



CHARTER

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The newsletter of the British Charitable Society

September 2006

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Charles Platt

Letter from the President

Summer may be the traditional time for vacations but hardships and financial difficulties do not take vacations. This has been the busiest summer I can remember for requests for emergency aid. Since Memorial Day alone, we have helped 12 individuals or families. Their needs have included past-due rent and utilities, flights back to the UK, moving expenses, green card application fees and car repairs. The three-month total is over \$13,000.

Thank goodness for email: each case has been presented to the Executive Committee by Susan Dugdale (often after many hours of phone conversations gathering information

from and listening to the heart-breaking stories of the individuals concerned). The Committee members almost always respond the same day (“Reply to All” is a great way for us to see everyone else’s concerns, questions and opinions) so that we have been able to address these needs in a timely fashion. As is so often the case, these requests are almost always last minute (“I received a cut-off notice from the electricity company and I have 48 hours to pay the bill”). The Executive Committee doesn’t meet in person between June and September and if we had had to wait until our next meeting to discuss these cases, we either would not have been able to help or our help would have been too late.

This \$13,000 is in addition to the five individuals we help every month with small stipends that add up to \$1,500. Elsewhere in this Charter is a report on the amounts we have given to individuals and families over the last ten years. For a small organization such as the British Charitable, the total is truly impressive. Equally important, our overhead expenses are virtually non-existent: all of the work is done by volunteers. The only expenses we cannot avoid are those legally mandated such as the annual tax reporting and financial audit; even those are very modest. But the stress these demands for help are putting on our limited resources is something which we cannot ignore if we are to continue our mission. We are also only too well aware that the demand for our help is continuing to expand. The Committee is looking at ways to strengthen our financial situation and you will be hearing more about this in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer.

WWW.BRITCHARITY.ORG

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Mind the Gap

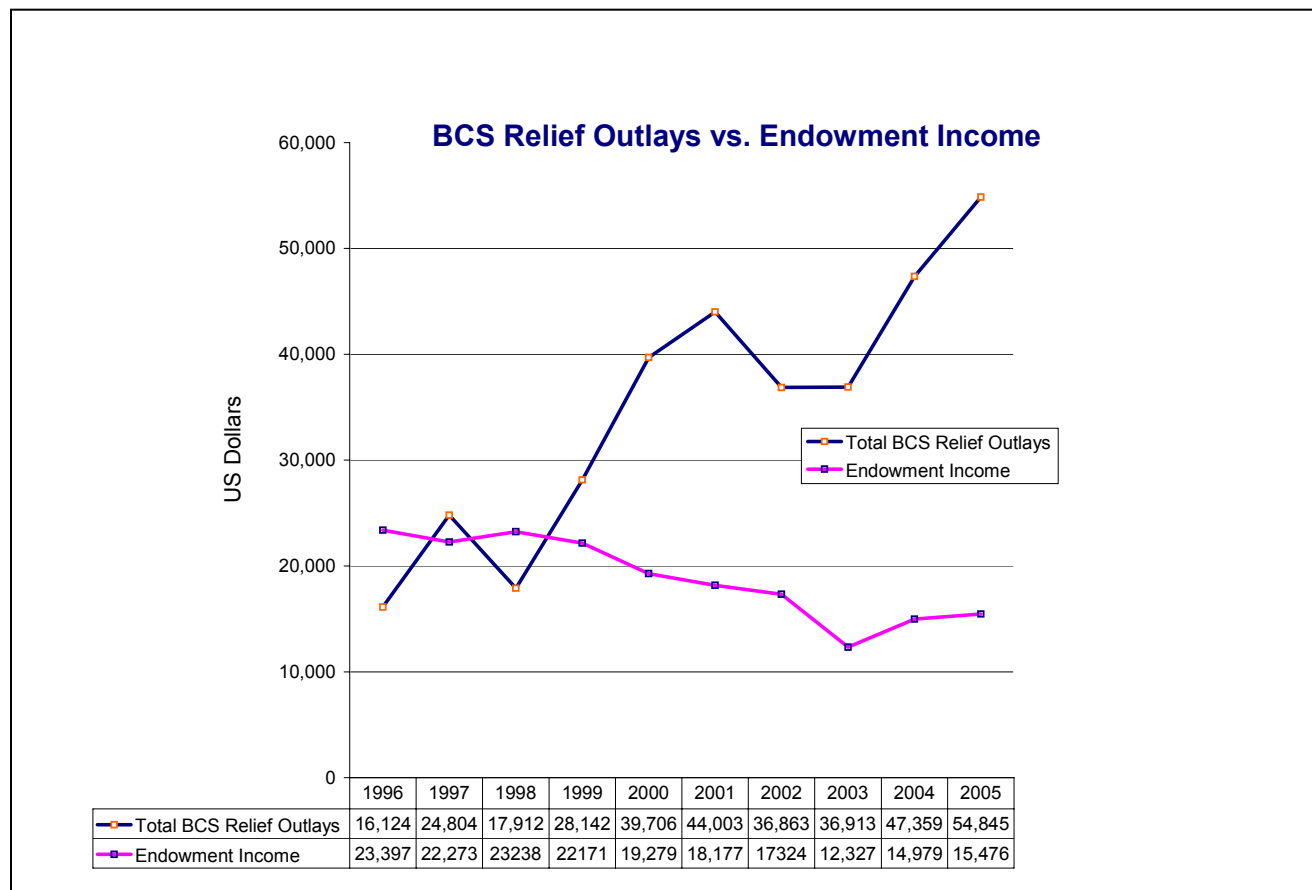
In last March’s issue we displayed a graph showing the outlays on aid rising from \$16,124 in 1996 to \$54,845 in 2005, an increase of over threefold, and an average annual rate of growth rate of 14.5%. This growth is remarkable in that it shows not only that the need for help by British people is growing, but also that they are learning how to find us. So far so good.

