

## NEWS RELEASE

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### GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CHARITIES

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Grants are now available from the Coombewood Amenity Fund, to organisations working to support people, with mental health problems, back into work.

The Coombewood Amenity Fund was established when Essex County Council opened the Coombewood Centre in 1971, a sheltered workshop where people with mental illnesses made leather goods. Money from the sale of those goods was put into the Coombewood Amenity Fund, which is now managed by Essex Community Foundation a local, independent grantmaking trust.

Grants are available from eligible organisations, working in the districts of Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend and Thurrock. Grants can be considered to fund training, to improve educational skills and personal development, and to build confidence with the aim that people are on a pathway to employment. There is no minimum grant size, but priority will be given to small grants targeted at helping individuals who are mental health service users prepare for employment.

To discuss an application or for further information about the fund please contact the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018 or visit their website to download the general application form at [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk) The deadline date for applications is 9 September and then 9 January 2009.

[Ends]

(186/060808)

For further information contact

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**Notes to Editors:**

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 3,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £11.2 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](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 55 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds of circa £200 million
- In 2006/07 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £75million.