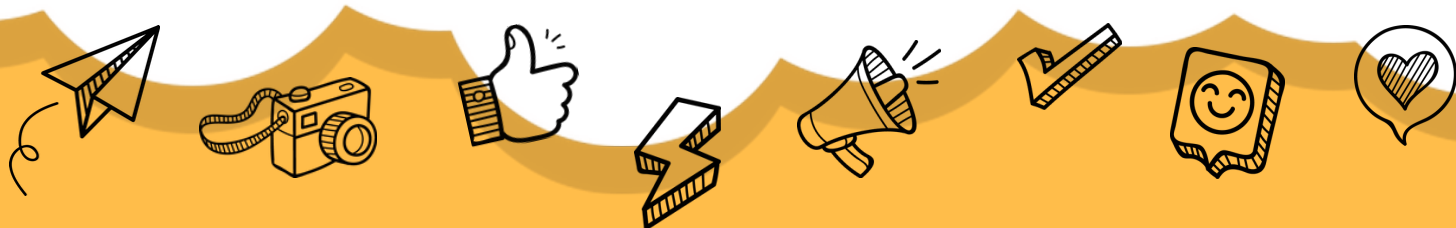




The Young Lives Foundation

Our Impact

Coping with Covid-19



#makingadifference

“We are extremely proud of the professional and positive way in which you have all responded to this crisis. Thanks to your innovation and integrity most of our core operations are up and running remotely and we are continuing to provide support to our beneficiaries, many of whom will need us now more than ever. Thank you for all that you are continuing to do.”

Les Hutchinson,
on behalf of the YLF
Board of Trustees



a message from Stephen Gray, CEO

To Our YLF Family

It has been a really challenging time across the world. The impact of the pandemic on people's lives is clear to see and there is still so much uncertainty around the long term impact.

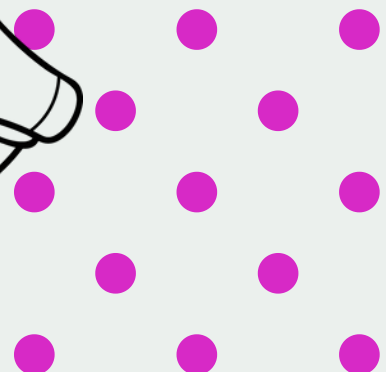
But in the midst of these difficulties, I have been blown away by the support, passion and innovation that has been shown by so many people towards the Young Lives Foundation and I want to sincerely thank each and every person for their invaluable support at this time. I am so proud that we have been able to maintain key services for vulnerable people, sustain support for children and families who needed us, mobilise and respond to immediate needs for those who were impacted the most, adapt to a new way of working and adopt new fundraising campaigns to enable us to sustain our work.

YLF has been there for people during the most difficult circumstances and we will continue to be there as we return to a new way of life for the remainder of this year and beyond.

This would not have been possible without the support of so many people who have given their time, emergency funding, donations, gifts, advice, guidance and energy. We do not underestimate how fortunate we are to have this support and we are humbled and grateful for it.

On behalf of all those we work with and support, thank you...

"Thank you for being
part of the YLF
Family"



during the pandemic...

£92,500

fundraised
by our COVID
campaigns

70+

young people
received
advocacy
support



450

families in
Kent
supported with
care hampers

95%

our Appropriate
Adult response rate
- one of the highest
performing AA
services in the
Country!

360+

attendances at
our virtual
groups,
challenges or
tutorials

100%

we received
positive
feedback
about our
services



#appropriateadults



A huge thank you must go to the wonderful Appropriate Adult (AA) team of staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly as keyworkers throughout the pandemic.

Each AA has put themselves on the front line in order to support the most vulnerable adults and young people whilst they are in custody, ensuring their rights are met and processes understood. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the team they have already attended over **674** callouts during lockdown - which works out at around **7** a day!

With a **95%** response rate to callouts for an AA to attend custody, YLF has been one of the highest performing AA Services across the country during the UK lockdown.

The AA team have done amazingly well in the most unexpected and difficult circumstances to keep this service going. The role can be tough and time consuming but the commitment to Kent Police and the charity has not gone unnoticed.

"This is a phenomenal achievement, that I know has not come without hard work by many – not just volunteers but you and your colleagues.

The provision of Appropriate Adults is essential to the delivery of a first class service to the people of Kent, both in terms of victims and witnesses but also in terms of vulnerable people who find themselves suspected of criminal offences.

