

# United Trusts

## Seed-Idea



**. . a practical method of encouraging increased individual and small group awareness of charitable responsibilities within the community.**

- it could be thoroughly acceptable to all responsible thinkers, and be a new movement towards peaceful profitable socio-political development.
- in implementing this seed-idea, the United Kingdom could make manifest its positive determination to take a leading position in a solution to the problem of general world unrest.

## **The Purpose of this Paper**

A small number of copies of this paper are being quietly distributed to a few persons who may be in a position to assist United Trusts (in association possibly with Charities Aid Foundation and Common Purpose) to recruit an almost new board of leading national trustees. It is hoped these new trustees could carry this seed-idea forward.

Can any confidential suggestions regarding possible new trustees please be sent to Fred Freeman at the United Trusts office.

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Copies of the book *The SU-VOC Application* by Fred Freeman (edited by Eugene Halliday) are available either on loan or for economical purchase. "SU-VOC" is an acronym for "Society of United Voluntary Organisations within Community". The full meaning of the emblem on the front cover is described in the booklet *An Introduction to Metathinking Top-economy* by Eugene Halliday and Fred Freeman. Copies of this short booklet are supplied with the book *The SU-VOC Application* or separately on request..

## **Introduction**

This paper is an extract from the chairman's report delivered at the annual general meeting of United Trusts, held in the Senate Room of The University of Liverpool on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

In brief, United Trusts promotes tax-free payroll and employer giving through local trusts and workplace charity funds, termed "Workplace Trusts". A "workplace trust" is a workplace charity fund account with United Trusts. It can receive tax-free payroll and/or corporate gifts, plus gifts from any other source, and has its own United Trusts charity-cheque book. Gifts can be distributed by workplace trusts for ANY charitable purposes chosen by the donors at that workplace. Alternatively, workplace trusts can transfer responsibility for distribution to one or more United Trusts local trusts.

A "local trust" is a charity fund account with United Trusts relating to an area. Distribution decisions are made by local committees, which receive skilled professional advice on charities needs and deeds in their local areas. A proportion of local trusts' funds are distributed through "people for people funds" to relieve individual cases of poverty and hardship (outside governmental responsibility).

## **The Government's New Incentives**

At the beginning of April this year, the Government ceased to pay an additional ten percent supplement to all payroll gifts. The annual value of this supplement was a little over £8 million and its withdrawal has led to a temporary drop in levels of giving. However the Government plans to replace the loss of the ten percent supplement with a new incentive.

In his Budget Speech last March, the Chancellor stated that he would introduce special financial incentives to encourage the development of payroll giving within small and medium sized firms. We understand an announcement is due to be made shortly by the Home Office on exactly what these incentives will be and how they will operate. We anticipate the new incentives may prove very helpful.

## **Possible Major Changes and the Recruitment of New Trustees**

We hope that during the coming years arrangements may be made in association with Charities Aid Foundation for our

presently almost unique local-community-centred services to be developed on a regional and national basis.

We hope also that during the next twelve months a number of our existing not-so-young trustees, including myself, may be replaced by inspired younger men and women, with a national as well as a local perspective.

### **Work Towards the Achievement of our True Ethical Purpose**

The main activity at our office in Liverpool is development of payroll giving to finance local community-centred services. This work aims to assist not only local charities, but also national charities which provide local services. The office also serves to hold aloft a seed-idea with an ethical purpose.

The development of payroll giving, valuable and useful though the work is, may be viewed as a practical method of working towards the achievement of our true ethical purpose. That purpose is: **the development within society of increased conscious awareness of the necessity for individual and small-group responsibilities within the large group.**

This seed-idea, of working to develop greater self-responsibility within communities, can be seen to operate through such activities as our People for People in Merseyside Funds. These funds are quietly distributed in small amount grants through umbrella charities to assist individuals in great need. The policy is to make grants only in cases where government funds are not available. We are honoured that His Grace, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, is the active and inspired Chairman of these People for People Funds.

