

LAMBETH CHARITY MAKING AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT, 350 YEARS LATER

In the last 10 years alone, £19 million in grants to support Lambeth citizens from low-income homes gain the education, skills and opportunities needed to make their way in the world and to escape poverty

“tackling poverty by creating opportunity”

1

Edmund Walcot, a London Haberdasher, left land in his **Will of 1667** to be used to generate funds **to help the poor of Lambeth**. This year the Foundation bearing his name is celebrating 350 years of charity and philanthropic work which his gift made possible.

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Poverty has not gone away. In 2016, 87,000 Lambeth people were defined as living in poverty, including **a third of the borough's children**.

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The Walcot Foundation's approach is to give **“a hand-up, not a hand-out”** and to **“tackle poverty by creating opportunity”**. We give second chances to those facing obstacles because of disadvantage.

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Over the last ten years we have made grants totalling almost **£19 million**: 2,189 directly to individuals and 1,434 to organisations, schools and projects. All to help Lambeth citizens.

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In this anniversary year **we have two main aims** -

- to ensure Lambeth people who might benefit from our grants know about them
- to invite 'modern day Edmund Walcots' to help in the work by donating, leaving legacies or - for firms and businesses - by corporate giving

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What we fund: virtually any activity that is **likely to improve the long-term chances** of Lambeth citizens affected by poverty. Typically things that build resilience and well-being, literacy and numeracy, skills and knowledge; projects to help young people remain engaged with learning; we make scholarship and bursary awards for a wide range of courses from Anthropology and Linguistics, via Beauty Therapy, to Plumbing, Electrical Installations, Economics and Phlebotomy. We make resettlement grants

for those moving from homelessness or domestic violence. We fund childcare costs, pay for computer equipment and other essentials when embarking on 'second chance' learning.

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We build on the strengths our grantees have. We view them as partners, not as 'recipients of charity'. We learn from them what is possible, with the right help.

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The story of **Victoria Ijeh**: "I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for Edmund Walcot's legacy, it's a big statement and one I'm sure that is echoed by many. From a young age I wanted to enter the media industry but with no connections and no access to equipment it wasn't a great start. I was introduced to the Walcot Foundation and their vision of 'a hand up not a hand out', which is exactly what they did for me. They set me up with my first production kit and a mentor in the media. They were always on hand to help me.... and when I wanted to give back to the community it was them I turned to first. They helped launch Iconic Steps; we have helped over 100 young people with free video training. My hopes for the future is to see Iconic Steps grow and help even more young people into employment in the media."



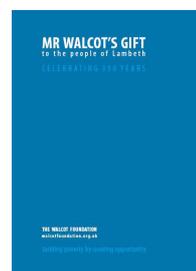
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Our publication to mark our anniversary: *Mr Walcot's Gift to the People of Lambeth*. Copies available free, on request.

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During this anniversary year we are -

- **funding research by Birmingham University** on what promotes social and economic mobility (using interviews with former Walcot grantees)
- **piloting schemes** to help the people in low-paid work improve their skills and earnings.



ENDS

Background The Walcot Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation and charity. Its work is to break cycles of financial deprivation for people living in Lambeth. It tackles poverty by funding work which enables low income Lambeth residents to improve their educational and career prospects and become financially self-sufficient.

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See also walcotfoundation.org.uk/350