On the other side of the ledger, however, the income from our endowment (dividends and interest) has been more modest, and far from steady in the environment of a distinctly volatile stock market (about 75% of our endowment is in equities). As a result, the gap between our outlays on aid and our income from our endowment has been all over the place over the last ten years. (See graph below). This gap can only be filled by donations, membership fees, and events such as the now annual ball.

If it is not filled, we cannot prudently dip into the endowment capital itself for an extended period of time (at least not at the current rate), and so the result would be that we would be forced to turn away some of those who come to us for help. We have never had to do this before, and we sincerely hope we will never have to do it in the future.

In this looming squeeze between demands upon us, and the income to meet them, we have been very careful in managing our own operational costs. Practically all of our income – 95% – goes to our clients; the balance of 5% goes on auditing costs, mailings and other administrative items.

The point of all the above is to set forth where we are financially today, and, of course, to say that we hope you will be able to be generous when the invitations go out for our next ball, and for other fundraising efforts.



A Summer of High Activity!

June through September used to be a pretty quiet time in terms of enquiries. No heavy fuel bills, kids on vacation and plenty of seasonal work opportunities. Not so this year!

Susan Dugdale, the Executive Secretary, has summarised the more important cases and we have put them in an Appendix at the back of this newsletter. They are well worth looking at because not only do they give a good idea of the work we do, but because they also give an often heart-wrenching glimpse of life in that part of the economy which is not doing so well. Over 10% of the population lives under the poverty level, and the federal minimum wage of \$5.15/hr has not increased for ten years. So it has been hard for those who only just make ends meet each month to deal with bumps in the road, such as unexpected medical bills, an old car finally collapsing, or a bread-winning member of the household leaving town. But let the cases speak for themselves.

Four New England states are represented in these summaries, and they are, not coincidentally, the four states which have 2-1-1 in place. See below.

2-1-1 Comes to Massachusetts

In June this year 2-1-1 came to Massachusetts but, at first, with a familiar 10-digit telephone number. By the end of August all you had to do was dial 2-1-1 to gain access to this miracle. What is it?

2-1-1 rests on a gigantic database which includes details on all the helping organisations in the state – public, private and in-between. Putting together this database has been a slow and laborious job over the years, but now that that is completed – not that it is ever finally completed because it has to be kept continuously up-to-date. We are in this database, and this is how it works.

If anyone finds himself in trouble, all he has to do is dial 2-1-1 and, between 8 am and 8 pm, Monday through Friday, and a friendly, live voice, with no endless holding, will listen to his story. The people on the other end of the line are trained Information and Referral Specialists who know the database backwards, and who can refer the caller to the nearest appropriate source of help.

