Helping communities and charitable organisations create a better future for the people of Merseyside.
About us

The PH Holt Foundation is an independent grant-maker working to create a better future for the people of Merseyside. We provide grants to small and medium-sized charities that strive to change lives, whether through community activities, education, the arts, heritage or environmental programmes.

In addition, we make awards to local universities and colleges through our designated charity, Holt Education Trust, which was created in 1915 to provide scholarships to selected students from across Merseyside. Together, the two trusts fund programmes that benefit more than 25,000 people each year from all parts of Merseyside.

PH Holt Foundation is named in honour of Philip Henry Holt. Philip, together with his brother Alfred, founded the highly successful Ocean Steam Ship Company in 1865. During their lifetimes, the brothers contributed much to education, culture and urban life in Liverpool. Philip Holt in particular had a strong social conscience and a philosophy of ‘do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame’.

Following the brothers’ deaths, the surviving Holt family members at Ocean Steam Ship Company continued to give to the community. This corporate philanthropy was formalised in the 1950s with the creation of The PH Holt Charitable Trust, known today as the PH Holt Foundation.

What we fund

The PH Holt Foundation looks to support groups that work to make Merseyside a better place to live, that encourage self-help and resilience, and aim to bring about positive change. We particularly like to work through smaller, grass roots charities that find it difficult to attract funds.

We have five priority themes where we focus our support:

• Creating opportunities for people to contribute to their local community
• Enabling people to overcome barriers and take control of their lives
• Widening access to education for people of all ages
• Increasing engagement in the arts for marginalised or excluded groups
• Encouraging care of the natural and built environment

PH Holt funding enabled us to create a whole programme for young people, as well as the Young Fest Weekend of free activity and performance. For many children, it was a first time experience in the arts, and opened up horizons and opportunities they wouldn’t normally have.

Tmesis Theatre, Liverpool

Most of our grants are for one year and for less than £5,000, although we can consider larger grants for appeals of major importance or which present especially innovative solutions. There is much more about the projects we have supported on our website.

It is exciting to think that 100 years on, the support that the Holts established as a legacy is still benefiting the people of Merseyside.

Paige Earlam, Chair of PH Holt Foundation

www.phholtfoundation.org.uk

Thank you PH Holt for helping us make a difference to young families in Kirkby. Over 90 young people received debt advice and practical training on healthy eating on a budget.

Centre 63, Knowsley

www.phholtfoundation.org.uk

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I’m really glad to report that FareShare’s Centre on the Wirral is already reaching 30 charities and community groups. Thank you to all at the PH Holt Foundation for helping FareShare to develop the project.

FareShare, Wirral

How to apply

Full details of how to apply for a grant, the dates of our funding rounds and our eligibility criteria are posted on our website at www.phholtfoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply

Unfortunately, we are not able to assist with every request received.

You can also contact us for further information by email at administrator@phholtfoundation.org.uk or by telephoning the Foundation on 0151 237 2663 (Wednesday to Friday).