

*"Thank you so much. It feels like home again"*

# Pontypridd & Cynon Valley Flood Recovery Fund 2020



In February 2020 the communities of Pontypridd and the Cynon Valley experienced the devastating impacts of Storm Dennis. In response to this crisis Mick Antoniwi MS and Alex Davies-Jones MP representing Pontypridd and Vikki Howells MS and Beth Winter MP representing the Cynon Valley initiated and led on setting up a Flood Relief Fund for their respective communities. Thanks must be given to the Moondance Foundation who stepped forward to provide the necessary funding and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust who willingly agreed to deliver the funding directly to the households effected. The Relief Fund was delivered from March to the end of July. At the start, it was not clear what the additional impact of Covid19 would also be but that soon became very clear making the Fund even more essential to those worst affected.



THE COALFIELDS  
REGENERATION TRUST  
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Clearly, the Flood has had a devastating impact on many individuals and families in both communities and many are still struggling to get back to a degree of normality. However, the community response to the Flood has also been tremendous and a source of great pride. Everyone rallied together to respond to those in need, from local businesses donating goods, the local authority providing support to the most vulnerable and many selfless and generous acts by individuals and community groups to help others in need, really demonstrating that a great community spirit is alive and strong in these communities.

## FLOOD RECOVERY FUND TIMELINE



**The February Floods**  
Devastation: Pontypridd & Cynon Valley submerged under water as heavy flooding hits



**The Community Response**  
Local people, politicians, voluntary sector and local authority united in recovery efforts



**The Recovery Funds**  
Made available to residents to aid recovery efforts thanks to the Moondance Foundation



**The Grant Management**  
The Coalfields Regeneration Trust step forward to deliver the scheme to local residents on a voluntary basis



**The Applications**  
Recovery Fund opens March and closes July 2020

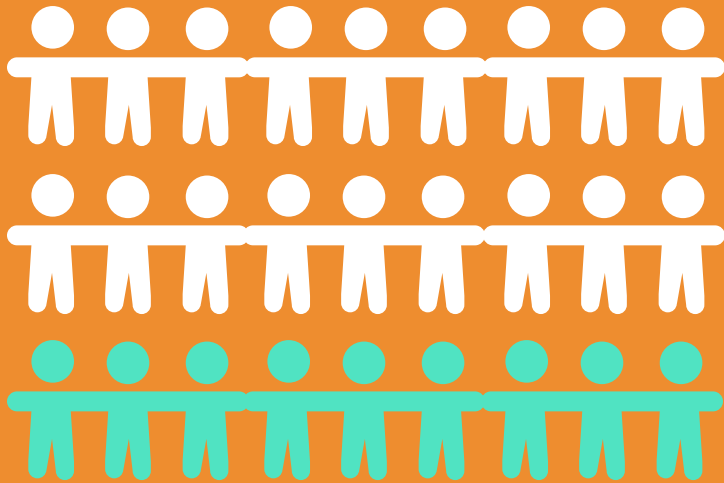


**The Awards**  
Awards made, responsive to need - awards that make a positive lasting difference. and help people return home

# FLOOD RECOVERY FUND: BY NUMBERS

## 112 AWARDS

to families and individuals affected by the flooding



\* 76 Pontypridd \* 36 Cynon Valley

"I just wanted to say thank you for everything that you have done you won't believe how much you have helped. I was at breaking point due to not being able to afford these items. You have lifted a huge weight off my shoulders last night was the best night sleep I've had for a very long time. My children are very excited I asked my boy what he was drawing and he said it was a card for the secret hero which was you thank you again." Aberdare Resident