For example, if you live in, say, North Attleboro and are having trouble with your landlord, or can't afford to buy heating oil, and have no car, the specialist can tell you the nearest source of help within two miles, or five miles, or whatever you say. You will be given details on how to reach this source and the kind of help you can expect. The British Charitable Society is listed under the category of "temporary financial help" which is available to British Citizens, or the children of British Citizens.

2-1-1 is new here, but, judging by the experience of Connecticut, where there has been 2-1-1 for several years, we can now expect an increase in applications for help from British people living in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has more British-born residents than Connecticut, but so far there have been more applications from Connecticut than from Massachusetts.

The impact on the Society is two-fold. Yes it will give us an increase in applications as people here learn to use the system. But it will also give us another tool with which to help our clients. "Did you know", we can ask them, "that there is a daycare centre for the elderly within five miles of where you live? Just right for your infirm grandfather, and now you won't have to stay home from work to look after him". Not only that, but in some cases we can share the financial cost with other agencies in the same business. We may get more clients, but, with a little bit of luck, each one may cost us less.

2-1-1 has been out together by many dedicated, not particularly highly-paid individuals, often against the odds. I always tell them that if they had done this in England they would soon have found themselves in Buckingham Palace, receiving a gong from the Monarch.

Although 2-1-1 is now up and running in Massachusetts, its official opening will be at the end of September, or early in October, when Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman Joseph Moakley are expected to cut a ceremonial ribbon and make speeches. But we will all know who did the work.

New Ball Date

Because of a conflict with other events, and
Because the Chair of the Ball Committee last year left New England,
And because Spring is a more cheerful season than November,
The Ball will now be held on Friday the 13th of April,
at 7 o'clock at the Back Bay Harvard Club
The Ambassador has been invited.

There will be a mailing about the Ball soon, but
meanwhile:

Please mark your calendars!

Book Review

SAMSARA MOON. by S. H. Post
Kirk House Publishers, \$17.00 pp. 364
ISBN-13: 978-1-886513-97-6
ISBN-10: 1886513-97-X

Steven Post is a longtime member of the British Charitable society, and lives in Massapequa, NY. This is his first novel, and advance review copies have received stunning endorsements. It is an historical novel which begins in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. The hero, Stephen Hamilton, is an officer in a famous regiment and married, with two children, to a beautiful wife whom he adores. The Empire is at the peak of its glory and, fresh from seven years in India, the world is Stephen's oyster. Then, unexpectedly ... but let Steven Post have a few words here:

“Richard Post, my direct ancestor, was born in Maidstone, Kent. In the spirit of candor, however, I must tell you that he was born there in 1617 and moved to Southampton, Long Island in 1649. As such, I offer to you apologies in advance for the “Yankee” colloquialisms that on occasion appear in this poignant story of a British cavalry officer and his family. Hundreds

of years of family history in America have a way of affecting one's language.

“Nevertheless, this span of time has not diminished my passionate interest in British history. *samsara moon*, partly autobiographical in terms of the tragedy the hero faces and the emotions described, begins at Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. My choice of this era is derived in major share from thirty years of research in this time period. I savored college history courses, mostly British history of all kinds, in an undeclared undergraduate minor and read many out-of-print books on the subject. Before this, however, my formative years played a role, as I felt an affinity to big screen epics, like *Lawrence of Arabia* (I own a 1930s edition of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*) and *Zulu*, and black and white classics, replayed on television like *The Four Feathers* and *Gunga Din*. These seeds were planted and decades later rejuvenated, when with my interest in history firmly grounded, *A Passage to India* and *The Jewel in the Crown* captivated my attention.

“Thus, with a fondness for British history and years of reading on the subject, my decision to layer my personal saga one hundred years in the past and with a British protagonist came naturally. History and heart, intertwined

together, was my hope and vision as I crafted *samsara moon*: Tragedies, love lost, relationships and the search for renewal, painted on the grand and glorious stage of the British Empire. I hope you'll take the journey too."

I personally enjoyed reading this book immensely. For one thing, it brought me back to the adventure books I used to read as a boy about derring-do on the empire's behalf. I think of Rider Haggard, and Percy F. Westerman, and, of course, all the Kipling stories, e.g. *Under the Deodars*. The descriptions of the fighting in Natal are realistic and graphic, reminding me of the descriptions of fighting in the American Civil War by Michael Sharra in his *The Killer Angels*.

