

## Legion brought together for the People's Poppy

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Photographs of 3,500 recipients of help from the Royal British Legion have been put together to create a vast poppy to publicise an initiative by the charity.

The 20 sq ft People's Poppy, created by artist Helen Marshall, will be on display today at London's Victoria station.

The display marks the launch of Poppy Support, an initiative to promote its services in advice, funds, homes, volunteers, holidays and travel.

The charity spent more than £75 million last year in support of the serving and ex-service community.

Ian Townsend, the legion's director general, said he hoped the display would encourage more people to ask for support.

"To most, the poppy is a symbol of reflection and remembrance.

"We have created the Poppy Support brand to help us reach the many thousands who need advice and hope in times of despair and, above all, to offer support when they need it.

"An incredible 10.5 million, or one in six people in the UK, are entitled to Poppy Support, yet many are unaware of the services available or feel too proud to ask.

"We're encouraging everyone to look behind the poppy image to think of someone who could benefit from Poppy Support."

Miss Marshall collected the pictures from legion beneficiaries. She said: "I've really enjoyed working on the People's Poppy - putting together photographs from people of all backgrounds, from school children to veterans.

"The age range displayed in the photographs is enormous and is a vivid reminder of how wide the legion's net can be cast. Working on the project has been a very moving experience."

After today, the People's Poppy moves on to Sheffield, Liverpool, Cornwall, Manchester and Cardiff.

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**The People's Poppy will promote the work of the British Legion**



**Faces at the heart of the poppy**