

www.presbyterianchildrenssociety.org



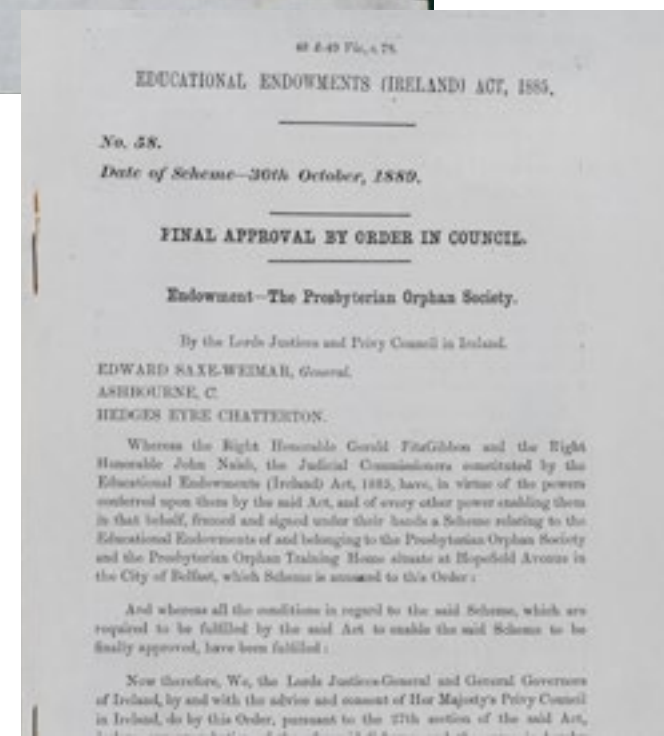
Foundations

- The Society was formed on 2nd May 1866.
- It has a Biblical Basis –

One of the founders Dr Arnold said:

“And then what are the motives urging us to engage in this work? They are the highest possible! Herein consists a part of that ‘pure and undefiled religion’ which the Bible urges us to revere and teaches us to practice”

- In 1866, 175 children were helped.



Case Histories of Need

Helping in the 1800s

- In 1866 three children aged 8, 5 and 3, were placed on the roll for help by the Society. They had no mother or father. They lived in County Antrim and the children's father had been a labourer. The three children were supported and two became apprentices when they were 14 years of age when support ceased. A third child died of Typhoid ages just 11 years of age.
- There is also a family from Donegal. Mary had four children, three boys and a girl. They were aged 10, 7, 5 and 2 when she was helped by the Society. The father had died and after his death there were in need of help. All the family were support from 1881 until they emigrated in 1884.



Case Histories of Need

Helping in the 1900s

- James, a labourer and soldier, was killed in action on 1 July 1916 and left three children aged 3, 2 and 2 months. Help was given by the Society to his widow.
- Jackie's situation changed in 1950 when her husband, who had a good job became addicted to drink and left the family. A 12 year old and a 2 year old were left without support. The family were aided by the Society.
- In 1980 the Society helped a family of four children where the father was in prison.