And Mr. Post has done his research. When his hero is in India, he goes to Barrackpore where Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, had his country residence north of Calcutta. To understand the situation on India's northeast border, Steven Post made a point of reading Lord Curzon's papers on the subject.

One of the remarkable features of *samsara* is that it is written by an American, whose family came from Kent to what were then the American Colonies, in 1649, and yet he understands so well the energy and confidence and idealism with which the British Empire was administered. British people today often talk about the Empire with a hint of guilt in their voices, but here is the most American of Americans understanding the selflessness and altruism which motivated so many of the pith-helmeted empire builders. We hope he can be persuaded to write a companion novel about present day American imperialism, which is also much maligned, but which also has a core of idealism.

About writing this novel, Steven Post says, "Factoring in a writer's undeniable pride in his work, I still love the story, the engaging characters and evocative settings, even after years of re-working this novel...and I believe BCS members that give it try will do so as well." I agree.

Michael Dawson

From Our Members

Michael Wynne-Wilson reports from Dedham that he has undergone hip replacement surgery on his right hip and that he is recovering nicely at home under the care of his wife Annie. While laid up he has been reading *Emerald* by Elizabeth Luard and highly recommends it. It is a novel about the consequences which might have resulted had the Duke and Duchess of Windsor conceived a child before their divorce in 1936. Michael says it reads like non-fiction. God forbid!

Royston C. Preece will be 90 this December and would like to hear from anyone from the "old" regime. He can be reached in Reading at 781-944-2950 (781-944-1590 on Saturdays)

Boston Brits

Our sister organisation Boston Brits has a spiffy new website. Check it out at www.bostonbrits.net.

A service to observe Armistice Day will be held at 11:00 am at the Old North Church in Boston's North End on Sunday November the 12th. The preacher, who is British, is the Reverend Gareth Jones, who is the Rector of St. John's in Charlestown.

Coming Events

(From the Consulate-General's website)

ART: Hugh O'Neill - The Path of Colour
Lorica Artworks is pleased to present our fall exhibit called "The Path of Colour" featuring Hugh O'Neill. Hugh was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1959. He studied painting at the University of Ulster, Belfast from 1981-1985 spending some of that time studying in Nante France. O'Neill's approach to his oil painting is direct, bold and figurative. He has an understanding of the power of color and tone; a gifted draftsman with a unique style of his own based on keen observation, years of experience and dedication to his craft. Collectors, connoisseurs, discriminating buyers and curators appreciate the technical excellence on view with each new work.
29 September - 31 October 2006
Lorica Artworks

90 Main Street
 Andover, MA
 Tel: 978-470-1829 - email:
 mguerrera@LoricaArtworks.com

ART EXHIBIT: Canaletto in England: A Venetian Artist Abroad, 1746–1755

The fame of the great eighteenth-century Italian artist Giovanni Antonio Canal, known as Canaletto (1697–1768), rests on his views of Venice, where he lived most of his life. However, Canaletto's popularity with English grand tourists and patrons led him in 1746 to travel to England for a period of nearly ten years. This exhibition features nearly eighty objects and is the most ambitious survey ever mounted of Canaletto's time in England. Co-organized by the Yale Center for British Art and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London. The exhibition's guest curator is Charles Beddington, an independent scholar. The organizing curator at the Yale Center for British Art is Angus Trumble, Curator of Paintings and Sculpture.

19 October - 31 December 2006

Yale Center for British Arts
 1080 Chapel Street
 New Haven, CT 06520
 203-432-2800 ycba.info@yale.edu
<http://ycba.yale.edu/index.asp>

MUSIC: Boston Early Music Festival presents - The Tallis Scholars

Renaissance Splendor; Music of Monteverdi, Palestrina, Gombert, Lassus, and others. A mainstay of the BEMF concert series, The Tallis Scholars directed by Peter Phillips are without rival in the world of Renaissance polyphony as their glorious sound invokes the magnificence of the mighty European cathedrals. This special spring appearance highlights innovations of the revolutionary Renaissance composers who paved the way to the Baroque.

Saturday, 24 March 2007 at 8:00pm

St. Paul Church
 29 Mt. Auburn Street
 Cambridge, MA
 617-661-1812 For tickets, visit:
www.bemf.org



Hutchins Pond, Concord, Massachusetts

Oh Wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being
 Thou from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
 Are driven like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,

Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,
 Pestilence-stricken multitudes!

Percy Bysshe Shelley

The Editor may be reached at michael.dawson@verizon.net, at 617-492-9588, or at One Brattle Circle, Cambridge, MA 02138-4625. Comments, suggestions and complaints are welcome. Michael Dawson

Appendix

A Summer of High Activity!

June through September used to be a pretty quiet time in terms of enquiries. No heavy fuel bills, kids on vacation and plenty of seasonal work going around. Not so this year! Below you will find a sample of the cases we have helped.

New Cases

New Case 07/05/06 Emergency Care

Miss O – Bristol Connecticut.

This lady has twin children aged 11 and is currently unemployed because her estranged husband, the father of these children does not pay child support and as a result she cannot afford day care.

On paper she managed to keep her head just above water with income from SSI and child support. At the time we were first introduced she had just applied for food stamps and was confident of them being granted. She is also in Section 8 housing which means her rent is only \$142 per month. Nevertheless, with an income of only \$1002 per month and outgoings matching that, she was bound to hit a bump. This came in the form of an outstanding electricity bill of \$239.52 which was delinquent enough for disconnection to be imminent.

As often happens, disasters never happen singly; she also mentioned some issues with her car.

In July the Executive Committee voted to pay the electricity bill in full and in September we paid for a new fuel pump for her car!

Total expense = \$655.09

New Case. 8/15/06 Emergency Care/Transitional Support

Mrs S in Saco Maine

This must be one to the saddest cases we have ever had.

Mrs S is a 43 year old British woman who came to the States in 2000 and married her husband (whom she had met on the internet) in August 2001. A year later in 2002, her husband began to feel unwell and for the next 3 years struggled with health issues and holding down his job. Eventually in August 2005 he was diagnosed with pseudo cysts and diabetes. He was forced to stop work. His weight has increased by huge amounts due to the size of these cysts and he is now virtually housebound. They have one child age 2 between them and 2 stepchildren ages 13 & 15 living in the house also. In late July she emailed the British Consulate and they passed the information to the BCS.

Mrs. S has a job which clears about \$250 per week and they get food stamps totaling \$200 per month.

They have been battling with the Social Services in Maine for some disability payments for her husband, but as yet they have not been successful. They have Senator Susan Collins on the case, and it's in review at the moment., so things could change in the near future.

Andrea also suffers from chronic arthritis in her knees, but obviously cannot afford to stop working, as hers is the only income.

The day we first spoke (about July 26th) she was watching her car being repossessed and was both distraught and astounded that there was no help available from the state and frantic about the family's future.

In one respect they have been quite fortunate inasmuch as they appear to have a very kind and sensitive landlord, who for over a year has not only let them pay rent when they were able, (which was not often and only amounted to about \$200 per month), but has also collected some of their utility bills and paid them too! Naturally of course his sympathy can only extend so far, and with little immediate prospect of Mr. S improving, he has indicated that something needs to change financially.

The Executive Committee was asked to consider paying 3 months rent, an overdue power bill and to make a contribution towards the children's 'back to school' expenses.

Total Expense = \$3,317.43

New Case 8/22/06 Emergency Care

Mr. CC in Manchester NH

Mr. CC is a 35yr old Englishman who came to the US in 1989 and has worked since he arrived. He had a strong employment record and had managed his life without event for the last 17 years. He has a 4 year old son from a relationship with a woman with whom he has lived for 7 years. 6 months ago this woman who had a drug problem, left him with both this child and another, older daughter from a previous relationship. In order to care for them both, he had to give up his job. As a result of this action he moved out of his previous home into a more cost effective apartment, imagining that he would be able to get some benefits to help him from the state of NH, until he could get the children into school and return to work.

He has exhausted all savings and most of the goodwill from family members

With no income and having exhausted goodwill from family members he applied to the British Consulate-General for help with rent and some utility bills, although at the time of application they were not seriously delinquent.

