

Press release

Durham Young Carers service needs your votes to receive £25,000 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Bridge, Durham Young Carers Service, run by Family Action, is appealing to all its friends and supporters to vote online to help them receive a £25,000 Community Award from the Freemasons.

As part of Freemasonry's 300th anniversary celebrations, the Masonic Charitable Foundation is distributing three million pounds to 300 charities across the country and Durham Young Carers is one of those selected.

The Bridge Young Carers service supports children aged from 5 to 18 years old who care for a member of their family. The family member may need care due to a range of issues from mental health, substance misuse, chronic or severe ill health to requiring care as a result a life limiting or palliative diagnosis. These young people are at risk of missing out on their education, friendships and childhood as a whole. The Bridge helps ensure that these children and young people are protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive to enjoy positive childhoods and to reach their full potential.

Each of the nominated charities will receive a grant, but the public vote will determine how much they receive, ranging from £4,000 to £25,000. Those who want to vote should visit the MCF website mcf.org.uk/vote, select the **Durham** page and vote for the charity of their choice. The voting period is from Monday 12 June until Monday 31st July.

Allison Hicks, Service Manager for Family Action's Durham Young Carers said

"A grant of £25,000 would make a huge difference to our work and would allow us to support even more children and young people in the Durham area. We would be so grateful if people would be kind enough to go on line and vote for The Bridge, Young Carers. Please remember every vote counts"

To vote for The Bridge, Durham Young Carers to win up to £25,000, please visit www.mcf.org.uk/vote
– Thank you!

For more information about Family Action and our work with Young Carers, please visit www.family-action.org.uk

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For further information and interviews please contact:

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Notes to Editors:-

About Family Action

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people.

We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children's Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training.

Registered Charity Number: 264 713

Website: www.family-action.org.uk

Twitter: @family_action

Facebook: Family Action

About the Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country. Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families, the MCF awards millions of pounds each year to local and national charities that help vulnerable people, advance medical research and provide opportunities for young people. The MCF also helps to fund vital services such as hospices and air ambulances and regularly contributes to worldwide appeals for disaster relief. In total, MCF support helps to improve the lives of thousands of people every year in England, Wales and internationally.

As well as providing grants to charities, the MCF supports Masonic families with a financial, health or family need. Visit www.mcf.org.uk

For further information about the Masonic Charitable Foundation, please contact Guy Roberts, Press Officer (groberts@mcf.org.uk / 020 3146 3311)