

NEWS RELEASE

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WOMEN'S AID RECEIVES CHRISTMAS CHEER FROM BRITVIC

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Chelmsford and Basildon Women's Aid Centres are benefitting from the generosity of leading soft drinks company, Britvic.

Staff at Britvic's offices in Broomfield Road and Westway, Chelmsford, collected Christmas gifts for the women and children staying at the Centres over the festive period. Generous Britvic staff donated toys and toiletries to the refuges.

Chelmsford Women's Aid also received a cheque for £484 from the Britvic Community Fund to enable them to organise a Christmas party with an entertainer.

Britvic, based in Chelmsford, committed long-term support for local charities by establishing the Britvic Community Fund in January 2008. The Fund, which is managed by local grant-making trust Essex Community Foundation, targets its support to charities working with families in the Chelmsford area.

Speaking on behalf of both Centres, Chris Moran, Manager at Chelmsford Women's Aid said, "We are overwhelmed by the support that Britvic has given to us. We try to make it as easy and comfortable as possible for women and their families staying in our Refuges, but Christmas can be a sad time for many of them. The financial support and gifts that we have received from Britvic and their staff is just wonderful and will go a very long way towards helping our families to enjoy Christmas with us. We can't thank them enough".

Lauretta Taupin, Britvic's Corporate Responsibility Manager said, "Britvic takes its corporate responsibility very seriously. The Britvic Community Fund enables us to give financial support to local charities that really need help, but we are always looking for ways to engage our staff in local community projects as well. The idea of making Christmas boxes for the Women's Aid Centre in Chelmsford caught the imagination of our staff and thanks to extra support from employees at Britvic's Widford factory we were able to support Basildon Women's Aid as well."

For more information about Essex Community Foundation and the Britvic Community Fund visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or visit www.britvic.com. To apply for a grant call the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018.

[Ends]

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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:

Britvic -The British Vitamin Products Company - from which Britvic takes its abbreviated name - was founded in the mid-nineteenth century in Chelmsford. The Britvic range of juices were first produced in 1938, but it wasn't until 1949 that the Britvic brand was formally launched. Since then, the company has gone from strength to strength acquiring various well known brands over the year, including Robinsons and Tango. The company also holds the UK franchises of Pepsi and 7UP.

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.