In theory he should be able to cover his bills and food costs with little problem using the income from the state. However, until he gets a job and the boy into child care he has no hope of meeting all the bills and the rent.

In late August the Executive committee elected to help him out with rent for 3 months, but declined to pay utility bills at this stage

Total expense = \$2,250.

New Case 07/11/06 Emergency Care

Miss M – New Hampshire

Miss. M is a British born woman of 35 who came to this country with her parents around the age of 12. She is divorced from the father of her female child of 15 and separated from the father of her 5 year old daughter. This man appears to be a diffident provider and there are large legal battles ongoing to get him to provide adequate child support. The father of the elder child is quite responsible and it seems they have shared custody, with him taking the lions share. The 5 year old has many medical difficulties. She is totally blind and has hormone deficiencies which affect her behaviour (somewhat akin to Autism). She needs constant care and attention, as a result of which Miss M is with her 24 hours a day and cannot work.

She has been fortunate to have lived in a condo which is owned by her parents. Until recently she has been able to pay them \$750 per month for this. She is now 2 months in arrears as all the debts incurred by her erstwhile boyfriend have mounted up and she's essentially broke. Her parents are in debt themselves and need to sell the apartment in which she lives.

Because of the younger daughter's disabilities, (and the intervention of Senator Gregg Judd NH) Lucy and her 2 daughters have rocketed to the top of the Section 8 qualifying list and she has been offered a place at a substantially lower rent which she hopes to move into in very shortly.

Her request to the BCS was for help with the security deposit on the new apartment, to cover the cost of removals and to repay her parents for the 2 months overdue rent.

After consideration the Executive Committee elected to pay the security deposit and the removal costs, but declined to fund the rent arrears.

Total expense = \$1,761.85

New Case 07/12/06 Emergency Care

Mrs. H – Weymouth MA

This lady has proved extremely difficult to pin down let alone help!

She first came to our attention via the BCG who had received a request for help with the cost of a flight home to the UK to attend to her dying mother. Sometime during the initial conversations the mother died, and Mrs. H took herself to the UK without our help. On her return she again contacted us to say that she had spent her rent money and all other funds for this trip and was now 2 months behind and in threat of eviction.

Her documentation showed that she is a 57 yr old British woman, born in Preston England. She has lived in the US for many years and has at least a couple of grown children and possibly a couple of failed marriages. She is receiving child support for one remaining child at home, and there are other daughters who appear to be older and living away.

She disappeared for a few weeks and then re-surfaced having been evicted from her previous apartment, but having found another. Her request was for first and last months rent. She appears to have a number of medical issues and is vague when asked for financial evidence. Eventually, after many weeks of conversations with herself and her daughters a picture emerged and the request was considered by the Executive Committee. On paper it appeared that her financial situation was good enough to support her expenses and therefore the Executive Committee agreed to pay first and last months rent on the understanding that this would be a one off payment and no further funds would be available.

Total expense = \$1450.00

EXISTING CASES:

Existing Case 08/03/06 Emergency Care

Mrs W. Connecticut

This lady first approached the BCS in May 2005 when she had become behind with her mortgage. At the time they were buried in debt and were over 2 months behind with mortgage, credit cards and utility bills. This had all come about as a result of a car accident that had prevented Mrs. W from working. They had 2 children, (18 months and 3 years).

The BCS paid off their overdue mortgage in the sum of \$2710.94 in June 2006.

Mrs. W has now approached us again for help with the mortgage. She now has a full time job, her husband is also working and her children (now 21/2 and 4) are both in daycare. Her car (the usual story old and held together with the auto version of duct tape) completely broke down in May. She used that months mortgage money to buy another, as she had no other means of getting to work. She imagined that she would be able to catch up – she hasn't.

They were 11/2 months behind with the mortgage in the amount of \$1576.93, which because of their previous credit history were already receiving threatening letters from the mortgage company.

Her request was for the deficit to be paid before August 8th.

The Executive Committee after many discussions agreed to help her out with a contribution towards the total, but thought it imprudent to pay the whole amount.

Total expense = \$750.00

Existing Case 07/05/05 Transitional Support

Mr. W – Connecticut

In May 2006 the EC voted to help Mr. W out with a payment of \$500 per month for 3 months towards his rent and other overwhelming expenses. He has been diagnosed as having a schizoid affective disorder which means he has spells of huge depression and occasionally will try to harm himself.

