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From outdoor adventures to a scout HQ and steam locomotive - 27 Gloucestershire good causes benefit from 12 Days of Giving

A whole new world of discovery will open up for children at Milestone School in Gloucester thanks to Ecclesiastical's 12 Days of Giving campaign, which has given a £27,000 boost to a range of good causes throughout Gloucestershire.

While Milestone pupils will benefit from new specialist outdoor play equipment, the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway will be able to buy parts to restore a 1918 steam locomotive and Gloucester Scouts will use the money towards upgrading their scout headquarters. The full list of Gloucestershire grant recipients is below.

Milestone, which has 310 pupils aged two to 16 with severe or profound learning and physical disabilities, was one of 27 good causes in Gloucestershire to receive a grant as part of the campaign, which saw the Gloucester-based specialist insurer hand out 130 £1,000 grants to 130 charities over 12 days to celebrate its 130th anniversary year. Some 23,000 nominations were received for more than 3,000 charities.

"I was absolutely thrilled to be named the 130th charity to benefit from the 130 years celebrations of Ecclesiastical," said Milestone School headteacher, Lyn Dance.

"Our pupils require specialist equipment and activities that we are often unable to provide from our limited budget and this £1,000 will buy outdoor play and learning equipment that will help us encourage pupils to get outside, be active and expand their horizons."

The Gloucester Furniture Recycling Project will use its £1,000 grant to support its volunteers. Dereck Eley, Operations Manager for the Furniture Recycling Project, said: "This grant from Ecclesiastical will ensure that each volunteer has the safety clothes, training and tailored support they need to learn new skills and grow in confidence."

At the Dean Forest Hospice, the money will give patients a full day of pampering, as well as funding nutritionally balanced lunches, counselling/bereavement sessions, day care and complementary therapy.

Chris Pitt, corporate responsibility manager at Ecclesiastical Insurance, said: "It is fantastic to hear such wonderful stories about the positive difference that the money we have given is making, not only in Gloucestershire but throughout the UK and far beyond. As a company whose purpose is to contribute to the greater good of society, this makes us very proud."

PRESS RELEASE

“The 12 Days of Giving campaign has enabled us to give a boost to 130 charities, helping a vast range of causes, from funding heat pads to keep hedgehogs warm, and cardiac nurses and a dietician to staff a cholesterol helpline to helping a telephone befriending service for isolated carers and providing formula milk for orphaned babies in Tanzania.”

ENDS

Full list of Gloucestershire charities that received a 12 Days of Giving grant:

Philomusica
Age Concern Forest of Dean
Kemerton Conservation Trust
Vale Wildlife Rescue
Teckels Animal Sanctuary
Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue
Footsteps Counselling and Care
National Star College
The Kitty Barron Group – RDA
Hope for tomorrow
Youth @ Heart
Home Start Stroud District
Dean Forest Hospice
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway Trust
Sue Ryder
New Start Cat Rescue
Caring for Communities and People (CCP)
Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust
Headway Glos
Scouts Gloucester
Furniture Recycling Project
GL11 Community Hub
Friends of Barnwood School
Bulgarian British Foundation St George
Friends of Chesterton School
St Rose’s School in Stroud
Friends of Milestone School

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Notes to editors

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PRESS RELEASE

1. Owned by a registered charity, Allchurches Trust, Ecclesiastical is a unique financial services organisation. With its main operations and headquarters in the UK, Ecclesiastical also operates in Australia, Canada and Ireland.
2. Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer of the faith, heritage, fine art, charities, education and private client sectors.
3. Founded in 1887 to provide insurance for the Anglican Church, the company now offers a wide range of commercial insurances, as well as home insurance, selling through brokers and directly.
4. The Ecclesiastical Group also includes award-winning investment management business, EdenTree Investment Management, which provides a range of ethically screened investment funds.
5. Ecclesiastical is one of the UK's top five corporate donors to charity in the 2016-17 UK Guide to Company Giving. Other 2016 awards include Better Society Awards, Insurer of the Year and Post Magazine, Claims Awards, Customer Care winner.
6. In 2014, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group launched its vision to donate £50million to charity in a three-year period. In March 2016, the Group announced that it had reached its target almost a year ahead of schedule and that figure at the end of 2016 stood at £67m.
7. Many businesses say they are different. Ecclesiastical really is. Find out why at www.ecclesiastical.com/ourstory