

NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL CHARITIES CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM MILLENNIUM FUND

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Representatives from 27 Essex-based voluntary and community groups attended an annual awards ceremony at the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford (30 March) to receive certificates and grants totalling £80,490 from the Essex County Council's Essex Millennium Fund and the Chairman's Fund.

Cllr Elizabeth Hart, Chairman of Council praised all the organisations present at the event. She said "My fellow Councillors and I are all very impressed with the quality of work being undertaken by your organisations, and with the commitment, the energy and the care with which you deliver your services."

She continued that the Judging Panel were delighted to support the diverse range of activities with funding and agreed that charitable work carried out in the community is vital.

Chelmsford Agency for Volunteering was among the charities to benefit. Cllr Hart presented the group with a cheque for £4,120 to fund an assistant project worker to support young people over 16 with mental health problems into volunteering.

The Essex Millennium Fund was established as an endowed fund with Essex Community Foundation by Members of Essex County Council to celebrate the Millennium. The Fund, which provides an annual income for a grants programme has to date, distributed over £560,000 to voluntary and community groups working within four priority areas; Carers, Community Support, Enhancing the Environment and Young People.

The Chairman's Fund was established with the Community Foundation in 2007 to support voluntary and community groups which are working to enrich the lives of young people in their local community by participation in activities exploring culture and heritage. Since it was established 14 organisations have benefited from grants totalling nearly £40,000.

Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter was one of this year's organisations to benefit. They received a grant for £1,500 to construct a replica Noah's Ark to be used by young people in a "Mystery Play –The Nativity", to be staged in Chelmsford Cathedral.

Essex Community Foundation manages 50 Funds on behalf of a wide range of donors. Charities and voluntary groups are encouraged to contact the Foundation for information about how to apply for a grant by visiting their website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or by calling the grants team on 01245 356018.

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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 around 3,500 Essex based charities and community groups receive nearly £13 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.