

# THE OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE



14 St Clement Street  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO23 9HH

Telephone: 01962 842858

e-mail: [secretary@theolivebranch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@theolivebranch.org.uk)

[www.theolivebranch.org.uk](http://www.theolivebranch.org.uk)

Dear Brendan

Thank you for your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> October regarding requests for grant funding in 2020-21. We continue to be very grateful to Titchborne for its support over the years, and for the invitation to apply for further grants.

The Olive Branch is a local charity of over 20 years standing, which offers counselling to adults who live or work in Winchester or the surrounding area. Our service is open to anyone, regardless of race, creed, age, physical ability or financial position. We pride ourselves in being able to support people who are facing mental health difficulties by offering the opportunity to talk, in confidence, with a properly trained and supervised counsellor. Uniquely for the area, we offer counselling support for up to one year, which ensures that no client ever feels that they are hurried, or that they are just another person on the treadmill of available mental health services.

We have noticed over the past few years a substantial increase in the number of people who are looking for counselling. In the light of this, we are currently looking to grow our service in the hope that we will be able to offer placements to more volunteers, who will thus be able to offer counselling to still more clients. In line with all good practice models, counsellors need regular supervision to support and enhance their work, and we are therefore looking to find at least 2 more supervisors to work at the Olive Branch. It has become apparent to us that finding trained supervisors to support our volunteers is increasingly difficult, and it is possible that we will now have to start offering formal payment to encourage suitable supervisors to work with us.

We believe that our service is invaluable, and have many testimonials and statistics to support this. However we are aware that, if we are to continue to thrive, we need to invest more into our infrastructure. We have recently created a new role of Business Manager, and we are aiming to create another new formal position of Fundraiser next year. Both of these roles have previously been manned by volunteers, but we are hoping to be able to sustain them in the future as paid positions. Historically, our income has derived in the most part from donations from clients, but we are, as a new venture, looking to raise a sum of £25,000 in the next calendar year to guarantee that we can continue to rent our buildings, cover our existing costs, pay our existing staff and potentially employ others.

To this end, we are respectfully requesting any grant that you feel you may be able to make, and will be grateful for donations of any sum to help us get closer to our target. I enclose, for your information, our latest set of formal accounts. If you would like any further information, please do contact us at any time.

With kind regards, and our abject thanks, in advance, for your consideration to support our ongoing work in the community