

## NEWS RELEASE

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### £10 Million Awarded in 10 years of Grantmaking

Ten years of grantmaking by Essex Community Foundation has seen £10,251,526 distributed to fund 2,391 charitable projects throughout the county.

Since the independent Community Foundation first launched its grants programme in the autumn of 1996, virtually all aspects of charitable activity in Essex has been funded to benefit local people. Voluntary and community organisations working for many different causes have received grants from Essex Community Foundation, by accessing funds that are only available to them, and not to large, national charities.

Essex Community Foundation currently manages 33 funds on behalf of individuals, families, companies, and public agencies. Many of these individual funds are invested to provide income for annual grantmaking programmes, but demand for funding far exceeds the funds available. The Foundation is seeking to double its current investment of £8.3 million by encouraging more people to give through the Community Foundation.

"Giving through a community foundation is simple, straightforward and offers individual and corporate donors an immensely satisfying experience of making a lasting difference in their local community" says Laura Warren, Chief Executive of Essex Community Foundation. "Our grants are awarded to organisations run by extraordinarily committed local people, who know about the needs in their community, but often their work is not widely known, so attracting funding can be difficult."

By being a central point for applications, local voluntary and community groups can access these funds with one single application form, thus saving themselves a great deal of effort by sending off multiple appeals, which often go unanswered.

The £10 million mark was topped during the June grants round when 50 organisations received grants totalling £294,291. Among those receiving a grant in this latest round were:

**Brentwood** – Crucial Crew Action Team received £911 to produce an educational CD Rom to support the 2007 Crucial Crew workshops for children aged 10 to 11 in Brentwood educating them on personal safety and addressing the risks of issues such as anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol.

**Chelmsford** – WHCM Counselling and Support in Chelmsford received £7,000 towards the cost of refurbishing rooms in two centres to provide a suitable setting for counselling and therapeutic work to improve the mental health and well being of children, young people and their families.

**Maldon** – 1<sup>st</sup> Mayland Brownies received £3,072 from the Local Network Fund towards the cost of equipment and resources to support the re-launch of a brownie pack and pay for a camping experience for the young girls.



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Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Essex

Chief Executive: Laura Warren



**Colchester** – Colchester Youth Enquiry Service (YES) received a grant of £984 to help with cost of providing information, support, advocacy, mediation and counselling for young people in the Colchester area. YES were one of the first organisations to receive a grant from the Community Foundation in its first grants round in 1996.

**Tendring** – Signpost Resource Centres received £10,000 towards the costs of expanding their services helping people in West Clacton to increase the access to learning, build confidence and self-esteem and enhance their employability. Services offered include CV preparation, and support with job seeking and applications.

**Braintree** – Stanley Hall Opera received £4,720 to hold summer operatic workshops for children from local primary and special needs schools.

**Basildon** - Basildon Women's Aid received £10,000 to help them extend their outreach work and to provide training programmes for women, including IT, assertiveness and confidence building.

**Castle Point** – Castle Point Crossroads received £7,000 to provide learning activities for adults with physical or learning disabilities, including basic skills such as literacy, numeracy, IT and cookery, helping them to improve their chances of leading an independent life.

**Rochford** – Grove Nursery Group received £2,090 to provide an all weather cover for outdoor play and a small climbing frame for young children attending an educational pre-school in Rayleigh.

**Southend** – The Southend-on-Sea Bus received £10,000 Fund towards the cost of providing a weekend evening safe haven for vulnerable people of all ages in Southend-on-Sea.

**Thurrock** – Thurrock Sea Cadets received £5,214 from the Hew Charitable Fund to buy a sailing dinghy for use as part of their services providing tuition in water based activities for young people.

**Epping** –Action in Mental Health received £3,900 to enable young people experiencing emotional problems, to take part in the production of a DVD which will be used to raise awareness of various issues and the benefits of addressing young people's mental health.

**Harlow** – YouthPlus received £4,200 to provide artistic activities for young people with learning disabilities in Harlow.

**Uttlesford** – Home-Start Uttlesford who received £6,768 to extend the services and facilities at family groups in Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. The group supports families under stress and with at least one child under 5 years of age.

For more information, please contact Jo Murphy, Marketing Officer on 01245 355947 or by e-mail to [jo@essexcf.org.uk](mailto:jo@essexcf.org.uk) The next deadline date for applications to the Foundation is 9

September. More information and application forms can also be found on the Foundation's website: [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

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### Notes to Editors:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen more than 2500 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £10million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

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### **Community Foundation Network statistics at at 2006:**

- **55** Community Foundations across the UK
- **£141 million** in endowed funds
- Grantmaking totalled **£70 million**
- Benefiting at least **18,000 community groups** up and down the country each year
- Over **£340 million** in grants made by the network since 1992
- Community Foundations are the **5<sup>th</sup> largest** grantmaker in the UK
- Community foundations manage approximately **1,200 funds** across the UK.

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