Our Grant-Making in 2018

In 2018 Seafarers UK awarded 76 grants worth £2,463,869 to 56 organisations, to fund the frontline delivery of services to seafarers.

% of Grants awarded by sector:
- 43% (£1,068,213) Merchant Navy
- 40% (£986,211) UK Fishing Fleet
- 12% (£294,445) Maritime Youth
- 5% (£115,000) Royal Navy
- 12% (£465,215) Accommodation and Supported Housing
- 10% (£431,237) Advice and Information Services
- 6% (£172,982) Health Care Services
- 6% (£465,215) Maritime Training/Safety and Support
- 5% (£679,701) Hardship and Poverty Grants
- 5% (£323,280) Port-Based Welfare Services

2018 Grants by support categories:
- Accommodation and Supported Housing
- Advice and Information Services
- Health Care Services
- Maritime Training/Safety and Support
- Hardship and Poverty Grants
- Port-Based Welfare Services

% of Grants awarded by geographical location:
- 56% of grants are UK-wide (£1,405,136)
- 20% England:
  - N West: £142,775
  - N East: £139,404
  - S East: £117,469
  - S West: £64,375
- 8% Scotland (£193,250)
- 4% Northern Ireland (£102,596)
- 2% Wales (£47,996)
- 10% Commonwealth (£250,868)

16 new organisations supported with grant funding for the first time
172,982 people assisted thanks to our funding in 2018
£32,419 average grant awarded

£2.46 million in funding to beneficiaries
56 organisations supported
76 grants awarded

10% £104,000
56% £323,280
8% £431,237
2% £460,436
4% £465,215
5% £679,701

In 2018 Seafarers UK awarded 76 grants worth £2,463,869 to 56 organisations, to fund the frontline delivery of services to seafarers.
Campaigning

Merchant Navy Flag Flying

In its fifth year our popular Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day campaign saw the British Merchant Navy's official flag flying ashore at more than 800 locations, thanks to tremendous support from local authorities, councils and Merchant Navy Association branches. Seafarers UK invited mayors, councillors and chief executives to organise flag-hoisting ceremonies to raise public awareness of the UK's ongoing dependence on Merchant Navy seafarers. Media coverage was widespread, with numerous colourful photos showing Red Ensigns flying on civic buildings and prominent flagpoles. All locations were included on a prestigious 'Roll of Honour' and Seafarers UK sent a Commemorative Certificate to all participants. 
www.merchantnavyday.uk

Seafarers Awareness Week

Our Seafarers Awareness Week campaign in June once again focused on the promotion of maritime jobs, at sea and ashore, featuring case studies of men and women in a wide variety of roles; signposting helpful sources of further information - including on Maritime UK’s website; and identifying the full range of UK training and educational establishments.

Impressive broadcast and online media coverage resulted, as journalists were encouraged to explore our island nation’s dependence on sea ports and harbours, our Merchant Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Royal Navy.
www.seafarersweek.uk

Promoting Maritime Careers

In 2018 Seafarers UK continued to chair the Maritime Careers Promotion Forum, which made recommendations to Maritime UK for activities that effectively promote the whole range of maritime and marine employment opportunities for young men and women, with an emphasis on seafaring roles. These included participating in the National Career Guidance Show in London and Skills Shows in Glasgow, Leeds and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 
www.maritimeuk.org/careers/

Sector Efficiency and Effectiveness

One of Seafarers UK’s four Royal Charter charitable objectives is ‘Promoting the Efficiency & Effectiveness of the Maritime Charitable Sector’. We do this in a number of ways, from making specific grants for projects that benefit the sector - such as previous funding for the development of SSAFA’s case-working software - to being a funder, member and chair of the Maritime Charities Group (MCG), organising the Annual National Service for Seafarers (ANSS) and by providing HR and Admin support to selected partner organisations.

In 2018 we delivered another memorable service at St Paul’s, attracting attendees from across all areas of the maritime community. We continued to engage with existing ANSS supporters whilst striving to appeal to new groups to ensure the success of the service in years to come. The MCG continued to assess how best to deploy its combined resources where and when necessary and in the most efficient manner. The Group built further on the recommendations of the 2017 MCG ‘Navigating Change’ conference, developing plans for a smaller follow-up gathering at Trinity House in October 2019.

The technical development of a common Grants Application Form and process to assist in optimising the use of total sector resources was also successfully completed with grant funding principles, across all funders, being drawn up.
Our Impact in 2018

Examples of how we make a difference...