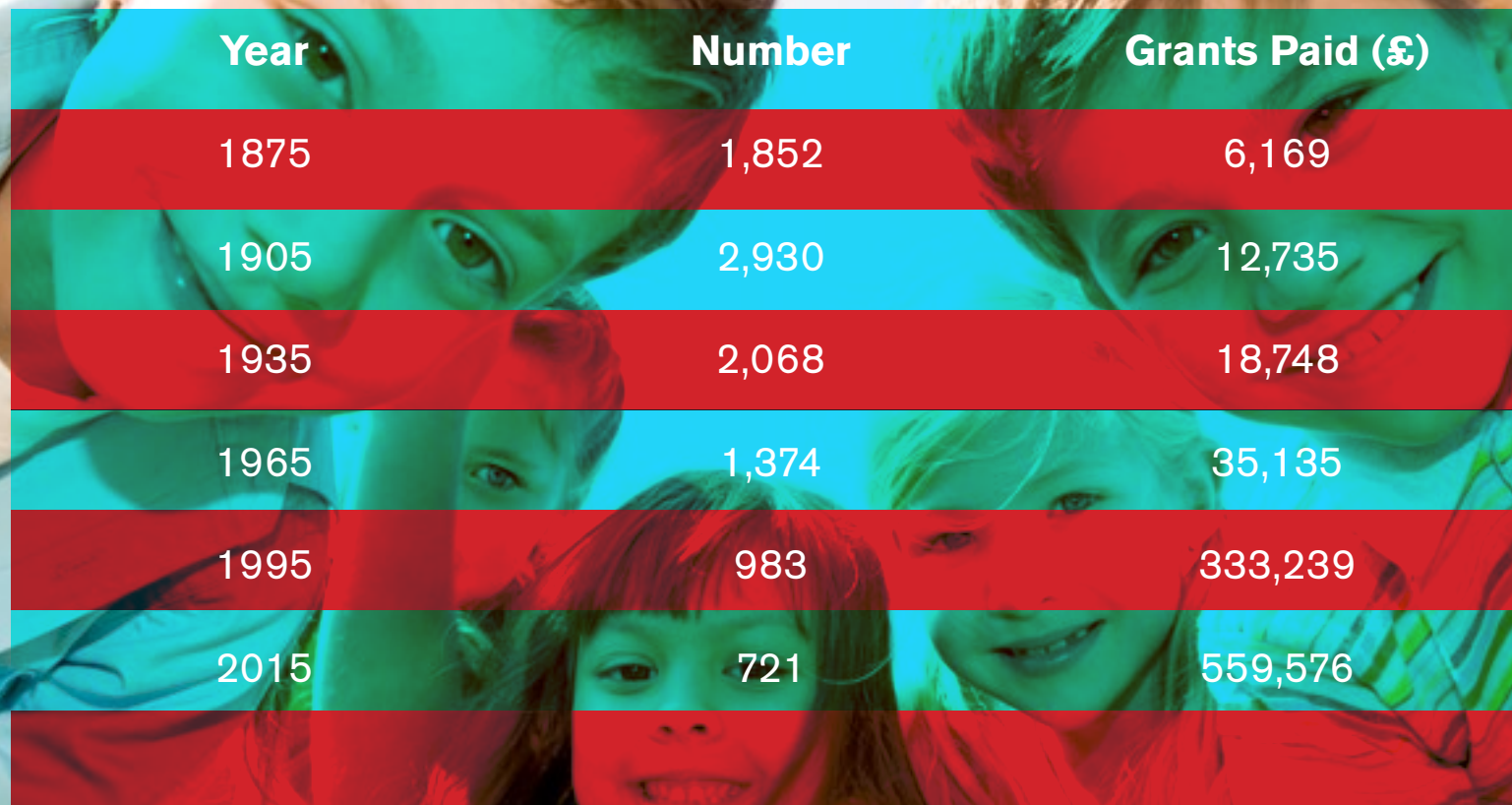
Helping in the 2000s

- In 2009 a father was left to care for two children when his wife died, and, with one of the children seriously ill the Society helped to support the family through a difficult and traumatic time.





Numbers Helped



Year	Number	Grants Paid (£)
1875	1,852	6,169
1905	2,930	12,735
1935	2,068	18,748
1965	1,374	35,135
1995	983	333,239
2015	721	559,576



1866-2016

- 43,000 children and young people helped
- 17,500 families supported



Today's Need

There are many issues today which impact family life and the media regularly highlights the changes which impact on families and children.





Many pressures have an impact on family life today:

- 'Austerity'.
- Widening gap between better off and less well off.
- Increased job insecurity.
- Debt/Poverty.
- Diminishing sense of community.
- Instant gratification.
- Perceived attitudes in the Church.



Meeting Today's Need

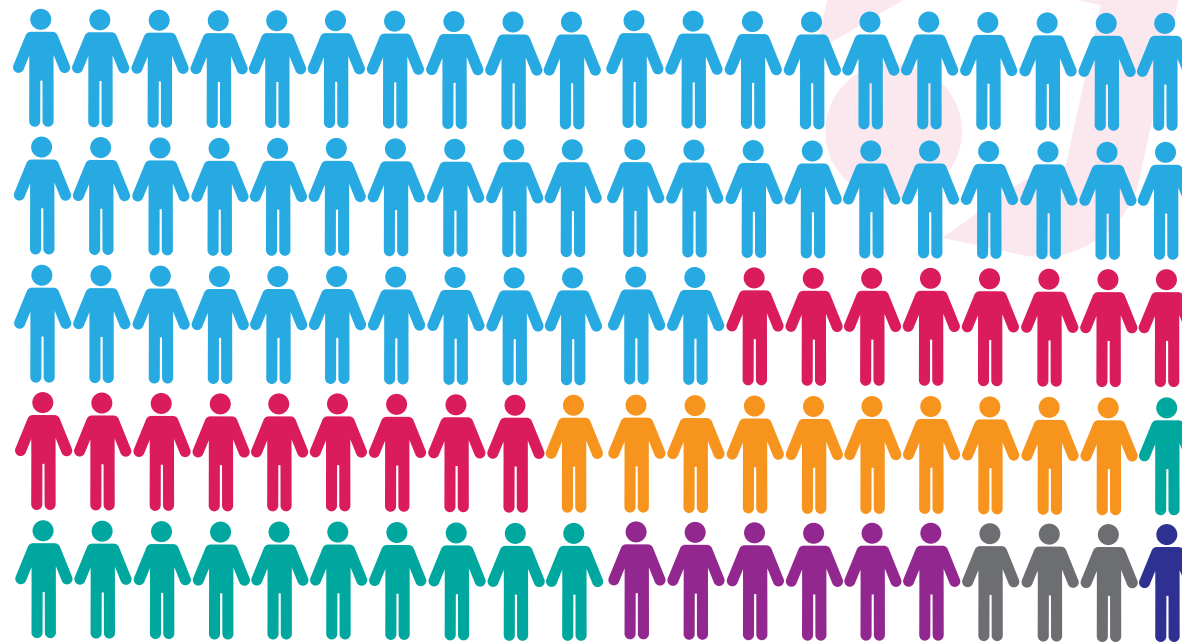
Today the Presbyterian Children's Society is meeting need and alleviating pressures on families and children by:

