



St Giles Trust



The Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation
and
St Giles Trust

Accessing The Future (ATF) Project
First year snapshot

What is ATF?

Thanks to the generous support of the Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation, Accessing The Future (ATF) supports marginalised, disadvantaged young people to pursue their education, training and employment goals by offering a personal budget of up to £1,500 to help them achieve this.

Many young people face barriers that prevent them from benefitting from the same opportunities as their peers.

They are held back by disadvantages such as severe poverty, homelessness, leaving care, being young carers, having disabilities and involvement in the criminal justice system.

The essential help offered through ATF has a life-changing impact which gives them the best chance of a better future.

“I cannot express my gratitude enough. [My daughter] has stuck to the task in hand and passed her exam today.

She really is so made up. Please don't underestimate the power of your belief and expectations upon her. She has an interview already.

For the first time in years I am able to tell her I am proud.

Thank you.”

Mother of young woman whose family were suffering gang reprisals who has been helped through the ATF fund to successfully qualify as a lifeguard.

A snapshot of achievements for the first year:

- 103 disadvantaged young people have been helped to pursue their education, training and employment goals thanks to ATF.
- 63 young people have successfully completed their individual goals which were agreed as part of ATF's support.
- The remaining 40 young people are well on the way towards achieving their goals.
- ATF's support in year 1 came to a total of £45,000 in grants as well as providing intensive casework support.

Who are the young people being helped?

A snapshot of data from 58 young beneficiaries tell us:

- 36% were experiencing family breakdown.
- 34% were being exploited by gangs and/or had involvement in the criminal justice system.
- 12% had disabilities or health issues
- 10% were severely held back by financial issues such as poverty, debts and rent arrears.
- 7% had behavioural and/or mental health issues.

A snapshot of feedback from 72 young beneficiaries tell us:

- 45% were unemployed when referred to ATF.

And as a result of ATF's support:

- 43% gained either full or part-time employment.
- 27% sustained higher education.
- 16% were in a further education/training programme.
- 15% were unemployed but actively seeking employment.

ATF helped 22-year old Desuree pay for a dental nurse course after she was offered a position as a trainee. Prior to this, she had struggled to hold down a job due to the fact that she and her mother were homeless and had been 'sofa surfing' for a long period of time.

Both secured permanent housing and Des was able to pursue her course and new job. Things finally looked up for Desuree as a result of ATF's support.



What has ATF helped to support?

Often, the young people have been helped with more than one area of need:

- 30 have been helped to attain academic and professional qualifications so that they have the best possible chance of securing their dream job.
- 20 have been helped to buy essential tools and equipment so that they have everything they need to start the next stage of their career.
- 18 have been helped to obtain accreditation enabling them to work in security and door supervision roles.
- 14 have been helped with IT equipment so that they have the technology they need for work and/or education.
- 13 have been helped to access positive activities such as sports – inspiring and engaging our clients.
- 12 have been helped with workshops, training and skills development, which they can take forward in their career and education.
- 12 have been helped to obtain official certification to work in the construction industry.
- 10 have been helped with travel costs, which they otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford.
- 9 have been helped with suitable interview or work clothing, so that they can make the best impression with current and future employers.
- 3 have been helped with academic tutoring, so that they have all the support they need to excel at school.

The range of activities ATF supported has been as diverse as the young people who have benefitted. They have included:

- An FA Level 1 in Football Coaching.
- GCSE and A-Level re-takes.
- Specialist 'speech to type' software for someone with visual impairments.
- A painting and decorating qualification.

...and much more.

We have found that the process of applying for ATF's support helped us identify other needs - typically around housing and issues such as relationships and mental health - which the young people needed assistance with before they were in a realistic position to fully benefit from ATF.

Although ATF has not necessarily directly helped with these issues, the casework support we provide alongside the fund has been essential in addressing these issues. This means that young people are able to take full advantage of the fund and have the best chance of making sustainable, long-term progress.

Looking forward

We distributed a high level of grants in year one, as well as providing intensive casework support to disadvantaged young people. We expect this momentum to continue and increase in this second year.

