



VINCI UK
FOUNDATION



VINCI CONSTRUCTION UK

SPONSORS' DIARIES



The logo for the VINCI UK Foundation. It features a large yellow square on the left. To its right, the words "VINCI UK" are stacked above "FOUNDATION" in a white, sans-serif font. A small white square is positioned to the right of the word "FOUNDATION".

VINCI UK FOUNDATION

Introduction

The VINCI UK Foundation supports initiatives that promote social cohesion and fight exclusion and isolation in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. To be a long term partner of the communities that VINCI works in, the Foundation offers financial assistance combined with the skills of our employees. VINCI colleagues have an opportunity to volunteer as a Sponsor of a given charity and to engage long term in their social projects by providing their specialist skills and expertise.

www.vinci-uk-foundation.co.uk

The Sponsors' Diaries

10 charities sponsored by VINCI Construction UK were awarded grants by the VINCI UK Foundation in 2020.

The Sponsors' Diaries present our colleagues who devoted their time and skills to support their local communities. They share their experience of becoming a Sponsor and leading their chosen charity to a successful grant application.

How to get involved

If you would like to become a sponsor, please check details on our intranet. The next application time is between January 2021 to March 2021.

Thank you.

Phil Russell, VINCI Facilities

Sponsor of Bedford Citizens Housing Association



i. How did you become involved with your charity?

My mother is a resident and I wanted to support and improve the remaining years of her life. Also, Bedford Citizens Housing Association is a charity who provide fantastic care and support to the elderly and I have seen first-hand how they operate. The Garden Project focuses on creating a 'sensory garden'. Often residents' ability to enjoy outside spaces can be limited for those living with dementia and the garden aims to provide a stimulating and interesting outdoor environment for them to enjoy. The sensory garden will include features, surfaces, objects and plants that stimulate residents' senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing.

ii. How did you learn about the Foundation?

I heard about the Foundation at our Leadership Conference in 2018.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

Firstly, I recommend that you apply a commercial, business-case mentality but it needs to be focused on community benefit

(passion tempered with practicality). Don't let the heart rule the head. This is VINCI's investment in my local community. Also, remember that the ownership is from the charity (the applicant), not the sponsor. They need to demonstrate well thought-out rationale, evidence of careful budgeting, clear implementation plan, and ensure that the benefits are as tangible as possible. Keep the scale and costs modest, don't be over-ambitious. Ensure the application meets all of the Foundation's criteria. Get it in on time...this was our second application, having missed the first the year before.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

It will enable the sensory garden to be completed.



Peter von Motz, Proposals & Graphics, Building Division Sponsor of Centre for ADHD and Autism



i. How did you become involved with your charity?

After my son Max was diagnosed with autism a year ago, we were referred to the centre by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), as the first port of call to help families learn about the condition. They run numerous courses for parents, including Understanding Autism and activities for the children and give advice and support on the many aspects of living with an autistic child, including how to access available services for people with disabilities, schooling issues, legal issues, etc.

ii. How did you learn about the Foundation?

I read about it a number of years ago in Communiqué, and from speaking to our Communications Director at this time, Melanie Mathews. I wanted to help back then with a different organisation, but they never followed it up after it was suggested.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

Follow the instructions and guidelines carefully. Understand it's not just an unconditional grant and that the money is provided to sponsor a

specific project that the charity has planned, and that they need to be able to specifically see where the money has gone. It doesn't just get paid into a bank account and absorbed into daily expenses.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

Advance information can be crucial for autistic visitors who often need full preparation in order to complete the simplest of everyday tasks, as any change to their daily routine, and the prospect of attending an unfamiliar environment, can pose huge challenges. The charity's plan is to create an accessibility video and brochure for visitors, which provides as much information as possible to help manage expectations and planning. The funds will enable filming to take place and a purchase of a laptop and additional AV equipment will provide scope to communicate remotely with visitors and talk through expectations, as well as aiding webinars, particularly important at present as it allows some form of contact to continue with the centre despite the COVID restrictions.



www.adhdandautism.org

Serina Coles, Finance, Central Services, Watford Sponsor of Playskill



i. How did you become involved with your charity?

