

UNITED TOGETHER

**Three Franco-British institutions in France are joining forces
to support people with disabilities
from the Franco-British Sillery Foundation,
who are actively involved against Covid-19.**

14 May 2020 – Paris, France – The Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hertford British Hospital Charity have created a solidarity initiative, under the high patronage of the British Ambassador to France and the French Ambassador to the United Kingdom, to support the work of the Franco-British Sillery Foundation (Essonne), actively engaged in the fight against the Covid-19 virus.

Since the beginning of the health crisis, the Franco-British Sillery Foundation's people with disabilities have been involved in the collective effort to combat the effects of the Covid-19 virus in the communities where they are present, at six of their sites in France. The Foundation makes masks, treats linen and provides daily meals to the staff of medical-social establishments, makes oxygen bottle caps for Air Liquide, packages hydro-alcoholic gel and more.

The Foundation is in urgent need of funds to continue its emergency health work, but also to accompany the 800 people and their families that it usually cares for who have a disability and/or are in a situation of exclusion.

This initiative brings together three institutions in France made up of British and French nationals who share common values of Franco-British cooperation, humanity, ethics and pragmatism and the desire to support those who help others in such a selfless way. The campaign to raise funds and donations in kind for the Foundation is on the [GoFundMe](#) website.

Thierry Drillhon, President of the Franco-British Chamber, states "*The Chamber wishes to pay tribute to the remarkable work carried out by the Franco-British Sillery Foundation over the past 100 years and especially to the young people who have wished to participate in the collective effort in this exceptional health crisis.*"

Geoffrey Cardozo, President of the Fondation Franco-Britannique de Sillery, adds, "*At a time of great need, as the Foundation unswervingly struggles to continue its work by uniting its vulnerable youngsters in the fight against Covid-19, the Franco-British Chambre of Commerce and Industry and the Hertford British Hospital Charity have come together to launch an unprecedented initiative to support them. I send them both, and you all who rally to their call, our deepest appreciation. This appeal provides a shining example of Franco-British co-operation at the most human level.*"

Michel de Fabiani, President of the Hertford British Hospital Charity, adds "*Since its creation in 1871, the Hertford British Hospital Charity has been active in the field of Franco-British health care and it was therefore natural that we should support the Franco-British Foundation of Sillery for its Covid actions and more generally the aid to the disabled.*"

www.gofundme.com



www.francobritishchamber.com

www.ffbs-sillery.com

<https://www.british-hospital.org/en/>

Actions and needs of the Fondation Franco-Britannique de Sillery

As part of the effort to combat Covid-19, the Foundation :

- makes its dormitories available to the Essonne First Aid Medical Units
- organizes and deploys the manufacture of masks
- makes the packaging for hydro-alcoholic gel
- produces oxygen cylinder caps for Air Liquide for intensive care units
- treats laundry for medical-social establishments particularly exposed to the virus
- provides 20 vehicles for the staff of medical-social establishments
- provides daily meals to retirement homes and medical-social institutions
- continues to provide distance and home-based education for youth and adults during their ongoing containment
- develops its market gardening production to supply vegetables to people in difficulty.

The Foundation is in urgent need of funds for :

- personal protective equipment and meals for the mobile first-aid personnel currently based in its facilities
- computers and computer equipment for training staff to continue their work with 200 home-bound trainees with disabilities.
- the acquisition of sewing machines and fabric for its volunteers who make masks
- protective clothing for the Foundation's staff who support and accompany the fragile population of elderly, handicapped and/or excluded people and the sick who depend on them on a daily basis
- digital teaching material for the 50 disabled people confined in its headquarters in Sillery itself
- reinforcement of its staff numbers and replacement of those affected by Covid-19, to ensure the continuity of all vital services and activities.

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Franco-British Chamber

The Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry, founded in 1873, is the oldest international Chamber of Commerce in Europe. The Chamber is offering its members - French and British companies of all sizes and from all sectors of activity - a vast range of services to help them to develop their cross-channel activity. Located in Paris, for more than 145 years, the Franco-British Chamber is a powerful business network which helps and links companies. The Business Connect service, from member to member, allows a privileged and efficient relationship.

<https://francobritishchamber.com/en/>

The Franco-British Sillery Foundation

The Foundation was founded in London in 1914 by the British Committee of the French Red Cross with the vocation of "administering British relief to French works of war". Its English nurses provided care and assistance to the many French soldiers wounded in France with dedication and courage. Today it employs 300 qualified people to care for 800 young people and adults. The health crisis linked to Covid-19 has led the Foundation to diversify its activities, in order to participate actively alongside the authorities in the fight against the virus, while preserving its capacity to support people with disabilities.

www.ffbs-sillery.com

Hertford British Hospital Charity

The Hertford British Hospital was built between 1872 and 1879, following the Franco-Prussian War, by Sir Richard Wallace, a great English philanthropist, in memory of his father, the 4th Marquis of Hertford, also a Francophile, who died in 1870. It is the same Sir Richard Wallace who gave his name to the Wallace Fountains, symbols of his greatness.

For almost 150 years the Hertford British Hospital Charity (HBHC) has been the charitable institution that ensures that the medical mission launched by Sir Richard Wallace continues to be carried out in the French and English-speaking communities. In Levallois-Perret, the HBHC participates in the management of the [Franco-British Hospital](#), hosts the International Dermatology Centre and provides premises for the British Charitable Fund.

<https://www.british-hospital.org/en/>

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