

1. HUG A DOG

Cares for abandoned dogs and finds them new homes.

4. FOREST FRIENDS

Campaigns to protect the rainforest from deforestation by loggers etc.

2. CHILD CHAT

A help line for children to share their problems in confidence.

5. FOR THE FARMER

Works with very poor farmers in Africa to train and equip them to produce more crops.

3. TRAIN A TEACHER

Trains teachers in developing countries so that more children in poor areas can get an education.

6. ADOPT A GRANDMA

This charity trains young volunteers to befriend lonely elderly people.

Charity 1 – Hug a Dog

Hug a Dog helps find homes for unwanted dogs (and sometimes cats) in your area. In the UK there are millions of stray dogs abandoned by careless owners or left behind by owners who have died. Hug a Dog ensures that dogs are only placed in homes where people have proven experience of caring for dogs. Hug a Dog has helped place over 450 dogs since it came into existence in 1990. Its founder, Alice Moreton, has been awarded the MBE for services to animals. The main kennels are urgently in need of complete refurbishment. Recently some dogs were injured when an old roof gave way.

Charity 4 – Forest Friends

Forest Friends is a campaigning charity that helps monitor the deforestation of the rainforest, particularly in Brazil, but also in Africa and the Far East. Forest Friends is active in lobbying the British government as well as the UN to reduce logging of the rainforest. The rainforests are the lungs of the world, producing much oxygen. In recent years, vast areas of the rainforest have disappeared largely due to illegal logging. If this continues there will be no Brazilian rainforest by 2030, with catastrophic effects on the planet. Scientists agree that the loss of rainforest is one of the biggest factors in global warming. Forest Friends sends teams of activists to defend the forest from loggers.

Charity 2 – Child Chat

Child Chat is a national charity that offers a listening ear to children who want to talk about their problems but who may not feel able to at home or school. The charity offers a helpline that is open 24 hours a day run by trained volunteers. Thousands of children have used this service and the charity has many stories of children whose lives have been dramatically improved through Child Chat being available at a time when they needed to be listened to. The charity relies heavily on volunteers and has an urgent need to train new volunteers as many older ones have recently stood down, as well as pay for a move to new premises as the lease on cheaper premises has come to an end.

Charity 5 – For the Farmer

For the Farmer works in developing countries around the world, enabling subsistence farmers to feed themselves. One billion people in the world – 1 in 6 – live on less than one dollar a day. Many of these are farmers with small patches of land to grow everything they need for themselves and their families to eat. Often the land is affected by climate change with times of drought or flooding. Through training in a variety of farming techniques, better water supplies and help in setting up new businesses and marketing surplus crops, thousands of families are better off and can feed themselves properly all year round. Some of their produce, such as honey, nuts and dried fruit, is now reaching the UK. FTF wants to work with even more farmers.

Charity 3 – Train a Teacher

Train a Teacher works in a number of African countries helping to train teachers. There are 75 million children around the world who cannot go to school and remain trapped in poverty, unable to develop their lives and work to gain a better life. Train a teacher works in some of the poorest countries in the world to help ensure children can go to school, have the chance of starting their own business, learn about healthcare. Train a Teacher does not just train teachers, but also helps pay the cost of uniforms and school books, which can sometimes prevent children in these countries from going to school.

Charity 6 – Adopt a Grandma

Many old people are isolated from other people and living on their own. Three in five of women over 75 live alone. Sometimes the only person they may talk to all day is the local shopkeeper or, if they are housebound, a carer. Adopt a Granny is a project to get young people to befriend an elderly person – not just women – through regular visits. The young people gain self-esteem through seeing an older person welcoming their visits and the older people gain enormously through regular friendly contact and often improve visibly in terms of health and well being. Adopt a Granny would like to recruit many more volunteers and help train them.