

## NEWS RELEASE

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## LOCAL CHARITY CELEBRATES

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Thriftwood Special School, based in Galleywood, is celebrating receiving a cheque for £2,500, from local businessman, Jason Bartella. The grant was awarded from the Bartella Charitable Fund which is managed by local grantmaking charitable trust, Essex Community Foundation.

Thriftwood is a special education needs school currently supporting 120 children, aged 5-16 years, who have moderate learning difficulties and additional complex needs. As an extra curricular activity, the year 10 and 11 pupils learn about business and enterprise by running a small business where they make and sell, greeting cards, cookie mixes and flower bulbs. The grant which they have received will support the business enterprise and will enable them to undertake training in the use of SAGE accounting software.

Deborah Turner, the Business and Enterprise Manager at Thriftwood said "We have been running the business enterprise for a number of years and it has been extremely successful. The students really enjoy making the items and selling them". Liz Willington, the Enterprise Teacher added "We are very grateful to the Bartella family and Essex Community Foundation for their support which will enable the enterprise at Thriftwood School to continue to develop".

The Bartella family, who owns Heritage Leisure, which includes Pontlands Park Hotel in Great Baddow, set up the Bartella Charitable Fund in 2003 to primarily support local charities helping vulnerable children and families in the Chelmsford area. Since the Fund was established, with Essex Community Foundation, it has distributed nearly £100,000.

Jason Bartella said "Since working with the Foundation, we have learned so much about charitable activity in our local community and we never cease to be amazed at the commitment and dedication of the people that work with these organisations." Regarding the visit to Thriftwood, Jason said " We were so warmly welcomed by the staff and young people who are so enthusiastic about this project. We are delighted to be able to support the business enterprise, it clearly is a very positive experience for the young people involved".

Essex Community Foundation manages funds on behalf of individuals, companies, charitable trusts and public agencies who want their charitable giving to support local people. The Foundation currently manages 38 Funds and since it was established in 1996, around 3,000 grants totalling £11 million have been distributed to charities in Essex.

For more information about Essex Community Foundation, how to apply for a grant, deadline dates for applications and how to establish a Charitable Fund visit the Foundation's website [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk) or call 01245 355947.

[Ends]

Patron: Lord Petre, The Lord Lieutenant of Essex  
Chief Executive: Laura Warren OBE DL

Company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England  
Company No. 3062567  
Registered Charity No. 1052061

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Photo Caption:**

Jason and Lisa Bartella present Thriftwood School with a cheque for £2,500 towards their business enterprise project.

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**Essex Community Foundation** was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen 3000 Essex based charities and community groups receive £11million 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)

For more information visit [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)