“I’m Doing My Dream Job”

Caitlin’s father Stewart died from motor neurone disease in 2015. She speaks about how The Gurney Fund has supported her.

“My father happily served Leicestershire Police for 21 years and absolutely loved his job. After he died, the Police Federation put my mum in touch with The Gurney Fund to help support me through my education.

“Ever since I was 12 years old, when my dad first got ill, I dreamed of becoming a paramedic. Seeing my dad poorly and the help he received from paramedics left me in awe of their work and I knew that was the job I wanted to do. It was my ambition during secondary school, sixth form and then I began my dream journey when I started university in 2017.

“The Gurney Fund has been a great financial support. When I studied to be a paramedic, I needed lots of supplies, including a stethoscope and several pairs of green ambulance trousers.

“The Gurney Fund also helped me buy textbooks and a laptop, which I used to write essays and make posters for my university course. Without this help, I couldn’t have completed my course and be where I am today.

“I’ve just completed a two-year course learning the science and skills to become a paramedic, and I’m now in the final weeks of my university placement with West Midlands Ambulance Service. “After this I’ve got a job as a newly qualified paramedic with East Midlands Ambulance Service, and I plan on pursuing my career as a paramedic for many years. In the future I’m interested in continuing my studies and becoming a midwife.

“I’d love to be able to volunteer on holidays with The Gurney Fund. It would be a chance to give back, and help other people who are in similar situations as I was, losing a parent or their parent being ill.

“The Gurney Fund is amazing and I can’t thank the people enough – they’ve well and truly supported me through the darkest time in my life, and I’m eternally grateful.”
A Gurney Helping Hand

These are just some of the children who have taken part in activities that The Gurney Fund has helped support.

Tom from Sussex – army cadets
Nerine from Cornwall – Brownies
Brendan from Leicestershire – football
Imogen from Leicestershire – artistic roller skating

Excellence In Learning

It’s great to see some of the recipients of The Gurney Fund doing as well as their education.

Lottie from Hampshire (pictured above) is doing an engineering cadetship at Blackpool Maritime Academy. Lottie is doing extremely well and was asked to carry the flag during a graduation ceremony.

Meanwhile, Ross from Somerset is studying Paramedic Science at UWE Bristol. He said: “I would like to show my gratitude for the continued financial assistance and support provided by The Gurney Fund, which has been vital during my continued development towards qualifying as a professional paramedic.

“I’m continuously grateful for the hard work and important service those overseeing The Gurney Fund provide to myself and others in similar positions, having a positive impact by providing opportunities and support that would not otherwise be available. Keep up the great work you’re all doing.”

Gearing Up For The Holidays

All places are now filled for the 2020 holidays and we are excited to be venturing to a new location for the activity holiday, Calshot Activities Centre in Hampshire.

Some of our younger Gurney Kids, Leo and Rose (right) are getting in the holiday mood too!
Busy Times On The Board

February is a busy time of year for the Board of The Gurney Fund, with its annual review. This year applications from six families were considered and annual review forms from 138 families discussed, including 36 requests for assistance with equipment for college courses, school trips, laptops and sports equipment.

For the remainder of the year, meetings take place in May, August and November – here the emphasis is on new applications and ensuring that the needs of existing Fund families are addressed.

In addition, Trustees never know what might crop up in terms of changes in legislation or recommendations from the Fund’s advisers. Every effort is made to follow best practice for all areas of Fund administration.

In May the Trustees will be reviewing safeguarding; August focuses on the end of year accounts; and November is the start of the higher education reviews.

Keeping up to speed with developments in the charitable world is no mean feat for Trustees, but they all embrace it diligently.

There is currently an NPCC vacancy on the Board – please contact the Fund Manager if this would be of interest to you.

Well-Deserved MBEs

Congratulations to Colonel Patrick Cairns, CEO of The Police Treatment Centres and St George’s Police Children’s Trust, and Reverend Canon David Wilbraham, National Police Chaplain. They were both awarded MBEs in the New Year’s Honours list.

At the February meeting, The Gurney Fund Trustees awarded just over £18,000 towards university costs, books, driving lessons, computers and school trips. Applications from six new families were considered for The Gurney Fund.