- Regular and Special Grants to Families
- Exceptional Grants to Families
- Funding Family and Childcare projects linked to the Presbyterian Church





The Society helps around 730 children in 385 families by means of regular and special grants. The backgrounds of the children helped are very varied.



Parents separated or divorced - 52%

Parent deceased - 17%

Single parent - 10%

Parent disabled or with long term illness - 11%

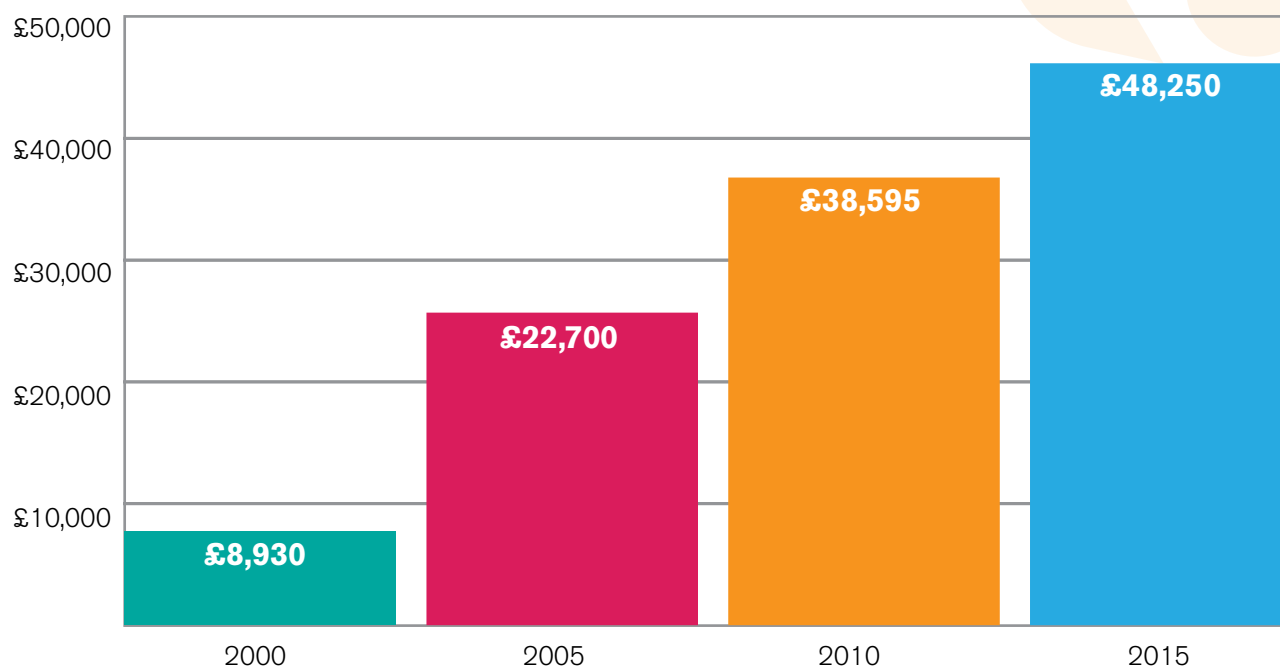
Father unemployed - 6%

No parents - 3%

Other - 1%

Exceptional grants

Exceptional grants are a growing part of the Society's work and are there to meet a specific need.





