

NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH SHERIFF INVITES APPLICATIONS

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High Sheriff of Essex, Sarah Courage, is inviting local community groups, young people and volunteers to apply to the High Sheriffs' Awards Scheme for recognition and grants.

There are three parts to the High Sheriffs' Awards Scheme:

- Grants of up to £1000 are available to voluntary and community groups that are working to make their local communities safer places to live and work.
- Grants of up to £750 are available from the Essex Crimebeat programme to develop ideas from young people which will address crime related issues in their community.
- Recognition for volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution in their local community, making it a safer place to be.

The deadline date for applications is 1 December.

The High Sheriff said "It is a great honour to be the Queen's representative for Law and Order in the County". She added "I have met so many people who are contributing an enormous amount of time and effort to keep Essex communities safe from crime and the Awards ceremony provides a great opportunity to recognise their valuable contribution".

Local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation administers the Awards Scheme, working with local Community Safety Officers and local Volunteer Centres. An independent panel of judges, chaired by the High Sheriff and including past High Sheriffs, will agree the Awards which will be presented by the High Sheriff at a special event on 4 March 2009 at the Fennes Estate, Bocking.

The **deadline** date for completed applications to the High Sheriffs' Awards is **1 December**. Application forms and details about the criteria can be found on the Foundation's website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or if you would like to discuss an application, please contact the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018 who will be happy to help.

[Ends]

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For further information contact

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Patron: Lord Petre, The Lord Lieutenant of Essex
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Notes to Editors:

Photo Caption: High Sheriff of Essex, Sarah Courage

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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

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.

The High Sheriffs' Fund has been managed by Essex Community Foundation since 1997. Since then 290 grants have been awarded to voluntary and community groups totalling £198,460.

Information about Essex Community Foundation and the history of the role of the High Sheriff can be found on the Foundation's website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk