

## NEWS RELEASE

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## E2V SUPPORTS GRASSROOTS GRANTS

e2v is the latest Essex company to support the Government's Grassroots Grants and Endowment Match Challenge, which is being managed by local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation.

e2v is a leading designer, developer and manufacturer of high-technology electronic components and sub-systems and has its HQ in Chelmsford. The company established the e2v foundation with Essex Community Foundation in 2006 as part of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and it now forms a key part of the company's overall charitable activities.

Handing over a cheque for £30,000, Andy Bennett, Group Marketing Communications Manager at e2v said, "Having a scheme like Grassroots available to us is an opportunity too good to be missed because the Foundation can uplift our corporate donation by 50%, meaning it is actually worth £45,000! Supporting the Grassroots initiative over the next 3 years will help the e2v foundation grow more quickly, enabling us to support ever more good causes."

Essex Community Foundation will be managing the Grassroots Grants programme in Essex until April 2011. Under the Challenge, the Foundation needs to raise £3.3 million in order to draw down matched funding of £1.65 million. At the end of the programme the invested £5 million fund will give a permanent source of funding to support voluntary and community groups in Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

Speaking about the Challenge, Laura Warren, Chief Executive of the Foundation said, "We really need local people and companies to help us meet this Challenge, otherwise the money will be lost to Essex." She added, "Corporate donations can be increased by 50%, and individual donations, if gift aided, can be almost doubled. There really couldn't be a better time to give."

As well as the Challenge, the Foundation has £2 million to distribute in grants to small charities and community groups with a gross income of under £20,000 pa and they must have been active for at least 12 months.

For more information or to make a donation call Bob Sherer, Development Director on 01245 355947 or to apply for a grant call the grants team on 01245 356018. Information and an application form can also be found on the Foundation's website [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

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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:**

**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.

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector)