



## Dan Homewood

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue

**“Thank you for feeding my family when I couldn't.”**



We often hear beneficiaries say it's difficult to share with their loved ones what life is like as a firefighter and what it is they've gone through that led to them eventually seek our support. Dan Homewood is on a mission to change this.

The Oxfordshire firefighter is also a professional photojournalist and documentary photographer. Dan has aspirations of publishing his photographs in a book, with proceeds going to The Fire Fighters Charity. This, he says, is his way of thanking the Charity that stepped in to help him when a change in his personal circumstances saw him facing the possibility of supporting his young daughter alone.

“I was really struggling, getting into debt, trying to put food on the table and find childcare,” he says. “I got in touch with The Fire Fighters Charity and received advice and a friendly ear, as well as Sainsbury's vouchers I could spend on fuel and food each month. It made a massive difference to my life. I'd gotten used to living with anxiety every day, not knowing how we were going to eat, which was having a huge psychological impact on me. The Charity's support took away so much of that worry.”

Dan has started a project to capture daily life of the UK's fire community to raise awareness of the toll some of the work can take, particularly the issue of traumatic stress within the fire and rescue service.

“I think there's a lot of mystique around firefighters,” he says. “I know before I joined, I had no idea about all the elements of the role, but I think it's the best job in the world. I live it, so I know. Now I want to create a photographic body of work that weaves in all the threads of the communities within the fire and rescue service, and specifically focuses on the impact on mental health.”

[www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/dan-homewood](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/dan-homewood)

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