Maritime Training/Safety and Support
22 grants to 17 organisations helping 35,333 people

£25,000 in funding was awarded to Smallpeice Trust to build on the excellent outcomes of two previous marine engineering-focused projects kick-started by Seafarers UK in 2017. Our grant will help deliver five STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Days to 300 Year 9 students at disadvantaged schools in deprived coastal communities. Students will participate in the Seafarers UK bespoke project ‘Airboat Challenge’ where they will design and make a prototype airboat. After each STEM Day, teachers from each of the five schools will receive the bespoke Seafarers UK Think Kit - ‘Floating Wind Turbine’ - containing tools needed to run an in-school STEM Club for up to eight weeks. Teachers at each STEM Day will then also choose ten of their most deserving students to attend the four-day Future Marine Engineering residential course at Southampton University. It will be ensured that at least 50% of these students are female, given the serious shortage of female engineers in the UK.

Accommodation and Supported Housing
2 grants to 2 organisations helping 850 people

£30,000 in funding was awarded to Queen Victoria Seamen’s Rest (QVSR) towards the £119k cost of providing welfare support to active and retired seafarers. This is a regular annual grant request that we have long supported. Two thirds of QVSR’s resident seafarers are aged 65+, eight are aged over 80 and three are nonagenarians. Many have lived at QVSR for over ten years and consider it their permanent home; increasingly they rely on the welfare and volunteer staff to support them with their daily life, especially as many have health issues.

The grant will help fund QVSR’s Welfare Team and Volunteer programme that will help provide resident and visiting seafarers, as well as their dependants in and around London, with access to advice and guidance in relation to benefit applications and financial management; assistance with medical appointments; move-on options and housing applications; support with regards to grant applications for essential items for the home and tracing relatives and re-building relationships where appropriate. Staff and volunteers will also engage socially with resident seafarers by offering a varied programme of sports and activities to reduce social isolation.

Advice and Information Services
10 grants to 8 organisations helping 16,731 people

A grant of £10,000 was awarded to SSAFA as a contribution to the running costs of their unique Welfare Advice and Support service that provides help to Royal Navy and Royal Marines, as well as Merchant Navy personnel and veterans and their families.

The service operates from 92 SSAFA branches in local communities and 50 service committees on military bases in the UK and overseas. SSAFA’s network of specially trained volunteers, known as caseworkers, offers advice and assistance for a variety of concerns, from housing and financial difficulty through to mental health issues. Caseworkers meet with each person face-to-face to first identify their needs, and to provide emotional comfort, financial assistance, and some practical support that enables beneficiaries to overcome their challenges and improve the quality of their lives.

Our partnership with Seafarers UK is a long-standing example of how much can be achieved with collaboration and a mutual goal of supporting our Armed Forces community. We are enormously grateful to Seafarers UK for their generosity and continued partnership.’

Jonathan Sandall, Director of Fundraising, SSAFA
Hardship and Poverty

13 grants to 10 organisations helping 805 people

£70,000 was awarded to Sailors Childrens Society towards supporting disadvantaged children of Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet families in need throughout the UK, through the provision of regular financial grants, clothing grants, caravan holidays and emotional support. All families seeking assistance from the Society are living in poverty as evidenced by receipt of council tax and housing benefit, and the scheme aims to help alleviate the effects of poverty. These families have also suffered a bereavement, desertion or diagnosis of a life-changing medical condition, resulting in drastically reduced household income, displacement from the family home and longer-term confidence and parenting issues.

The charity is currently seeing a 50% increase in applications for assistance due to increased poverty which, combined with the long-term implications of Universal Credit, means families who are already in need are really struggling. Mental health is also of great concern both in parents and children, and the Society has linked up with The Big White Wall, the NHS-run online mental health community, to give access to more specialised services alongside the assistance given by their team.

Health Care Services

12 grants to 10 organisations helping 2,185 people

£25,000 was awarded to Combat Stress to provide mental health assessment, treatment and care to ex-Merchant Navy seafarers via their free 24-hour helpline, at specialist treatment centres and in the community. A small but significant number of Merchant Navy seafarers with trauma-related mental health conditions approach Combat Stress each year for help.

The grant will support a range of mental health services which will address the needs of each seafarer. This might include one-to-one sessions with a member of the charity’s community team or visiting one of the treatment centres in Ayrshire, Shropshire and Surrey for an outpatient appointment or residential programme.