The charity I chose to sponsor is Playskill which is a local organisation for people who have children with disabilities, such as problems with walking and delayed speech. I became involved when my son, who was born with disability, was 18 months old and the health services asked whether we would like them to refer us to Playskill, a new charity in the area. The people who volunteer there are professionals: occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, etc. What they were doing was as the children were playing, they would be showing us techniques to help them with speech, helping with walking and fine motor skills because a lot of the children find it hard to pick things up.

ii. How did you learn about the Foundation?

I saw things coming up on the Intranet about the VINCI Foundation and it was always my intention to do something. So this year I took the initiative to do just that.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

First of all, I think it's really important to

understand the charity and its needs, which helps to put together a sponsorship plan. Then secondly, understanding of the sponsorship requirements. These must be tangible items that can be funded. I contacted the charity and asked them if they had a project they needed help with. They had an ideal project for an office space which they needed to furnish. What they required were things like laptops, desktops, cupboards, magnetic boards and printers. Everything that you would need in a small office.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

This extra office space has a really big impact on the place. At the time when we were putting the application forward there was no COVID around and no social distancing. Now they really need this office space to help them function in the climate we're in. It has actually become even more important than it was before. I am so glad that I chose to sponsor the charity, and I would encourage anybody at VINCI to do it. If you've got some charity that you really are passionate about and is benefitting the community, it's really worthwhile for both parties.



Above: Me and my son at the charity. Below: Years later sailing. The charity keeps in touch and once a year they invite everybody who's ever been to any of their classes on a day out.



www.playskill.org

Andy Astley, Building Division, Midlands Sponsor of The Basement Project



i. How did you become involved with your charity?

The regional office already donated food for their hampers that they provide for the homeless young people, and we regularly held a fundraising collection. We went to see them to understand more about their work and see how else we could support them (SOMAD opportunities, etc.) as they are very local to our office. They were struggling for space to accommodate their donations and were paying for and travelling to a storage unit a few miles away. We have several under-utilised outbuildings at our office and with the permission of Michael Roadnight, Regional Director, and after a bit of cleaning, they now use our facilities for their storage at no cost. This is a one-minute walk from their office. We introduced VINCI Foundation in these discussions as another avenue of potential support that could be offered.

ii. How did you learn about the Foundation?

I learnt about the VINCI Foundation through writing about added value the company has to offer in my preconstruction work, and from a meeting with Ruth Ottley and Josephine Guerin at a stand for one of the Building conferences.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

My top tips would be to clearly define and specify the benefits that the additional support will offer and how it addresses at least one, if not more, of the Foundation's areas and to work together to fully understand the detail of the application and make a compelling case.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

The Basement Project has recently expanded to cover a larger geographical area and this support will enable to continue their high level of service to a larger number of clients.



Rob Byrnes, Building Division Sponsor of The Proud Trust



i. How did you become involved with your charity?

Some 3 and a half years ago, one of our clients, The University of Manchester, asked me whether I could help the Proud Trust, a charity which provides support and works towards inclusion for young members of the LGBT+ community who would otherwise be isolated, to help them build a new LGBT+ centre.

They needed to replace their existing building, completed in 1988, the first ever purpose-built LGBT centre in the UK which was no longer fit for purpose. The Trust asked me to help to support and mentor their management team through the whole building process from design, through to procurement, legal, and commercial. I have been a member of the Building Board which provides overall governance for delivering the new building for the trust.

ii. How did you learn about the VINCI UK Foundation which awarded the grant to the Proud Trust?

When I started with VINCI in Jun 2019, the Foundation was mentioned in some of the literature provided to me as a new starter and I also saw some of the good news stories from the Foundation on the Intranet. Part of my role is making our clients aware of some of the great social value we add to our projects, we include it in our bidding proposals, and it is a key element of our winning work strategy. As I learned more about the Foundation, I could see how the work

the Proud Trust carries out with disadvantaged young LGBT+ people would fit the ethos and ambitions of the VINCI Foundation.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

First of all, let the charity know that this is available. Don't take for granted that their fundraising teams will know about the VINCI Foundation. The Foundation targets 4 main topics. Even if they seem these might not cover the work the charity performs, work with the charity team to really explore all the things they do. As happens on our own projects, what we think is just normal and not worth mentioning, to another set of eyes could be really interesting and the key to a successful grant application.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

The funding will provide a new Activity Room in the new building, a safe, welcoming and fun place for the young people to attend and in some cases seek refuge there. It will help young people to feel more confident and help them to fulfil their ambitions and potential.

