneficiaries act and live
- Pilot solutions with the potential for expansion to support many more people

The Funding Network aims to address both traditional and emerging issues, some of which are largely neglected by existing grant-giving charities, but which promise to have great impact on society. It is particularly keen to support small-scale projects that are difficult to fund. Unlike many funding bodies, The Funding Network will also contribute toward core and administrative costs.

For further press information about The Funding Network or the charities presenting on 2nd December, please contact Sonal Shenai on sonal@thefundingnetwork.org.uk

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