

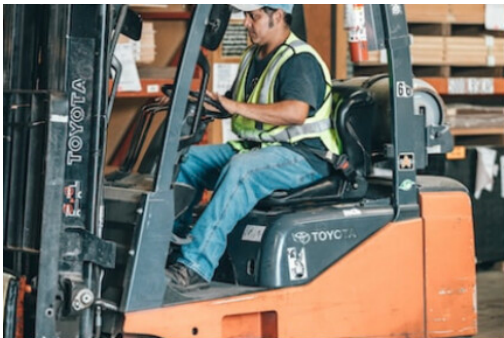


50 giving stories shared as part of The Marketors' Trust's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2026

No 49: A second chance, one small grant at a time

The day someone leaves prison is supposed to be a fresh start. For many, it does not feel like one. Half of all people released have nowhere settled to live. More than eight in ten are still without work six weeks later, and the standard discharge grant, £82.39, has to stretch across the five weeks or more that a first benefit payment can take to arrive. It is a precarious, lonely moment, and it is exactly where the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund steps in.

Founded in 1808 and based at the Old Bailey, the Fund is one of London's oldest charities, dedicated to the rehabilitation of prison leavers and the welfare of their families. Working closely with the Probation Service, and increasingly with other charities running education and training inside prisons, it makes modest individual grants to people at the point they need them most. Its belief is a simple one: everyone deserves a second chance, and the aim is to help people to stop offending and start a new life.



£450 paid for a fork-lift truck driving course



£500 bought the equipment for a man to set up in business as a window cleaner

Small grants, chosen with care: often the difference between an intention and a livelihood.

The grants are small, but they are often the difference between an intention and a livelihood. £500 bought the equipment for a man to set himself up in business as a window cleaner. £450 paid for a fork-lift truck driving course, and the qualification that comes with it. Sums most of us would barely

notice can, at the right moment, be the first rung of a ladder back to steady, working life, and to being there for a family.

As the charity of a Livery Company, The Marketors' Trust makes an annual donation to the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund. It is one of the Trust's quieter commitments, a steady, year-after-year gift rather than a one-off campaign, and it speaks to something the City has understood for more than two centuries: that justice does not end at the prison gate, and that helping someone rebuild is in everyone's interest.

There is no marketing campaign at the heart of this story, just a long-held promise, kept. Yet the thread that runs through the whole of £50 for 50 is here too. Behind every statistic is a person, and behind every small grant is the belief that their story is not finished. A second chance, it turns out, can begin with a ladder, a licence, or a few hundred pounds given at exactly the right time.



Website: sr-fund.org

How to give

Every gift, at whatever level, helps secure the Trust's grants, awards and care for the next fifty years.

To give, go to: <https://www.marketors.org/the-marketors-trust/support-ways-to-give>

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