His attempts to get a job in May and June were thwarted by his psychiatrist who felt he wasn't ready to join the workforce yet, and suggested he wait until his new drug regimen had proper time to become established before he applied for a job. He was confident that this would happen soon. In July he contacted the ES to request an extension of support. The EC agreed via email to continue until September with \$300 per month and review the situation then.

09/05/06 the ES telephoned Mr. Williamson to get an update on his situation. The news was not good. He has had a serious relapse which resulted in him being hospitalized in August. He has only just been released and is in a pretty fragile state with little prospect of job hunting, let alone being employed.

This case will be monitored on a month by month basis.

Total expense = \$900.00

Existing Case 07/31/06 Transitional Support

Mrs. G – Greenfield MA

Mrs. G has been in contact with the BCS for a number of years. She receives a monthly stipend to supplement her meager income. This helps pay for her telephone and gives her a little money each month to spend on clothing etc, which she couldn't afford without our help.

Mrs. G sent a letter in July to the Executive Secretary telling her that she had been very sick during the summer and had just recently been diagnosed as having diverticulitis. Throughout the illness and the investigations she had had to pay for medicines and as a result she had fallen behind with some of her utility bills. It was sad to note that this elderly lady was so anxious about bills that amounted to such small sums.

After some consultation the Executive Committee voted to pay her phone and electricity bill.

Total expense = \$349.94

Existing Case 08/03/06 Emergency Care

Miss. B – Hartford CT.

Miss B first contacted us in August 2004. She is a single mother of 2 struggling to pay her bills. She had child support for her elder child, but the father of her baby paid nothing and had disappeared. The BCS helped her with overdue utility bills and later in the year helped her with a low cost child care payment which meant she could return to work.

Since then she has combined her work with going to school, entering a training program and keeping up with all her bills.

She's been knocked back recently when, without warning, her food stamps were stopped. This happened in a supermarket when she learned that whatever document she usually presented as payment was refused. Investigation with the Social Services in CT revealed that she was \$35 over the poverty limit.

Because she had to buy food, she chose to juggle the money with her light bill. Result is an overdue amount of \$398.25.

The Executive Committee voted to pay this amount.

Total expense = \$398.25

Existing Case 07/31/06 Transitional Support

Mrs. S – Woburn MA

This lady first approached us in January 2006. She is a Scot who had been married to a US citizen from whom she separated in August 2005. Her husband had stopped making payments to her and their 2 children (10 and 6). At the time she was in the process of getting court orders to ensure payment, but this was proving difficult and long winded. She worked as a low paid waitress relying on tips.

She had been using her credit card to try and cover expenses and at the time she approached us was at her limit, both financially and emotionally. We paid her credit card bill of \$1022.07 on March 13th 06.

Since then she has been managing quite well on her own. Her husband has just started to make payments on a more regular basis, she has been getting good hours at the restaurant (she's worked there for 13 years) whilst her children are at school, and she has a friend who will hopefully be moving into her apartment in September who will be able to help out with the rent. HOWEVER, since school has been out she has had to reduce her hours to attend to the 6 year old. The 10 year old belongs to the Boys and Girls Club, so is taken care of; he 6 yr old can't attend until he's 8. Her wages are significantly reduced and she's become behind with her bills.

Between the end of July and the beginning of August the Executive Committee agreed to help her out with her various utility bills.

Total = \$983.55

Mrs S has also been referred by Peggy Hunter (an Executive Committee member) to the Scottish Charitable Society, who will shortly make contact with her.

Unfortunately Mrs. S's problems were not over. In August she was informed by her employers that her green card was due to expire within 14 days. She had no money to file the renewal application. The BCS voted to send \$300 to her bank account which would allow her to file online using her debit card. As a result she was able to get an immediate reference number which was sufficient for her employer to keep paying her.

Total expense = \$300.00

In addition to those cases detailed above, the Executive Committee has discussed and approved payments to a couple of other families and helped another woman return to England by paying her air fare.

In total, over the summer months alone we have approved payments in excess of \$15,000.00.

*Susan Dugdale
Executive Secretary*



Dame Helen Mirren as Queen Elizabeth in the movie “The Queen”.

(Photograph from the BBC website)