

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 9 July 2007

Sport Relief grants available for Essex Charities

Charities wishing to develop sporting opportunities for people in Essex, Southend and Thurrock are encouraged to apply for grants from the Sport Relief programme.

The Sport Relief programme in Essex is managed by local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation. 37 voluntary and community groups have benefited from grants totalling £110,000 since the programme was established in Essex in 2004 and the Community Foundation is inviting applications for the next round of funding.

Sport Relief was set up by Comic Relief and BBC Sport to fund projects that use sport to tackle the exclusion and isolation experienced by some of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities. In the UK, Sport Relief funds work that uses sport and exercise to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for people who are excluded or disadvantaged. This may be through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disability, race, sexuality or gender.

Caroline Taylor, Programmes Manager at Essex Community Foundation said "We are very pleased to be continuing our relationship with Sport Relief, who want to ensure that local communities benefit from the funds raised." She added "we are keen to hear from voluntary and community groups who would like to introduce or develop a programme of sports activities for local people."

An example of a recent grant awarded is the Dengie Project Trust, in Maldon who received £5,000 to provide exercise classes for older people in their rural community, to help them improve their strength, balance, stamina and flexibility.

To discuss an application or for further information about the Sport Relief programme in Essex please contact the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018 or visit their website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk Grants of up to £10,000 are available and **deadline date for applications is 9 September.**

[Ends]

For further information contact

Debbie Kiddier/Andrew Clarke
Essex Community Foundation
Tel: 01245 356018
E-mail: grants@essexcf.org.uk

(145/130707)

Notes to Editors:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 3000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £10 million 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

Sport Relief:

- Sport Relief was set up by Comic Relief and BBC Sport to use the power and passion of sport to tackle poverty and disadvantage, both in UK and in some of the world's poorest countries.
- Projects must increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion or isolation and/or help people experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain their confidence
- Visit www.sportrelief.com for more information
- Sport Relief is an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568.

E. general@essexcf.org.uk

www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Essex

Chief Executive: Laura Warren