

**INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY A STANDING ORDER  
PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS PRINTED IN BLACK, AND CLEARLY PRINT ALL BANKING DETAILS**

Please pay, CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND (The Beneficiary) The Sum Of

Name of Your Account (Account to be debited)

£ ..... amount in words ..... Per Month

To The Manager (Your Bank)

Commencing on day / month / year and monthly thereafter  
until you receive further notice from me.

Bank/Building Society

Quoting Reference

Full Postal Address

BENEFICIARY'S BANK DETAILS

BENEFICIARY'S ACCOUNT NAME CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

Acc. No

Sort Code

Post Code

PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE THIS AREA

Your Bank Account Number

Your Bank Sort Code

Date

Your Signature(s)

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Please confirm by ticking this box  that you are a taxpayer and wish to receive a gift aid form so that we can claim 20p from the taxman for every £1 you donate.

When completed please forward to — Children's Boot Fund, c/o PO Box 3124 Kenilworth, CV8 9ZW

We Couldn't do it Without YOU

Founded in Coventry  
in 1893

A Registered Charity No. 214524

P.O. Box 3124  
Kenilworth, CV8 9ZW



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*The*  
**COVENTRY  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOT FUND**  
PATRON  
**David Moorcroft OBE**

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### HOW DID IT START?

As a certificated assistant in 1889, George Gibson was given Standard 4A class of 71 boys at South Street School in Hillfields, Coventry. It was a time of great poverty. The boys were 'wretchedly-clothed, under-nourished and almost bootless'. With permission of the Head, George Gibson placed a 'boot box' on his desk and invited visitors and better-off boys to contribute money to buy boots and warm clothing for those in need. George Gibson had many influential friends in the City, one of whom was Thomas Burbage, the proprietor of the Coventry Standard, a weekly newspaper.

In 1893, at a special meeting, presided over by Thomas Burbage, it was decided to launch a City-wide Boot Fund with the object of providing boots to necessitous children in order that they may attend school. Among those who supported the decision are recorded the names of William Hillman, John Gulson, James Starley, Joseph Cash, Dr. Webb Fowler, Rev. F. Beaumont, George Gibson, and a Police Sergeant named James Shelley.

George Gibson died in 1938 - the boot fund is perhaps a fitting memorial to a caring teacher and his friends, who served the needy children of Coventry over a century ago.

### IS IT RELEVANT TODAY?

The Children's Boot Fund was founded in the poverty of industrial Coventry at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has served the children of the city through two world wars; the depression of the thirties, and the up's and down's of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately the pressure of today's fast moving world can leave a young family behind. Even today many children attend school wearing worn out or poorly fitting shoes, which the parents simply cannot afford to replace. We do carefully assess the need but we do not judge - it is the child that matters. When you see a child at school wearing ill fitting, worn out leaking shoes in winter because the parents cannot afford to replace them, then you realise that the Boot Fund is as relevant today as it was over a hundred years ago. -- Inappropriate or worn and poorly fitting footwear can lead to poor attendance or truancy, bullying, and low self-esteem in schoolchildren.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The purchasing of shoes for needy children is entirely funded by donations from local schools, organisations, local firms, and individuals. Monies donated are used to purchase shoes for needy children of school age. Our committee mainly consists of teachers who really care about the welfare of their schoolchildren, and are aware of the circumstances of many of the families who apply for help. All members of the committee give their time freely. The only

cost to the Boot Fund is the purchase of shoes for the needy children. Stationary and postage, is donated by a local firm, including the printing of this leaflet. Be assured that all donations are used to buy suitable school shoes for needy children.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

Parents or guardians of children attending school in Coventry, who find themselves in need of help, may apply to school for an application form for assistance from the Children's Boot Fund. Very often the child's Teacher will recognise a need and sympathetically encourage an application. The completed form is returned to the Head Teacher to endorse, and then sent to the Charity secretary who will place it before the committee for consideration. There are four allocations yearly. Successful candidates are issued with a voucher and instructions, and in exchange for the voucher will receive good quality properly fitted shoes suitable for school. Although footwear must be suitable for school, the choice is the recipients, so that the child will be happy with their new shoes. Recently we have made 1040 grants for shoes in a single year, and every child helped was in great need of shoes so that they can attend school.

### WHO QUALIFIES?

The basic qualifications are that the needy child who requires new school shoes is of school age, and a regular attendee at a Coventry school. We try to help as many families as possible therefore normally only one child per family is granted a voucher within a twelve-month period, but we often make exceptions for families in difficult circumstances. Twins are usually each given shoes. School leavers may be granted shoes for attending interviews. Applications from Social Services, Homes, and Institutions are also considered.

### AWARENESS

Please help raise awareness of our charity by telling your friends and work colleagues about us. Please let us know if you require more leaflets or if you require further information. If you are a teacher or work in the caring professions and you become aware of a needy family then please take the appropriate action so that we can help. Grateful thanks to Charles Ager, Corporation St., Coventry, whose help and support is greatly valued - the staff and management give excellent service and commitment.

### SCHOOLS

From the beginning the Children's Boot Fund has received much support from Coventry schools, the Teachers and Children generate an important portion of our income. If you are a Teacher and your school is involved in

raising funds for us - we thank you - keep up the good work. If you or your school would like to give more help, sponsored events or collections at school concerts and plays are some of the simple ways of fund raising. We are constantly surprised by the enthusiasm of pupils for The Children's Boot Fund.

### DONATIONS

If you wish to make a donation it would be gratefully received by the Children's Boot Fund and every single beneficiary of the shoes provided. All donations whatever the size, make a difference. You could remember the Children's Boot Fund in your will.

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BUSINESSES

If you are the principle of a business, large or small your company and employees can become involved in supporting a Coventry charity that is over 100 years old, and carry on the work that businessmen like, Burbage, Hillman, Starley, Cash, and Gulson started in 1893. We can happily arrange regular payroll giving, or perhaps you can become involved in a specific fund-raising venture that would be of great value to the charity but would also have the effect of raising the public profile of your company.

### PLEASE HELP

Please send a donation of whatever you can afford, accompanied by this tear off section. Alternatively if you would like to help by making regular donations then it would help us greatly if you could contribute by monthly Standing Order. If you choose to do this then please complete overleaf and return it to us.

We thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and for any help you may choose to give,

### YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE We couldn't do it Without YOU

Please find enclosed my donation of £.....  
Please make cheques payable to 'Children's Boot Fund'

Please confirm by ticking this box  that you are a tax payer and require a gift aid form so that the Children's Boot Fund can claim a 28p tax refund for every £1 of your donation.

If you have ticked above, would like a receipt, or wish to receive further information, then please give your details below.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

DETAILS ARE ONLY FOR OUR OWN RECORDS, WE DO NOT  
PASS DETAILS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS