

ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

2014-2015 'In Brief'



Foreword

Our Charity has had one of its best years for a very long time - a testament to the hardworking staff, but even more importantly, the fantastic loyal support it enjoys from a huge variety of people and organisations. And this really matters: 'For Soldiers - For Life' is not just a strap line. It captures the fundamental essence of the Charity - to be there for those who need our support, in partnership with the Regimental and Corps charities, for as long as necessary.

General (Retd) Sir Mike Jackson GCB CBE DSO DL
President - ABF The Soldiers' Charity



We are the National Charity of the British Army

Our Role

We give a lifetime of support to soldiers and veterans from the British Army, and their immediate families, making grants through the Regiments and Corps when they are in need. We also support a wide range of specialist charities that sustain the British Army 'family', at home and around the world.

We are responsive, making a difference at a critical point in peoples' lives. We have been doing this since 1944, working with veterans of every conflict, and we envisage continuing doing so for the 'long haul' - supporting all future generations of our soldiers and their dependants.

Our Vision

That all serving and former soldiers and their dependants should have the opportunity to avoid hardship and enjoy independence and dignity.

Highlights of the Year

- ◆ Nearly £8 million was dispersed to some 5,000 individuals/families, and 72 charities received funding to help them deliver support on our collective behalf.
- ◆ Routine individual grants were almost identical to last year, while expenditure on Wounded Injured and Sick (WIS) cases continued to fall away.
- ◆ A second year of substantial increases across many of our sources of funding - total income in 2014/15 exceeded £20 million.
- ◆ Particular successes included our first RHS Chelsea garden, a gold medal winning project, and the resulting hugely successful Evening Standard Independent Media campaign, which raised well over £1 million.
- ◆ We remain the charitable 'Strategic Reserve' for the Army and its Regimental and Corps charities - so our current robust financial position remains both significant and necessary.

How we help those in need

We make individual grants, working in partnership with the Regimental and Corps Associations; we fund charities that deliver help on our collective behalf and we

underpin a wide range of Army welfare and benevolence activity through other funding, co-ordination and policy activity.

Key Grant Statistics 2014-15

Grants Expenditure by principal purpose

	2014-15	2013-14
Grants for individuals	£4.53m	£5.00m
Grants to charities and associated support	£3.22m	£3.99m
Total charitable expenditure	£7.75m	£8.99m

Individual Case numbers

	2014-15	2013-14
Routine grants to individuals	4,689	4,639
Grants in support of the Wounded, Injured and Sick	265	346
Quick Reaction Fund grants in conjunction with H4H	66	310
Total case numbers	5,020	5,295

Grants expenditure by principal purpose



£2.4m Housing

Tackling housing and homelessness issues and supporting those specialist organisations which provide support to Army veterans.



£2.33m Wellbeing

Ensuring our resources enhance the lives of those in need to avoid hardship and enjoy independence and dignity.



£1.01m Employment & Training

Support to individuals, especially the wounded, injured or sick, and organisations providing education, and specialist employment advice.



£0.85m Mobility

Assistance to veterans disabled as a result of their service.



£0.62m Elderly Care

Support to individuals and organisations providing specialist care to elderly veterans.



£0.54m Family

Support on bereavement, mentoring, respite breaks and lots more.

Working with the Army

Our relationship with the Army lies at the heart of what we do. We work closely with senior commanders and staff to make sure we fully understand how best to support their people; we operate in daily co-ordination

with the Regimental and Corps charities and we hugely value the support of both Regular and Reserve organisations and individuals who enhance our ability to successfully fundraise. It has to be a team effort - and it is!

Fundraising: How the money is generated

We receive no public funding or support through service or other contracts, so we are completely dependent on our wide-ranging supporters, who deserve our unqualified gratitude. Last year was a very strong year and this year has been even better – our

total income this year, including investment income and legacies, was £20.37 million, compared to £14.45 million in the previous year. We also take great care as to how we fundraise, so as to respect the wishes of our current and potential supporters.