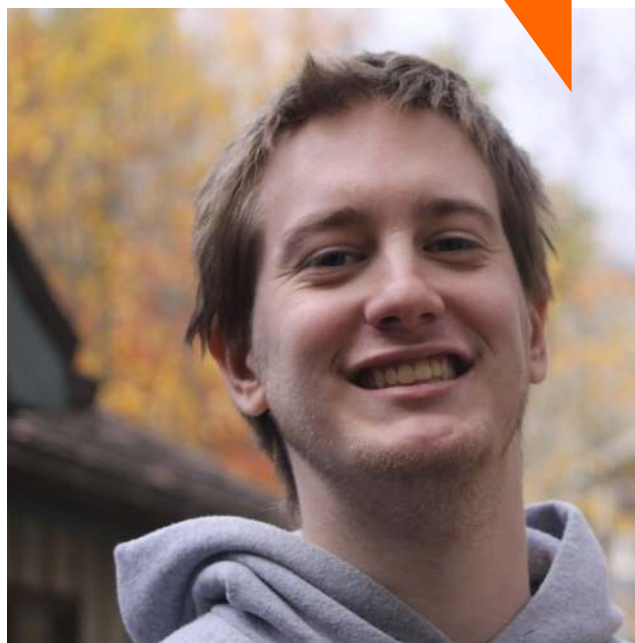
We will be focussing on enabling an increased number of disadvantaged young women to benefit from ATF through working with St Giles Trust's Expect Respect team.

Expect Respect supports young women who are vulnerable to gang involvement. Helping them access opportunities and new experiences through ATF will play an important role in this.

We are also expanding our support to include very vulnerable young people who are being exploited by drug gangs and are being supported by us to get their young lives back on track.

On behalf of our teams and the young people who have been helped, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation.

Thanks to ATF, these 103 multiply disadvantaged young people have been able to benefit from a level playing field as they enter adulthood and pursue their working life.



Meet Dave

22-year old Dave first came into contact with St Giles Trust in August 2017 when he was approaching the end of his prison sentence. We visited Dave in prison to offer him support as he was keen to plan for his release and move things forward. When his release date came in September, Dave stepped out of the gate with little other than the clothes he was standing up in. We helped him obtain his birth certificate, settle into his hostel, register with a GP and get in touch with the Job Centre.

David enrolled on St Giles Trust's GROW Project which helps young people who have experienced disadvantages such as homelessness, involvement in the criminal justice system and leaving care to access employment opportunities. After working with Dave to agree an action plan, he was put forward for a work trial for St Giles Trust's social enterprise café Brewbird which offers supported employment to our clients. Dave was successful in his trial and offered a part-time work placement.

However, Dave still had very little in the way of possessions - no suitable clothing to wear to his new job and no income with which to buy any. Furthermore, temperatures were dropping as winter approached. His caseworker Nadia helped Dave apply to the Accessing The Future fund for a £150 grant to cover work clothes, a coat, a bag and suitable shoes. The application was successful and a trip to the Next sale kitted Dave out in good quality clothes for his new job that would see him through winter and beyond.

Dave successfully completed his work trial at Brewbird and enjoyed the experience, commenting that he felt welcomed by the team and very comfortable working with colleagues and customers. ATF funding also paid for him to undertake a Level 2 in Food Safety in Catering. Dave has already completed units 1 and 2 and has recently started a work trail as a kitchen porter at The Ivy Café in Blackheath – part of the famous Ivy chain of restaurants. The fund has paid for a pair of safety boots for this role.

Dave is using these experiences as a stepping stone and has ambitions of opening his own business – he is a creative and has a couple of ideas which he says he will run with once he is ready.

He is very appreciative of the support he has had from ATF and says: *“Thank you so much! It's helped loads. I didn't have anything and it's helping me along through the week. I really appreciate it!”*



**For further information
about this report and the
ATF project, please contact:**

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The Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation, set up in 2008, focuses on improving the educational attainment, employability and aspirations of disadvantaged young people across Europe, the Middle East and Africa through multi-year partnerships involving both financial support and employee engagement.



St Giles Trust is a registered charity No 801 355.

We are a charity helping people facing disadvantage to find jobs, homes and the right support they need.

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