I know there have been challenges along the way, but we should all be proud that we have worked together so closely to overcome them and have continued providing AAs throughout this pandemic. Thank you all"

Chief Inspector Finnis, Kent Police

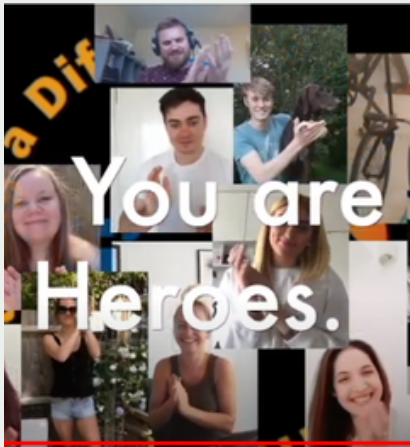


achievements and highlights



LEGENDS PROGRAMME LAUNCH

Our positive activities programme officially relaunched as LEGENDS! It offers a variety of educational and fun activities to enhance the development and well-being of our young people. Aiming to build confidence, resilience and skills all whilst in a safe and inclusive environment.



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Although we virtually celebrated Volunteers' Week this year, we didn't want it to go unnoticed that we appreciate each and every one of them. From video calls to thank you cards, our volunteers remain at the forefront of our minds. Watch the video we made for them on our YouTube channel. We couldn't be YLF without our dedicated team of volunteers!



EASTER EGG-TRAVAGANZA

We managed to safely deliver over 400 Easter treats during the Easter period, ensuring all young people didn't miss out on the delights of chocolate even during a pandemic!



STILL RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS!

The pandemic seems to have resulted in more individuals coming forward to volunteer for the charity which is great news. We recruited over 40 volunteer mentors, befrienders and AA's between April and June! Virtual training and paperwork is being completed and we look forward to welcoming our new recruits!



A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a full-body white protective suit (hazmat suit) with a hood. They are also wearing large, clear safety goggles and a large, white, circular respirator mask that covers their nose and mouth. The person is looking directly at the camera. In the background, there is a white wall and a small sign with text that is partially legible, mentioning 'Biosafety Level 2' and 'Hazardous Materials'. The overall setting appears to be a laboratory or a controlled environment.

SUPERSTAR AA KEYWORKERS

[illegible]

COVID CARE PACKAGES FOR FAMILIES

Thanks to our successful and ongoing COVID-19 Fundraising Campaign, we have been able to deliver over 200 food parcels, care packages, and entertainment boxes to young people in need, families struggling to cope and care leavers who are feeling isolated and experiencing mental health issues. We cannot thank you all enough!



ADVOCATING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We were aware that quarantine and social distancing measures could have a huge impact on our young people and the relationships they have with carers and family. Our advocates were there by phone and video call and regardless of the lockdown they have managed to help over 70 young people since April across Kent!



LEGACIES FOR YEARS TO COME

We launched our new Legacy Giving Package offering 50 free Wills as part of the launch. The collaboration with The Goodwill Partnership offers YLF supporters a solicitor written Will from the comfort of their own home. The offer is to encourage legacy giving to support our charity in years to come. More information on the YLF website.



SOCIALLY DISTANCED WALKS AND TALKS

When it was safe to meet up again with social distancing measures in place, our volunteer mentors and befrienders didn't hesitate to support their young people with one-to-one visits. We were also proud to celebrate an 8-year-long befriending arrangement still going strong, providing consistency, reliability and stability in a young person's life. Amazing!



VIRTUAL GROUPS, ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

We introduced virtual groups in place of our usual youth groups, giving a platform for young people to join together play games, chat and enjoy each other's company online. With opportunities to achieve Arts Awards and learn new skills, we shared in challenges, and distributed activity packs and tutorial videos to keep us connected.



GRANTS, GIFTS AND FUNDRAISING

We are incredibly grateful to all our funders, supporters and donors who have given money, gifts and time to support the charity during the pandemic. Unfortunately our events were cancelled but we have still managed to raise over £50,000 since April to support our young people in this uncertain time. Thank you so much!

#covid19campaign



In April, YLF launched its COVID Crisis Campaign. As a charity serving the community, YLF continued to deliver its services as widely as it could to ensure it could support the children and families that still needed them.

Over lockdown we became increasingly aware that some young people, care leavers and families were starting to feel not only the financial effects of the pandemic but also the mental effects of being isolated. Some have no access to WiFi, TV or even garden space to help pass the time. Many of our young people had been experiencing heightened anxiety and isolation from places and people they may feel are their 'safe space', especially when schools closed, our regular youth groups were suspended and our face-to-face sessions stopped.

We needed to continue providing a service and source of support for these young people to protect their mental health, well-being and risk of further isolation. So we begun our public campaign to help provide our young people with online weekly 'checking in' support in groups or one-to-one, virtual youth group activities and tutorials and for hampers of food and entertainment resources.

In 3 months, we raised over £3,000 from the campaign and responded immediately by sourcing puzzles, games, challenges and essential items for care packages. Volunteers and staff safely delivered these and the uptake was very well received by the most needy families and individuals.

A big thank you to all who have contributed to the care packages, and to all who have donated to our campaign so far which remains open.