Some of our fundraising events



Runners in the 2014 Virgin Money London Marathon raised over £100,000 for our Charity



Boris Johnson and Dr Dawn Harper take part in our Wheels on the Western Front event, which raised over £100,000



Ninja Turtles join veterans and members of the public, abseiling from the 'Big One' roller coaster in Blackpool. The event raised £20,000

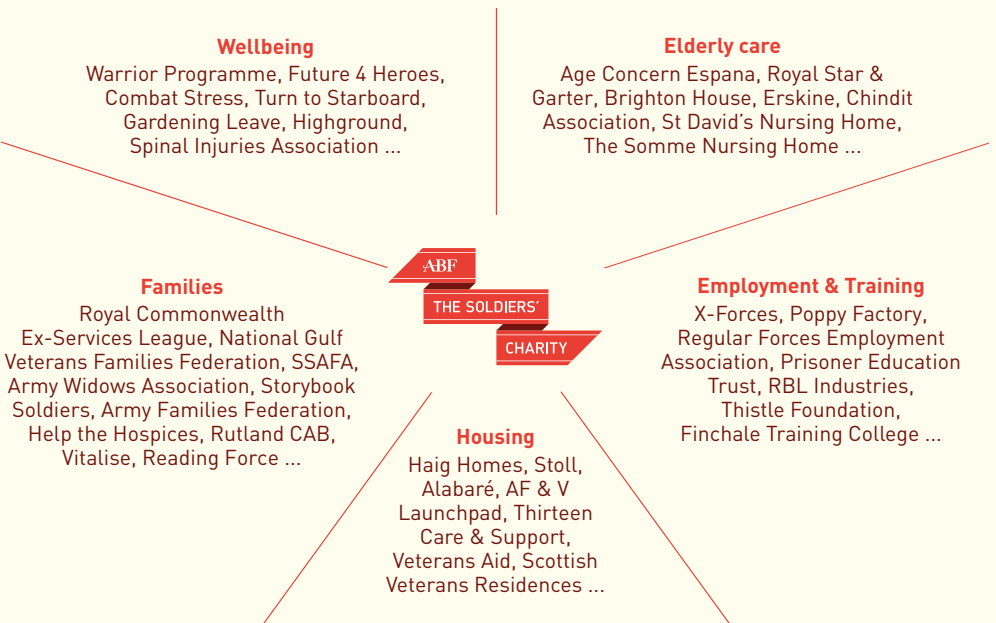


Entrants celebrate finishing the Alliance Trust Cateran Yomp; walking and running 54 miles in 24 hours, raising £380,000



Some of the corporate partners we have worked with this year, alongside many trusts and foundations such as The Flow Foundation and the David & Claudia Harding Foundation.

Examples of organisations we fund to deliver on our behalf.



Some examples of our work



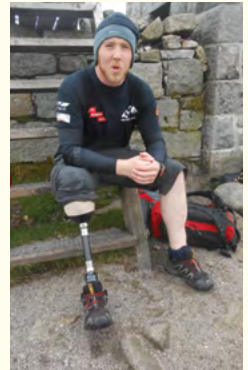
Funding for a college course allowed Charity beneficiary Chris Parrott to pursue a new career in horticulture, as well as becoming an integral part of the team that built our 'No Man's Land' garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



The annual grants we make to Alabaré enables them to employ Housing Support Workers like Ken Kwogyenga, who served with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) for six years.



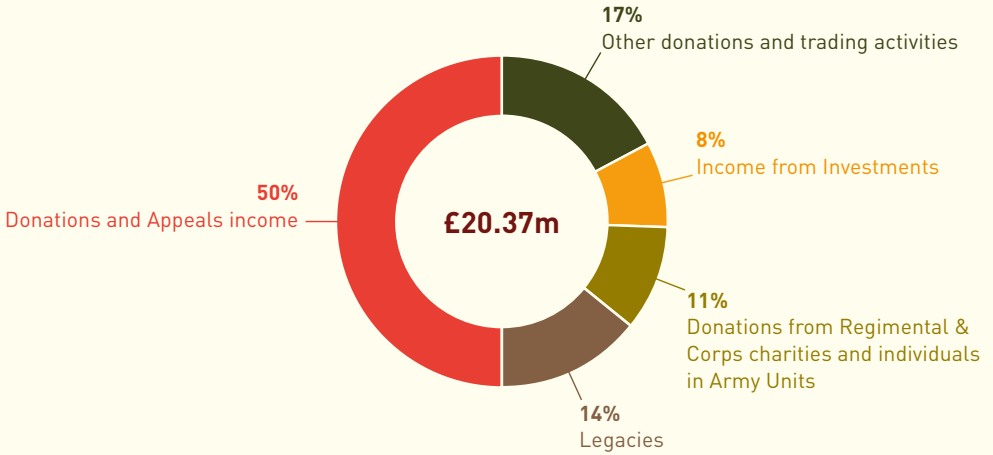
Our Specialist Employment Consultants in the Recovery Career Services find employment opportunities for those in the Wounded Injured and Sick cohort.