Through the Activity Room, they can provide peer to peer support and adult mentoring to help young people move into more secure environments. They expect over 10,000 people to use the Activity Room each year.



Cara Kennelly, VINCI Facilities Sponsor of Watford Sheltered Workshop



i. How did you learn about the Foundation?

Before I worked at VINCI Facilities, I used to research its approach to sustainability. The Foundation always stood out to me as a brilliant way to allow employees to provide meaningful support to causes that matter to them. Since joining VINCI Facilities, I've heard a lot of people talking about the opportunities it brings.

ii. How did you become involved with your charity?

I was seeking a charity to support through the Foundation.

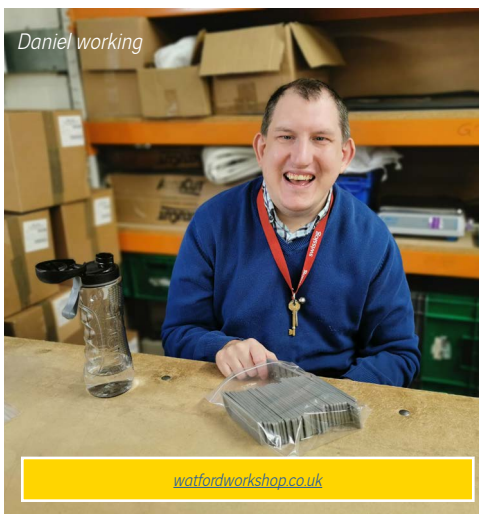
As I don't live near Watford, I wasn't familiar with any local charities, however, when I came across the Watford Sheltered Workshop in my search I was drawn to their commitment, also through the pandemic, to improving the circumstances of people with a variety of different needs, providing friendship, training and life-long support for their people.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

Be realistic – you're not going to be able to revolutionise your charity with the grant, but that doesn't mean you can't make a real difference if you target what could make a significant improvement in the next 12 months.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

For the Workshop this grant supported a new boiler – just in the run-up to winter, this new boiler was the difference between ongoing activity or having to shut down until spring so the impact was huge.



Juliette Lezé, Taylor Woodrow, HS2 Old Oak Common Station Project Sponsor of Young Futures



i. How did you become involved with your charity?

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, I have virtually visited Yvonne House and spoken with the charity staff. My intention is to come and meet with the young women, and present the construction industry and the possibilities available for them. The charity is also looking to increase the residential unit by building an extension and so I could provide advice on this.

ii. How did you learn about the Foundation?

I learned about the Foundation via the community team of the HS2 Old Oak Common Station project. They asked if some of us were interested in sponsoring some charities and I was very impressed by the work done by Young Futures (YF).

Young Futures (YF) is committed to helping care-leavers, and those preparing to leave care, overcome adversity and trauma and build happy, meaningful lives. They support the difficult transition to adulthood and independent living by providing high-quality accommodation which is fully integrated with practical and therapeutic support i.e. counselling, coaching, art and drama therapy and sports and cultural opportunities. YF has supported over 350 young people aged from 16-21 for periods of between six months and three years. They offer much more than

just a housing support service, but aspirational homes to provide the best opportunities in life post care.

Yvonne House is a newly-built, bespoke, residential therapeutic unit providing high quality accommodation and a care package for nine female care leavers, with high levels of need. The charity also provides 30 high quality semi-independent flats in clusters around South Central London.

iii. What are your top tips for a successful application for the grant?

I would suggest that you make sure that the charity operates in one of the four areas of actions the VINCI UK Foundation supports, that you are passionate and want to get involved with the charity in the long run, and that the financial support objective is clearly defined with the charity.

iv. What difference does the funding make to your sponsored charity?

The VINCI funding allowed the charity to equip six new flats with Starter Kits and white goods. These include a fridge/freezer, washing machine and cooker, and 80 other items such as a bed, TV, armchair, lampshades, curtains, kitchen utensils, etc.



www.youngfutures.org.uk



EXCELLENCE | COLLABORATION | INNOVATION | INTEGRITY | DISCIPLINE

VINCI Construction UK Limited, Astral House, Imperial Way, Watford, Hertfordshire WD24 4WW

T: 0300 600 3433 | **F:** 01923 256 481 | **E:** info@vinciconstruction.co.uk

www.vinciconstruction.co.uk |