

SPECIAL APPEAL



A Support For Blind Veterans.... *We are almost there!*



Lions Clubs International

Special Appeal By Lions -
100% of funds raised
will be assigned to
the project



£100,000 Target

Lions Clubs have already raised

£81,000

however just need circa

£19,000

to complete the project.

We need your help....



Special Appeal

Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland is committed to raising £100,000 to be used to facilitate the completion of the building work required to refurbish three disused outbuildings at the Blind Veterans UK Centre (BVUK) at Llandudno.

This is a major project, being set up by Blind Veterans UK and BLESMA - The Limbless Veterans. It is ultimately designed to provide rehabilitation training for our current and ex-service personnel whose lives have been immeasurably altered, indeed shattered, whilst they were protecting our safety. Please help us to show our appreciation for their sacrifices by fulfilling our goal of raising the target amount so that our disabled current and ex-service men and women are able to access a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Complex that will provide essential services to improve the quality of their lives.

When completed this complex will be used to provide Life Skills for Independent Living - a tailored programme of counselling and training in purpose-built accommodation for those younger veterans needing this vital support - not only for the veterans served by Blind Veterans UK itself but also those served by BLESMA - The Limbless Veterans.

Continued overleaf...

Individuals, clubs, companies and corporates (CSR) are requested to donate generously to complete the project.

Donations should be payable to:
LCI MD105 FOUNDATION

Cheques sent to the attention:

Tom Berry,
Charities Treasurer,
27 Pritchard Drive,
Hawkinge,
CT18 7QH, UK

Endorsed on reverse 'Blind Veterans UK appeal'.

OR Pay direct to bank account

Bank : Nat West Canterbury
60 04 27 95574867

LCI MD 105 FOUNDATION
Registered Number 1164711



Lions Clubs International



Rationale for the New Facilities

Blind Veterans UK is a partnership organisation with Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland and is proposing to expand its rehabilitation facilities to assist not only its own veterans but those of another organisation serving our county's ex-Service men and women who have been severely wounded and disabled in protecting our country.

Both organisations are reacting to research carried out by the King's Centre for Military Health into the mental health and social well-being of disabled ex-service men and women. The research identified that many struggled with mental health issues including depression and anxiety, that there was an increased prevalence of self-harming behaviour including substance abuse and alcohol misuse, and that many veterans struggled with social relationships after the loss of sight and/or limbs leading to the loss of independence becoming a major concern for them. The research highlighted that these concerns were of greater prominence amongst younger veterans under the age of 50.

The Life Skills for Independent Living Project evolved from the needs identified by the research as a means of providing a tailored programme of counselling and training in purpose-built accommodation for those younger veterans that need this vital support so providing a lifeline for working age ex-Service men and women.

Blind Veterans UK and BLESMA – The Limbless Veterans believe that the best way to meet the recommendations made by the King's Centre for Military Health Research is to provide these life skills in accommodation that replicate the home environment.

To that end, three disused outbuildings at the Blind Veterans UK Llandudno Rehabilitation and Training Centre are to be refurbished to provide five separate residential units. Four will be self-contained apartments and one a two bedroom family unit. All five units will be linked together by an Entrance Foyer and Central Communal area.

The accommodation facility will be made available to veterans who have been identified as being at risk of homelessness or living in unsuitable accommodation. Veterans will be able to stay in the accommodation for between six weeks and six months, and each will be offered an individually tailored programme that addresses their particular situation and challenges. The aim is to provide these disadvantaged veterans with the tools they need to be emotionally, physically and financially equipped for independent living. At the end of the programme veterans will be supported to find a permanent home.

The total cost of the building refurbishment work is £1,650,000; a successful Grant Application to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund is providing £1,250,000, meaning that a further £400,000 is being sought from other outside donors to fund the building work.

It is also worth noting that there is a specific environmental aspect to the planned refurbishment work in that a colony of protected species bats are located in one of the disused buildings and before work can start inside this particular building an alternative habitat must be provided for them.

Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland has established an ongoing partnership relationship with Blind Veterans UK which reflects the synergy evolving from our joint commitment to support visually impaired individuals, and this project widens that support to limbless veterans as well.

Thank you.

Lion Evan Wm Jones
Liaison Contact for the Blind Veterans UK Partnership

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Lions Clubs International

