

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 31 March 2008

CHARITIES TO BENEFIT FROM ACCOUNTANTS

Local charities are set to benefit from a new charitable fund that has been established by local accountants, Baker Tilly.

Baker Tilly's Essex office, based in Chelmsford, is committed to making a positive contribution to the community in which it works, actively encouraging staff and partners to be involved in various charity and community initiatives.

The Baker Tilly Charitable Fund will be managed by Essex Community Foundation, a local grantmaking charitable trust that manages funds on behalf of companies, individuals and public agencies. The Foundation has distributed over £10 million to charities in Essex since it was established in 1996 and currently manages 40 Funds, all supporting local charities helping local people.

John Barnes is a Partner at Baker Tilly which is the 7th largest accountancy and business advisory firm in the UK based in 26 locations around the country. In presenting the initial cheque from the partners John explained, "We wanted to do something which would have a lasting effect and support some of the smaller, less well known charities in our community". "Several Baker Tilly offices around the country have established funds with their local community foundation and they work extremely well. The partners and staff felt it was time that Essex did the same".

He added: "The staff will be involved in the development and distribution of the Fund. By setting the staff a challenge to match the initial donation from the partners, we hope they will have some fun with fundraising. Also, by tapping into the Foundation's knowledge and expertise of the voluntary sector, we know that we will all increase our knowledge of local charitable activity".

Laura Warren, Chief Executive at Essex Community Foundation said "We are delighted that such a high profile local company like Baker Tilly has made this long-term commitment, demonstrating it is a responsible business in our local community. We look forward to working with the staff committee and the partners, and will be presenting to them a range of applications for funding to enable them to decide on how the fund will be distributed to local charities".

For more information about Essex Community Foundation, the services it offers to donors and its various grants programmes, visit their website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call Jo Murphy on 01245 355947.

[Ends]

(165/310308)

For further information contact Laura Warren/Jo Murphy
Essex Community Foundation

E. general@essexcf.org.co.uk
www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Essex

Chief Executive: Laura Warren OBE DL



121 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0QT
T. 01245 355947
F. 01245 346391

Tel: 01245 355947 Fax: 01245 346391
E-mail: general@essexcf.org.uk

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