A Year of Achievement

2015 was an exciting year for the Foundation. We funded some truly inspirational projects and individuals, something which could only be made possible through your support. We are always honoured when people choose to raise money for the Foundation, whether it’s the 9,000 people or so who donate regularly, those who choose to leave us a legacy in their will, or those that challenge themselves with sponsored events. Every penny helps us to support nursing and ensures we can be there for all those who so desperately need our help in times of need.

Through our grants programme, we continue to fund some remarkable work. Each year, my fellow trustees and I are inspired by the innovation, ambition and determination of applicants to our schemes. In the past year we held our first major event where we gathered stakeholders and experts together to explore the next steps for our ‘Nursing in Care Homes’ stream of work. We hope to expand on this in the years ahead in order to make a real impact on health care in this growing and important area of nursing.

The work of the Foundation would not be possible without the dedication and support of so many, including partners, funders and donors, trustees, advisors and staff. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all those whom we have helped, I would like to express our sincere thanks for their support over the past year.

Robert Sowney
Chair – RCN Foundation
Looking Ahead

This Impact Report is an opportunity to look back on what we have achieved, but also to look forward to the coming year, which will see us expand and improve our services for the benefit of all those who need us.

We will make it easier and simpler to apply for a grant for a project or activity, meaning we can support innovation, leadership and passion for the nursing profession. We will also transform the way we support nurses in need through the Lamplight Support Service, a new partnership with the Royal College of Nursing which enables us to offer advice and support to nurses, midwives and health care assistants in times of need to help them get their lives back on track.

We want to become a vehicle for the general public to show their appreciation for nurses, a way to pay back the debt of gratitude we owe to nursing for looking after us in our times of need. As pressures on the nursing profession continue to grow, the Foundation has a critical role to play in helping to alleviate some of those pressures. But we also have an eye to the wider landscape, and will be seeking to deliver projects that make a real difference to the development of the profession. We are a growing charity and spreading word of our existence is important to raise our profile so please share this report, visit our website and follow us on Twitter and Facebook. I hope this report inspires you to support the Foundation and our very worthy cause.

Deepa Korea
Head of the RCN Foundation
Financial overview

Income
- Donations: £173K (Up 19%)
- Legacies: £30K (up 100%)
- Investment Income: £989K (Up 10%)

Total income: £1,192,000

Expenditure
- Education and Training Bursaries to individuals: £428K (up 23%)
- Project Grants: £253k (up 81%)
- Benevolent funding (including RAS): £411K (up 26%)
- Costs of generating funds: £184K (Down 1%)
- Governance Costs: £28K (down 13%)

Total expenditure: £1,304,000
Impact overview

Bursaries

- 102 Bursaries to individuals
- 14 PhDs
- 35 Masters degrees

Benevolent Fund

- 488 hardship grants
- 12 Nurses escaping violent relationships
- 205 Struggling with Housing costs
- 36 Undergoing treatment for Cancer
The RCN Foundation grants programme seeks to fund innovative projects from individuals and organisations that improve nursing and patient care. We have funded a wide variety of activities, including presenting at international conferences, master’s degrees and professional training courses, and projects.

**Case study**

**Public Lecture Series**
The Foundation funded a series of public lectures in 2015 with subjects as varied as nursing during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, nursing in prisons and nursing leadership. These lectures enable the public and nursing professionals to hear about current innovations in the nursing field.

**Case study**

**Huntington’s Disease Association**
The RCN Foundation was very pleased to be able to fund the Huntington’s Disease Association to enable their specialist advisors to undertake end of life care communication training. The advisors support 14,676 people who have Huntington’s disease or are caring for someone with the disease.
**Case study**

**Naomi**, an emergency nurse practitioner and clinical academic fellow received a bursary to complete a course in research methodology and to present at an international conference.

‘Since receiving the bursary, I have applied for and been successful at obtaining a new clinical role, that of emergency nurse practitioner in the acute oncology service. I believe that receiving this bursary made my application stronger and helped me to obtain this post.’

**Case study**

**Jessica**, a senior clinical forensic charge nurse in Scotland received a bursary to present at an international conference on custody and care.

‘This experience has benefited me professionally by enhancing my skills and given me more faith in my leadership as a nurse. The investment shown to me will be forward invested in my team in order that they have a deeper and more satisfying experience in their work with the focus on continued improvement and quality of the care of our patients.’
This year we saw a record number of requests to our hardship fund which supports current and former nurses, midwives and health care assistants. The cause of need varied, from disability and sickness, to domestic abuse and flooding. Whatever the reason for this hardship, the RCN Foundation provided much needed support when it was most needed.

**Case study**

**Emma**, a nurse of nine years, has Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. Her condition left her needing a wheelchair. Having two young children and keen to finish her degree, Emma needed a chair that could suit her needs. The RCN Foundation was able to support with funding for the chair, enabling Emma to maximise her independence.

‘I am so grateful for the funding I received for the wheelchair. It has given me a lot of independence. I am much quicker on wheels and happier. I am feeling more confident about living with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.’

**Case study**

**Chloe**, a nurse of 12 years, had escaped a violent relationship and needed to take time off from work to recover from the ensuing stress and anxiety. Chloe needed household essentials for herself and her two young children for their new home. The RCN Foundation was able to assist Chloe with a grant of £650 to get her life back on track by enabling her to purchase beds for her children and a new cooker.
The Lamplight Support Service is the Foundation’s new partnership with the Royal College of Nursing. The service provides a one-stop shop to give any nurse, midwife or healthcare assistant who may be facing hardship, with a chance to maximise their income through targeted advice, support and, where needed, a financial grant from the RCN Foundation. This service enables us to better support the nursing community in times of need.

£2,683
the average amount per year a Lamplight user is better off after any funding is awarded.
Fundraising

2015 has been a remarkable year for fundraising for the Foundation which saw us raise an extraordinary amount of money to support nurses, midwives and health care assistants. We saw individuals cycle, bake, climb and take on zip lines, all to support the Foundation’s work.

The Foundation relies on donations to provide our services and we thank all the individuals and organisations that have supported our work in 2015.
£10,000

£10,000 was raised as a team took on Mount Cavell in Canada, climbing for 18 hours to support nurses in need.

£500

A group of nurses undertook a zip line challenge raising over £500.

If you would like to support the Foundation please visit www.rcnfoundation.org.uk where you can donate or see ideas of how you could raise funds for us.

Thank You

On behalf of the nurses, midwives and health care assistants we have helped this year, we would like to thank you for supporting our work in 2015.