

NEWS RELEASE

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FUN AND FUNDRAISING FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

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A fundraising event held at Pontlands Park in Great Baddow (19 September), was the first to benefit from a 50% cash boost from the Government's Grassroots Grants programme.

Around 300 guests joined Jason Bartella and his family at their fifth annual fundraising event for local charities. The event raised over £23,000, but the Grassroots Grants uplift brings the total raised to nearly £34,500.

The Bartella family established their charitable fund in 2004. To date, the fund, which is managed by local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation, has distributed over £95,000 in grants to charities and voluntary groups in Essex.

Jason Bartella said "The evening was a huge success. We are very grateful to everyone for joining in the fun and supporting the event." He added "An extra incentive to the fundraising on the night was that we were able to uplift the amount raised by an additional 50% thanks to Essex Community Foundation and the Grassroots Grants Challenge they are currently managing. I would urge anyone wanting to support local charities to take advantage of this great time-limited free money offer."

Essex Community Foundation currently manages 42 funds on behalf of individuals, companies and public agencies. Established since 1996, the Foundation has distributed around 3,000 grants totalling £11.2 million to charities in Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

More information about the Bartella Charitable Fund, the Grassroots Grants programme or Essex Community Foundation visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call Jo Murphy on 01245 355947.

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Notes to Editors:

Photo Caption: (Pictured Left to right): Jo Murphy (Essex Community Foundation), Lisa and Jason Bartella, Robert Bartella and Jacqui Egan at this year's Country & Western themed annual fundraising event at Pontlands Park, Great Baddow

Heritage Leisure Group which owns Pontlands Park, also includes Reflections Spa, Eclipse Brentwood and Heritage On The Hill, incorporating Best Western Ivy Hill and Furze Hill.

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.

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants, funded by Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF), recognises the vital contribution these 'grassroots groups' make to improving our communities.

Over three years, Grassroots Grants will support the sector in building stronger, more active communities with two complementary approaches. An £80 million grants programme will make small grants available to grassroots groups across England. An innovative £50 million endowments match challenge will enable local funders to raise donations on a matched basis and invest them to sustain grassroots funding into the future.

Essex Community Foundation is delivering the Grassroots Grants programme in Essex. For more information visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) is the Lead National Partner appointed to administer, support, monitor and evaluate Grassroots Grants on behalf of Office of the Third Sector (OTS).

CDF is the leading source of intelligence, guidance and delivery on community development in England and across the UK. Our mission is to lead community development analysis and strategy to empower people to influence decisions that affect their lives. For more information, go to www.cdf.org.uk

Office of the Third Sector

As part of the Cabinet Office, the Office of the Third Sector leads work across government to support the environment for a thriving third sector (voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals), enabling the sector to campaign for change, deliver public services, promote social enterprise and strengthen communities. For further information, please go to www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector