

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 19 | Spring 2024

Welcome. I hope you are all well and that you are enjoying the spring months and the warmer weather.

As NewstrAid continues to mark its 185th year, I am delighted to announce that we are launching a new scheme which has been created specifically to support retailers, their families and their staff.

The Retailer Support Scheme aims to provide financial, emotional and practical support to retailers who are facing hardship due to unexpected changes to their circumstances - be that because of ill health, family issues, crime or anything else that life might throw up.

More than half the people we help every year come from the retail community and, although we cannot help with any business-related costs or issues, we

are keen to ensure that those who are struggling emotionally, financially or practically at home, know they can come to NewstrAid for help and support.

Full details about the scheme and the ways it can provide assistance to retailers can be found in this edition of the newsletter.

Please help us to spread the word about the help on offer and if you, your staff or your family are facing personal difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team



NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade 

We are the helping hand of the newstrade



Financial Support



Grants



Welfare Volunteer Home Visits



Support For Disabled & Carers



Help For Children



State Benefits Advice



Debt Advice



Emotional Support

Free Helpline:
0800
917 8616



www.newstraid.org.uk

True or False?

NewstrAid grants have to be paid back.

False!

All our financial grants are non-repayable and won't affect any other benefit you receive.

Did you know?

More than **60%** of our beneficiaries come from the independent retail sector including self-employed newsagents and shop assistants.

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Win £150 of Amazon Vouchers!



Retailer Support Scheme

Financial & emotional assistance for retailers and their staff

- Are you an independent newspaper and magazine retailer or do you work in a newsagents?
- Are you struggling with household bills or financial commitments outside of your business?
- Have you experienced retail crime?

If you have experienced a drop in income as a result of **unexpected change, disability, bereavement** or **illness**, we may be able to support you with a **financial grant** as well as provide **emotional support**.



Support we offer:

- ✔ Grants to support dependant children
- ✔ Grants to help with household bills e.g.. rent, utilities or council tax
- ✔ Grants for disability aids
- ✔ Grants towards essential home items / repairs
- ✔ State benefits advice
- ✔ Mental health resources
- ✔ Debt advice
- ✔ Bereavement support

We cannot support with:

- ✘ Business Overdrafts
- ✘ Outstanding invoice payments to suppliers
- ✘ Business advice
- ✘ Funeral Grants
- ✘ Clearing credit card debt

All financial grants are non-repayable and won't affect any other benefit you are receiving.

Our welfare team is on hand to provide you with support and guidance.



Support for Retailers - Beneficiary Stories



Carly's Story

Carly worked in retail for 5 years but following a diagnosis of endometriosis she had to significantly reduce her working hours to two days a week. This loss of income resulted in her falling behind on her rent, energy and water bills which were becoming more and more unmanageable. She was also due to have surgery and would have to take time off work to recover.

With virtually nothing in her bank account, a Cost of Living Crisis Fund Grant was issued immediately and following a welfare committee meeting she was awarded grants to help clear her priority bills. Carly was also offered Debt Advice and access to NewstrAid's wellbeing support services.

"I would like to say a massive THANK YOU to the team at NewstrAid. I have had significant health issues for quite some time now and NewstrAid have not only helped me financially to get back on track, they have gone the extra mile by putting support in place for my emotional and mental wellbeing."

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.



Gary's Story

Gary owned a small newsagents and convenience store for 16 years but was struggling to make ends meet. The introduction of a "Low Traffic Neighbourhood" scheme in the area had reduced his customer footfall and when he broke his arm and couldn't work, he stopped taking a wage for himself in order to cover his staff overtime expenses. Now struggling to afford everyday essentials, he contacted NewstrAid because the family fridge freezer stopped working and he was unable to replace it.

NewstrAid helped with grants to purchase a new fridge freezer and cover living essentials whilst he was unable to work.

"Just a little note to say thank you for the fridge freezer. I cannot state how much it has helped us! Thank you!"



Freema's Story

Freema approached NewstrAid after her cooker broke beyond repair and she simply did not have the funds to replace this essential item. A single mother of two young children, Freema was also struggling with her mental health and often had to take time off work which led to a loss in income and problems making ends meet.

Freema had worked at her local newsagents for several years and following a full assessment, NewstrAid agreed to fund a new cooker for her and awarded an additional grant to help the family with essential living costs. She was also given access to the Wellbeing Suite to support her mental health.

"You don't know what a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I will be forever grateful for NewstrAid's help."



Please contact us on **0800 917 8616**
or apply for support via our website:
www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme/



*Please Note - Financial grants are subject to eligibility checks and as part of this you will be asked to provide proof of your industry connection and complete a financial assessment.

Thank you for your support

Our CEO, Neil Jagger, really enjoyed meeting lots of retailers at the Fed's East & Central London District Trade Show in April. Many of the retailers he met already support our work through membership of a small society lottery or through a regular charitable donation.

We are so very grateful for the support we get from all of you, and we hope that these newsletters highlight how important this money is to the many people who need our help. Thank you!



Keep up to date with us on Social Media

Follow us on social media for all our latest news and information.

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 @NewstrAid

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Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

£150 of Amazon Vouchers!

Thank you to everyone who entered our Winter edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their prize in April.

The question was: *What anniversary is NewstrAid celebrating this year?*
The correct answer was: *185th.*

If you would like to enter the next prize draw, please answer the following question:

Retailers represent what percentage of NewstrAid's beneficiaries?

As always, the answer is in this newsletter. Please send your answer to mail@newstraid.org.uk

All correct answers received before 30th June 2024 will be entered into the prize draw. Terms and conditions apply. See the NewstrAid website for details www.newstraid.org.uk/about/newstraid-policy-documents/

If you no longer want to support NewstrAid

Thank you for making a regular contribution to NewstrAid through your news wholesaler's weekly invoice, either as a 40p a week Retailer Charitable Donation (RCD) / NewstrAid Charitable Donation, or by membership of the NewstrAid 200 Club / Old Ben 200/400.

Your money allows us to make a real difference to the lives of people from our own industry who need help. We are very grateful for this support. However, if you would like to cancel your Retailer Charitable Donation, your membership of the 200 Club, or both, please do one of the following:

- Contact your supplying wholesaler using the relevant address from the following:
Menzies Distribution: enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com or
Smiths News: mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk or
NewsTeam: **3 Saline Street, Airdrie ML6 9BE**
- Fill in the opt-out form on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/
- Email NewstrAid at: mail@newstraid.org.uk
- Write to us at: **NewstrAid, Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7TD**
- Call us on **01279 879569** or on **Free Helpline 0800 917 8616**

You can also use any of these contact details to let us know that you no longer wish to receive this newsletter but please be aware that this will automatically cancel all contributions.



NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7TD

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

www.newstraid.org.uk Tel: 01279 879569 mail@newstraid.org.uk

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