"The distraction packs have been very well received. On behalf of Kent Corporate Parents, a massive thank you to all the staff and volunteers at YLF for your support to our children and young people at this difficult time."

Kent County Council



Registered with



“Thank you so much to you and your team for our food parcel and fun bits. We sat and cried for a while but then played games together. It really meant a lot to us and I can't thank you enough.”

Medway family,
supported by YLF's
COVID campaign





feedback from supporters, families and young people

"Liam just rang me to say that he has received his box of goodies and was absolutely delighted!! He asked me to pass on his thanks to you."

YLF Independent Visitor

"Me and my independent visitor had our visit over FaceTime today. Love how YLF are adapting to these circumstances and still continuing to support us even when under quarantine!"

Danielle, YLF Young Person

"You and your team have done a magnificent job in supporting us during this pandemic and the simple fact of the matter is our custody suites cannot function properly without the support of our partners such as you."

Kent Police

"YLF are brilliant, my mentor is amazing and I just can't fault them."

Kacie, YLF Young Person

"I've done a second round of food parcels and they're being well-received. It's been a nice way of staying in touch with those more isolated young people - while helping out in their tricky circumstances. Also the virtual group gaming is going well and the young people are really engaging with it. It's been helping them through some of the stress and anxiety of current events."

YLF Mentor

"You all are the best. Whenever I need support you are always there. I've been with you for long time now but you have not given up on me, thank you."

Liam, YLF Young Person

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to praise and thank one of your fantastic volunteers for his support. We were engaged in an extremely complex and serious investigation which as we know, takes a great deal of time and energy of all involved. The volunteer remained on hand throughout the whole process. He supported the person in custody with patience and ensured he understood the actions we were taking – more pertinent given the mental health related difficulties that the person was suffering at the time. He remained calm despite the possible risk presented by the person and performed his role very professionally. I believe he exceeded in his role and just wanted to make you aware that we appreciate his help."

Detective Sergeant, Kent Police

"I just wanted to feed back to you that M is very positive about your support and that it's clear you've built a relationship with him and he trusts you. Not easy to do in this remote climate."

Team Leader, Kent Children's Social Services

"It is fabulous that YLF are being so creative in the current crisis to continue to provide vital support to those young people in need. Be reassured that we are delighted that you are able to continue to provide support virtually and so pleased that it seems to be going down really well with your beneficiaries."

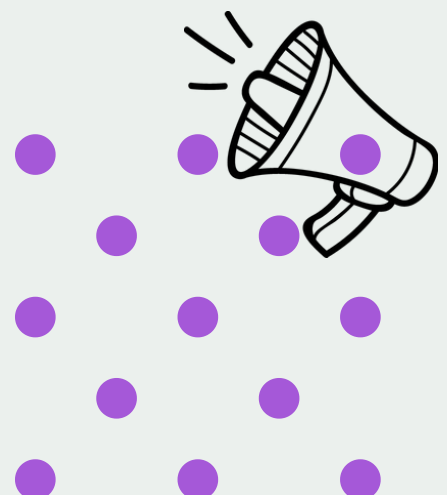
YLF Grant Funder

"It's amazing the lengths you guys will go to to make young people feel part of the YLF family. Your online groups have been brilliant."

Izzy, Foster Carer

"I want to personally say thank you for offering your time to help Young People in Kent and give them some stability in what can only be described as the most unusual period that most of us will face. For most young people this pandemic has been hard; for those without a stable family, I cannot begin to imagine how impossible these last months have been. Because of your dedication to young people and commitment, YLF are able to continue supporting Kent children through the pandemic and beyond. Having someone to talk to can make the world of difference in that young persons life. Thank you for being you."

Hazel South, KCC Commissioner



“

Thank you so much!
Even though it was
just a phone call, you
supported me and
really listened. It is
really appreciated.

”

Yemi, Young Person receiving
YLF Advocacy support



emergency support

YLF would like to thank the following grant makers, supporters, donors, businesses and organisations for their additional emergency gifts during the crisis. We would also like to highlight our gratitude to all individual donors who have given towards our coronavirus campaign. Thank you!



resources



Please visit our YouTube Channel and social media channels for regular updates, news and videos.

www.facebook.com/ylf.org.uk

www.twitter.com/ylfcharity

www.instagram.com/ylfcharity

www.youtube.com/channel/UCsEKgNGGaLEko7TMZp7gfsW

Also check our website and latest news pages for further information about our work and impact - don't forget to also sign up to our newsletter. Thank you.

www.ylf.org.uk

www.ylf.org.uk/news

www.ylf.org.uk/coronaviruscrisis

Please note that all information and activity reported in this report is correct as of August 2020 and in line with current government procedures and guidance. YLF continue to follow safe working practices and follow social distancing measures. Please note that some photos featured may have been taken prior to the crisis. Thank you.



♥ #thankyouforalloursupport ♥



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