Port-Based Welfare Services

17 grants to 15 organisations helping 117,078 people

£9,996 in funding was awarded to Cardigan Bay Fisherman’s Association towards immediate remedial works needed to ensure the former boat club is safe. The ultimate aim is to create a focal point for the Welsh fishing industry and the wider community, as well as a meeting place, an educational centre and an administrative base to assist and support local fishers. Ideally situated at the heart of the fishing quay in Aberystwyth, the building requires a complete renovation to accommodate its new members and to realise its potential as a new multi-purpose hub and meeting place. Our grant will allow the Association to complete a number of urgent repairs to the exterior and the frontage of the building to prevent further deterioration of the premises. This work is complementary to the major development, which will hopefully be undertaken next, and will be an integrated part of the planned enhancements.

On behalf of all the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet children supported by Sailors Childrens Society, I would like to thank Seafarers UK for their grant. The support we give to disadvantaged children following a traumatic family event is financial, practical and emotional – none of which would be possible without the financial assistance from our main supporters.

Deanne Thomas, Chief Officer, Sailors Childrens Society

www.seafarers.uk
Our Impact in 2018

Fundraising in 2018

Following a very full programme during our Centenary year, our Fundraising team was kept as busy in 2018, not only with our traditional annual challenge events, but also our new Sport for Charity membership, where individuals can choose to participate in all sorts of different third-party challenge events.

24 Peaks Challenge

Despite having a reputation as one of the most extreme team-building events in the UK, our 24 Peaks Challenge saw an increased uptake in 2018 with 25 teams taking part, raising over £100,000 for Seafarers UK. With every peak being over 2,400 feet and last summer’s heatwave as an added obstacle, the teams came well prepared and faced the challenge with great camaraderie.

Virgin Money London Marathon 2018

30 incredible people nursed sore feet after having completed the hottest London Marathon on record. Having spent months training, often in extreme weather conditions, our team of runners took on the 26.2-mile course, raising £50,000 as a way of contributing to the work of Seafarers UK.

Rough Runner Challenge

In addition to our usual programme of events, some supporters choose to seek out their own challenges in support of Seafarers UK. In 2018, staff from the Spiny Lobster Restaurant in Bristol chose to take on an obstacle course event, Rough Runner. They enjoyed a wet and muddy fun time and raised more than £1,000 for the charity.

London University Royal Naval Unit shows long-term commitment to Seafarers UK

London URNU, a long-standing supporter of Seafarers UK, had another successful year fundraising for our charity, with both staff and cadets alike involved in a number of activities throughout the year, raising almost £7,000. The group hosted an auction and ran a raffle at their Christmas Party and Spring Ball, with a number of Seafarers UK staff also joining in the fun at their Wine Tasting event.

A number of their more active individuals also took on the London Marathon, Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100, as well as scaling 24 Peaks in the Lake District.

Other fundraising

Our Family Appeal, launched in 2018, raised over £56k in donations to help support seafaring families in need. The charity also continued fundraising for one of our Centenary projects, the Marine Engineering Pathway project in partnership with Sea Cadets. The project continued to build its capacity, reach, reputation and outcomes and was granted a three-year extension at the end of 2018.

£1.9m total donations received

£967k in investment income

£3.4m total charitable activity expenditure

£326k in other funds raised *

(*From Events, Charitable Activities and Seaservers Ltd)
Thank you

Seafarers UK is lucky to have a number of very loyal supporters of our charity. Through their commitment and dedication to our cause, we are able to continue helping seafarers in need and their families. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters, donors, fundraisers and volunteers.

- **John Corp** who ran in the London Marathon for the fifth time for Seafarers UK and raised almost **£3,000**
- **Rolls Royce** for a corporate donation of **£10,000**
- **Steamship Insurance Management Services Ltd**, who participated in the 24 Peaks Challenge and won Top Fundraiser Award for raising over **£10,000**
- **James Pippard** and Heidmar UK Ltd for providing **£4,000** in sponsorship towards our 24 Peaks Challenge
- **Firouz Mal** and his two sons, Nadar and Neema, who ran in the London Marathon and raised almost **£7,000**
- **Capt. Kuba Syzmanski** and **TK Foundation** for recruiting five teams for the 24 Peaks Challenge and matching their fundraising
- **Fuller’s**, who raised **£29,000** in donations from sales of Seafarers Ale last year
- **The Laurence Misener Charitable Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Peter Dixon Charitable Trust and The Gosling Foundation** for their generous grants last year*
- **Princess Cruises Community Foundation** for their donation of **£4,400**

*A full list of Trusts and Foundations that supported us in 2018 can be found in our Annual Report 2018*
Seafarers UK has been helping people in the maritime community for over 100 years, by providing vital support to seafarers in need and their families, and to those in education or training who are preparing to work or serve at sea. We do this by giving grants to organisations and projects that make a real difference to people’s lives, across the Merchant Navy, Fishing Fleets, Royal Navy and Royal Marines.