

PRESS RELEASE

Miss Lawrence charitable trust partners with The Good Exchange to digitise grant application process

Newbury, 5th June 2018 – Not-for-profit cloud platform, [The Good Exchange](#), has today announced The Miss Lawrence Trust, as a new funder on its site. The national grant-giving charitable trust, which is based in Kintbury, was originally established in 1973 by Miss Winifred Lawrence, a local resident who left an estate in trust to benefit local and national charities.

The Trust has since operated with three trustees, who aim to continue Miss Lawrence's wishes to support national, regional and local good causes, particularly those involving children and young people.

The Trust typically provides approximately £100,000 worth of grants per annum, with on average £2,000-3,000 being allocated per applicant. A wide range of charitable projects are supported, from youth and disability services, education, employment and training, poverty, deprivation and homelessness. Whilst preference is given to Kintbury, Berkshire and surrounding counties, the Trust also supports projects further afield nationally and on occasion, internationally. Preferring to fund smaller good causes, the Trust tends not to consider any applicants with annual incomes exceeding £2 million.

To date, the Trust has processed the hundreds of applications it receives each year manually, which takes a significant amount of time. As Jonathan Bastable, one of The Miss Lawrence Trust trustees said: "The main draw to The Good Exchange was the ability to simplify our paper-based system of processing grant applications. The platform allows us to streamline the annual shortlisting of applications, and also enables us to delve deeper and with greater ease into our applicants' objectives, while also enabling us to see the support they've received from other funders and donors. The platform provides a great deal of transparency and it also greatly simplifies matters for applicants, who now have to complete just one application form for consideration."

"Right from the outset it was obvious that The Good Exchange solved many of the challenges we were facing. What's more, the organisation's expertise and support has been an enormous help to us, particularly when it comes to the technical specifics of using an online platform."

The Good Exchange is also helping to greatly increase the Trust's profile, which has so far relied on the personal local contacts of its trustees.

Bastable concluded: "To date, we've been rather standalone, so in the longer-term we look forward to making the most of the collaborative benefits of the platform. For instance, we'd be open to working with other funders to support good causes that match our criteria. We're also keen to explore match-funding, which provides a compelling incentive for encouraging charitable giving. Working with The Good Exchange has opened a number of doors and has certainly helped to bring us up to date when it comes to the way in which we operate."

Ed Gairdner, COO of the Good Exchange added: "Today's era of platform technology has created a prime opportunity for funders to more easily identify and provide funding to those who need it most without the need for multiple applications. It's great to see The Miss Lawrence Trust – which provides vital support to small good causes nationwide – reaping the benefits."

"In addition to streamlining processes, by amalgamating data through our platform the Trust will also be able to build a complete picture of who or what needs funding and will be instantly matched with funders with shared objectives. This is vital as funders rarely cover 100 percent of any project's costs alone, so technology-enabled collaborative networks are essential to ensuring that all good causes get the support they need."

About The Good Exchange

The Good Exchange is a transformational not-for-profit cloud platform specifically designed to match those organisations and individuals who have money to give to good causes with those who need it most; on a local, regional and national basis. As the only platform to bring together grant-making, donations, charitable projects and fundraising in one place, the automated matching system with its simple single on-line application form will revolutionise charitable giving, making it more accessible, transparent and collaborative. For the first time, those seeking to raise money for local good causes will be able to access **all sources of funding** including charitable trusts, corporate givers, fundraisers and public through a single process.

About the Miss Lawrence Trust

During 2017, the Trust made grants to a range of charities and good causes including the Kintbury Jubilee Centre, Action for ME, Brain Tumour Research, Childhood Eye Cancer Trust, Handicapped Children's Action Group, Medical Detection Dogs, Tiny Tim's Children's Centre, Seesaw, and Young Dementia UK. They have also provided financial assistance with the cost of tertiary education for some young people who may otherwise not have been able to undertake further education and have supported the work of Five Lamps, a registered charity working with young unemployed people in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the North East of England.

To find out more about The Miss Lawrence Trust visit:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/funders/10837/the-miss-lawrence-trust>

Media contacts

Caitlin Mullally / Charlotte Martin
The Good Exchange team at Finn Partners
TheGoodExchange@finnpartners.com
020 3217 7060