Exceptional grants have been used to help families with:

- Child Care Needs
- Educational Expenses
- Funeral Costs
- General household expenses
- Children's holidays

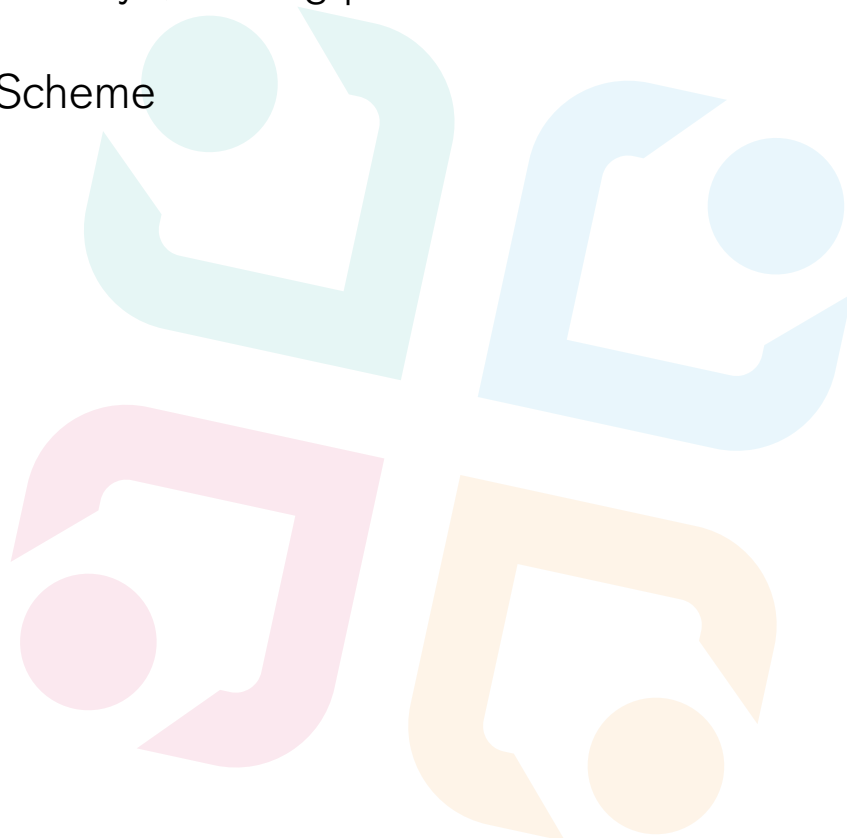




Projects

The Society is involved from time to time in Presbyterian projects which are involved in helping families and their children. It supports:

- Presbyterian Family Holiday (Funding places for Children's Society families)
- Small Groups Grant Scheme



Money Matters

Income (2015)	%
Congregations & Individual Subscriptions	44
Investment Income & other income	56
Total	100

Expenditure (2015)	%
Grants to Children and Young People	74
Other services to Children and Young People	1
Fundraising	1
Administration	17
Investment Management	7
Total	100





Voices from The Past

"I would like, through you, to thank the Governors for their long-continued help. It is now almost eleven years since four of my children enrolled in the Society, and it has pleased God to spare me to the see the last of them out to business."

(Widow, 1900)

"The money is very acceptable, as I find it difficult to keep my children fed and clothed. They are now growing up, and at the most expensive age, when they can earn little or nothing."

(Widow, 1922)

"I must thank you very much indeed, for the nice Christmas gift which you sent me for the family. It was a great help to us around the Christmas time, as it was a very lonely time for me and the family; it is a great comfort to see that someone is thinking for us all."

(Mother, 1953)



Voices from The Past

"Mum, the Church did not fail us when we needed them."

(A child, 1987)

"I would like to thank you for your support towards me and my son. Times have been hard and it's encouraging to know that there are people who care for those that are not so well off. Your kindness has helped us along so much."

(Mother, 1997)

"I wish to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the money. I was so worried and stressed about the fact that I had no money. Your kind donations have helped reduce my anxiety at this time and I would be lost without them."

(Mother, 2008)



Voices from The Present

"You all do not know how much this money has helped my family and has eased our burden at this time, and I and my children would like to take this time to thank you all so much for your kindness."

(Parent)

"Thank you so much for this grant. At a very stressful time, this family is greatly relieved by the money, but also much heartened by the care it represents – a very tangible sign of God's love."

(Minister)

Meeting Needs in 2016

- We continue to help children fulfil their full potential
- In 2015 we helped Presbyterian children and their families by giving well over £500,000 in grants



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