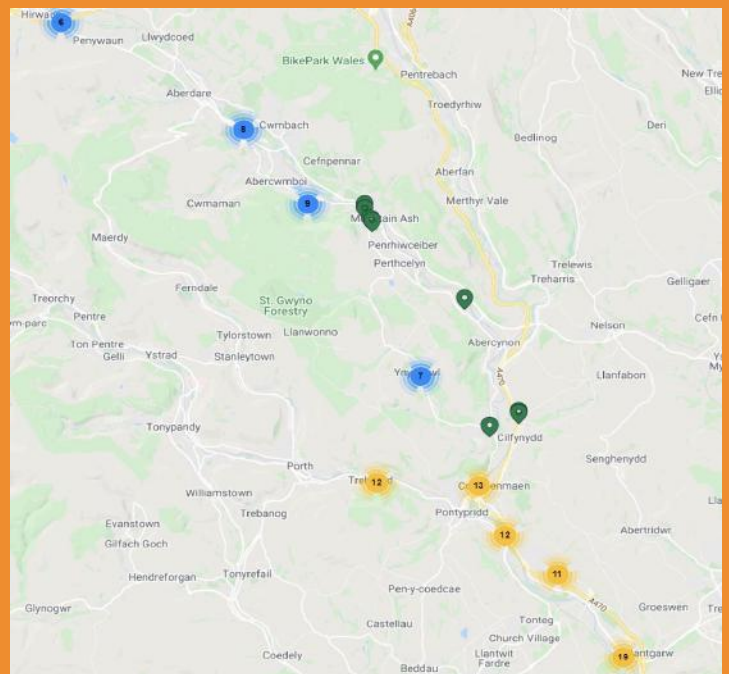


### Crisis Support

- Help to get back home (temp. accom) (28%)
- Other Emergency Help. (72%)



### FROM HIRWAUN TO NANTGARW. AWARDS ACROSS CYNON VALLEY AND PONTYPRIDD CONSTITUENCIES



Flood Fund

37  
Fridge / Freezers

28  
Washing Machine / Dryer Awards

"Thank you so much. This has helped us so much, a massive weight off our shoulders."  
Mountain Ash Resident

### SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

**£849,650**  
OF SOCIAL VALUE  
GENERATED

These figures are calculated through Value Insight, which allows you to measure the success of a social intervention by how much it increases people's wellbeing.

FOR EVERY  
£1  
INVESTED

£4.50  
WAS GENERATED  
IN SOCIAL VALUE

=



£141,033.23

Value of Awards Made Across the Flood Recovery Schemes



£48,422  
In-Kind Funding Provided by The Coalfields Regeneration Trust



£1,259  
Average Award Value

## Family A's Story ...

Family A was flooded on February 16th with approximately 6ft of water entering their home, rendering their home completely uninhabitable. They lost the entire contents of the downstairs area including, furniture, fixtures and fittings and personal possessions such as photographs and inherited pieces. They received assistance from friends and volunteers to dry out the property, hack off the plaster from walls and were able to get the structure of the building safe, including utilities. However, the windows and doors on the lower floor had been damaged and were unsecure and the living areas, kitchen and bathroom were a bare shell.

"The emotional distress has affected all members of our family to one degree or another. Our children, are old enough to understand that although unlikely, this may indeed happen again and we as their parents cannot assure them that it won't.

The emotional burden is the predominant factor, this coupled together with the financial obligations and physical challenges of day to day living in a property that you are trying to put back together is huge. Initially when we were able to move back into the property we were restricted to living upstairs.

Words cannot express how grateful we are to have received the help that we did. The grant funding has help lift some of the financial burden in necessary repairs and been a large factor in turning our house back into a home.

Being able to replace the windows has not only meant that we are able to see through them but the constant reminder of the 6 foot watermark inside the panes of glass has now gone!

The additional funding towards helping to replace our bathroom has meant that we will be able to start work on that much sooner than anticipated.

Whilst the work continues in our house, we have made great progress and come a long way from the bare, damp shell that it was. That in part is because of the help with the funding we have received from the Pontypridd Flood Recovery Fund. Thank you, sincerely."



Thank you Andrew ever so much - and once again thank you for all your support this funding will help us so much financially and emotionally. Diolch yn Fawr iawn  
Ynysybwll Resident

## Family B's Story ...

Family B is a single parent family with two children aged 15 and 16 years.

"On the 16th of February Storm Dennis ripped through our house early morning when we were fast asleep. My son was on the sofa sleeping, a typical teenager playing his PS4 then he fell asleep. I woke up to total darkness as I walked downstairs the water level was already up to my knees. I screamed to wake up my son who had to wade through silt, sewage and darkness to get up stairs. It was horrendous and the scariest moment of our lives just watching our home get destroyed and we couldn't do anything, we didn't have time to recover personal items it was truly devastating. We have two golden retrievers who also panicked seeing us all upset.

We had to stay in my daughter's front bedroom room for 9 hours until we got rescued by boat. When the firemen came to our rescue it was heart-breaking, leaving our family home and seeing the damage it felt like an out of body experience. I couldn't process anything. We could only pack one bag of items to take from upstairs. The water level reached 6ft in our home and our sofa was floating and touching our ceiling. We visited the next day and we just couldn't believe the extent of the damage and how this could happen to us. We were told by the environmental health that everything had to be destroyed and we couldn't keep anything due to contamination, we just cried. Then to find out I wasn't insured, it didn't renew and it had and not long expired.