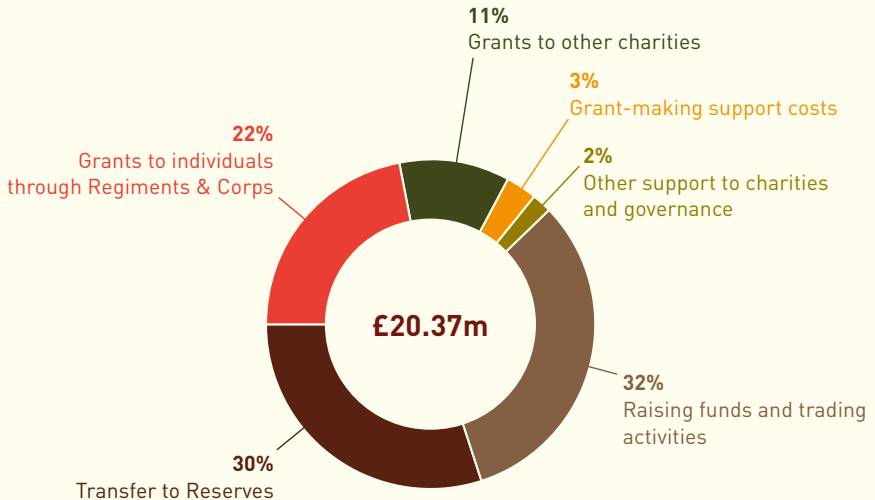
Individual Recovery Plans [IRPs] are tailored plans to help injured Service personnel make a successful transition to civilian life.

Financial Overview

Where our funding came from in 2014-15



Where our money went in 2014-15



Financial performance for 2014-15

Income from:	2014-15	2013-14
Donations and appeals income	£10.20m	£5.37m
Donations from Regimental & Corps charities and soldiers	£2.07m	£2.07m
Other donations and trading activities	£3.50m	£3.34m
Income from investments	£1.69m	£1.59m
Legacies	£2.91m	£2.08m
Total Income	£20.37m	£14.45m
Expenditure on:		
Charitable Expenditure	£7.75m	£8.99m
Raising funds and trading activity	£6.59m	£5.76m
Total Expenditure	£14.34m	£14.75m
Net Income – before net gains on investments	£6.02m	(£0.29m)
Net gains on investments	£3.44m	£0.84m
Net Income	£9.46m	£0.55m

Drawn from the Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31st Mar 2015.

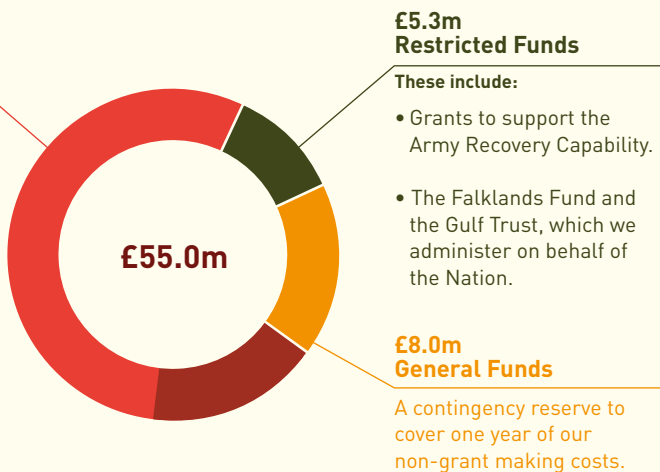
'For Soldiers – For Life'. Safeguarding our future

As the Army's National Charity, and therefore essentially its 'Strategic Reserve' against future needs, we must be there for the long haul – especially in uncertain times such as now. Accordingly we hold our reserves in three different forms as shown here.

£41.7m Designated Funds

These include:

- To cover grants expenditure by ourselves, the Regimental and Corps charities and others in the event of large-scale and prolonged conflict.
- The Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund.
- The Relocation Fund [£8m] to cover the move of our head office and, as importantly, to support those other charities co-located with us to encourage joint working and shared overheads.



£5.3m Restricted Funds

These include:

- Grants to support the Army Recovery Capability.
- The Falklands Fund and the Gulf Trust, which we administer on behalf of the Nation.

£8.0m General Funds

A contingency reserve to cover one year of our non-grant making costs.

Ben Rishton

Ben served in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. After several tours of Iraq and Afghanistan he was medically discharged from the Army due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

He was supported by a Personnel Recovery Unit to aid his transition into civilian employment, but needed to relocate to Southampton in order to accept a job offer.

After seeing several applications for a council property fall through, he was finally offered a house, but could not afford the full cost of securing it. Local authorities declined to assist, so The Soldiers' Charity stepped in with a vital grant for the rental deposit, which helped Ben and his young family start afresh.



For more information, contact your local Soldiers' Charity office:

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ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (039189). Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).

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Working in co-operation with our
US counterparts the British Soldiers Fund



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