### **Growth of the Seed-Idea**

Planted in the right minds, the whole ethical seed-idea which we serve could be developed into the equivalent of a society of united voluntary organisations within every community within the United Kingdom.

The aim could be to improve further the social, economic and personal health of the nation at large and of its constituent groups and individuals.

The manifest need in the world situation for increased awareness of the interrelations of apparently separate communities is obvious, but world organisation is not yet sufficiently advanced for any large scale project to better the human condition. Thus, for the time being, we have to deal rather with our immediate community problems and apply the rule "charity begins at home".

### **Grass Roots Democracy within Communities**

Should very substantially increased giving to benefit local communities be achieved, through a federation of United Trusts-type workplace trusts and local trusts, another much needed new development could be supplied.

This new development could serve as a plan, within the framework of national, regional and local government boundaries, to make charity more democratic, and thus to provide a responsible voluntary counterweight to national and local government bureaucracies.

United Trusts supplies its administered workplace trusts and local trusts with the equivalent of charity-bank-type statements. These look like bank statements and show the money received and the gifts distributed.

If the principle could be accepted of every workplace trust gift, of say £1, being viewed as equivalent to one donor-vote, an effective grass roots democratic voting service could be developed and administered by United Trusts with relatively little expense. This grass roots democracy might focus, amongst other matters, on policy questions relating to the advisability or otherwise of charitable support being given by workplace trusts for certain specific needs within that community.

## **A Sense of Common Purpose**

In 1982 we published a book, with the title "*The SU-VOC Application*", on how it might be possible to develop the seed-idea. Our unchanged principle aim, as stated in that book, is the development of a sense of common purpose.

Development of a sense of common purpose, towards which we seek to make a contribution, could be interpreted as work towards the following long term objective:

***to achieve an organisation throughout the country which allows the human beings involved to co-operate with the greatest efficiency and with the least friction, and where there is a community of interest and a sense of common purpose between all individuals and groups.***

## **Widespread Support - Including Media Support**

At this stage, as we have observed, our present work is a seed-idea. Whether this seed-idea might develop and bear fruit could depend greatly upon the backing and support the idea received from leading members of our national and local communities.

The persons who might provide leading support could include leaders from all of the following: industry and commerce; the trade unions; political parties; government departments (national and local); professional and other institutions and associations; educational establishments; religious bodies; and other potentially influential bodies and persons.

Last, but not least, generous backing and support from television and the media could be of immense value.

## **Socio-Governmental Considerations**

Widespread support for the development of our seed-idea could be forthcoming from all sectors of society. This support could be forthcoming, not only because our seed-idea offers a valid ethical reason for giving services and monetary aid in furtherance of the necessarily developing role of the voluntary sector.



Support also could be given because charity giving points a way to further responsible human solidarity behaviour. And thus, to a possible solution to some of the wider social problems of violence, drop-outs, general dissatisfaction and socio-political malaise.

The solution is that people shall become again conscience conscious, that they shall become more reflexively aware of their personal human significance.

The natural desire in people to belong to a beneficently ordered community is such, that if they are given an opportunity and a methodology of showing their human solidarity then they will accept it. They can show this through charity.

Charity allows a man to lift himself up in his own image to a humane level of a positive contributor to the human race.

Implementation and development of this seed-idea could be a readily attainable real step towards the practical embodiment of ideal human interdependency and mutual aid. It could be thoroughly acceptable to all responsible thinkers, and be a new movement towards peaceful profitable socio-political development.

In implementing this seed-idea, the United Kingdom could make manifest its positive determination to take a leading position in a solution to the problem of general world unrest.

## **Conclusion**

Lord Lieutenant, Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

## **Background Information**

United Trusts work, to promote payroll giving to local charities, began in 1952. In 1982 it pioneered, for the first time in the UK, bulk tax relief on charitable payroll gifts by the workforce. In 1987, in association with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Charities Aid Foundation, it helped to pioneer and launch the Give As You Earn payroll giving scheme, of which its connected charity, United Way, is one of the four founders.