Volunteers were amazing they came and ripped out our kitchen and flooring and all furniture and personal belongings... my heart broke but it had to be done. We stayed with my daughter in a small one bed and moved 4 times in 2 months, it was tough. But we are truly grateful for everyone's generosity.

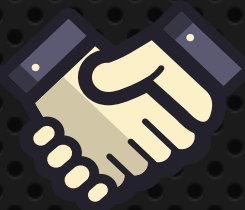
Coalfields I feel I owe you so much I am truly grateful for what you have given us you helped us get back into our home quickly, I'm pretty sure we would still be trying to rebuild without your help. The charity also gave us the best support over the phone and we had lovely chats, keeping me updated with the process. They are such wonderful people. They paid to supply & fit all flooring downstairs all skirting boards and doors. And a new front door. I could never afford this on my own I am so grateful of your generosity and will always remember what you did for my family ... It was tough to remain strong to build my home also to be there for my two children who suffered from the devastation and being homeless, and you stepped in and took the pressure off me. "



I would like to say a big thank you to coalfields regeneration and everyone involved in the organisation, back in February my house was badly flooded with 6ft of river water destroying my bottom half of the house along with 2 cars and sentimental belongings I will never get back. It was devastating and its been a very hard time for me and my family. Coalfields have awarded me a bathroom suite and it has been very much appreciated gift and without this help I would have struggled. Your help with everything has been fantastic and you have helped not just me but a lot of people in my situation in Pontypridd alone. You are amazing, and would like say again a big THANK YOU!!!

Treforest Resident

**THANK YOU! The Flood Recovery Fund would not have been possible without the support of The Moondance Foundation and the Constituency Offices. On behalf of all applicants we thank you.**



" I would like to thank you personally for your help throughout and to everyone else associated with issuing us with the award. This will be a massive help to my family and I." Trehafod Resident

"Thank you so so much that's a great help. And thank you for your time and patience. Can you also tell the charity how grateful I am for there help in this traumatic time. " Nantgarw Resident

"Thanks for your help in this matter, this is the best news we could have hoped right now as a family it is everything. " Trehafod Resident

"Thank you for the chair that my Dad has received, it's made a massive difference to his independence and myself as I no longer have to pull him into a standing position, I really can't thank you enough as my own health is very limited it really has made a massive difference. " Nantgarw Resident

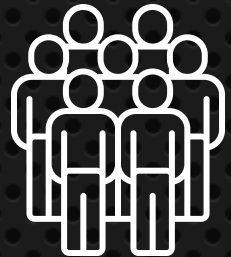
"Our house is starting to look like a home. Thank You so much again for myself, partner and children. " Nantgarw Resident

"I really appreciate you accepting my front door quote we can now look forward to feeling safe at home, so thank you. " Nantgarw Resident

"I would like you that you for all your help and very much appreciated. On behalf of my mother/brother. Thank you very much with out you contribution this would not have happen. " Nantgarw Resident

"I'm just dropping you a quick thanks for your help and professionalism in dealing with X's application. This has helped to move him on a bit and he is talking about removing things from his house, cleaning and painting so that's a big step forward in his way of thinking. " Treforest Resident

"This has been a great help, it means a lot to me and I really appreciate it from the bottom of my heart! I wish that all the people who have struggled and have had this help, to actually see and appreciate all the work and time has been put into it to make everything possible, at least as much as I do. I cannot thank you enough! " Pontypridd Resident



"Thank you for all your help and support . This will be an enormous help to us and a lot of stress off our shoulders of how we were going to replace these essential tools" Hirwaun Resident



"It's helped me and my children and I'm so grateful." Mountain Ash Resident

"Sofas have arrived. Thank you so much. It feels like home again. " Hirwaun Resident

"Thank you Coalfields you have helped a lot of people with the fund made available to us and has made our lives that bit easier. " Trehafod Resident.

"My house now feels like home again. Thank you so much for all of your work, I would never have been able to afford to refit my kitchen and the bare floor would still be looking grim." Pontypridd Resident

"I am pleased too say that all work is completed and is looking beautiful. Thankyou so much for your support I am very grateful, so are my children who had their first Sunday dinner. Thank you again." Trehafod Resident



"Thoroughly happy with the work X has provided to a high standard, I'm really grateful for the financial help I am receiving. Again thank you so much for all your assistance. I have finally been able to repair my property. I would have been at a loss without this fund, me and my children appreciate this so much." Trehafod Resident

Images courtesy  
Richard Swingler  
Photography

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The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is the leading organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life in Britain's former mining communities. Our ambition is to champion and strengthen coalfield communities, generate resources to respond to their needs, and deliver programmes that make a positive lasting difference.

