

NEWS RELEASE

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BAROOSH SWINGS INTO FUNDRAISING

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Local restaurant, Baroosh, is the latest local company to take advantage of the Government-funded Grassroots Grants and Endowment Match Challenge to increase the amount of money available to local charities.

Baroosh celebrated the bank holiday weekend with a sell-out "Swing Night" in aid of local charity, Essex Community Foundation. Thanks to the Grassroots Challenge which the Foundation is currently managing, their donation was increased by 50% which brought the total raised to £1,950!

Baroosh staff members, Cari-anne Rawlinson and Keeley Allen organised the event which was attended by around 250 people. Staff dressed up in 50's style outfits and entertainment was provided by well known Swing Band, Oo-Bop Shbam, which gave the evening a real party atmosphere. Cari-anne said "This was our first fundraising event and we are so pleased it was such a great success." Keeley added, "being able to tap into the Grassroots Challenge and the 50% uplift through the Foundation was a wonderful added bonus."

Local company, Britvic, also supported the event by providing soft drinks which were used to make up a free cocktail for guests as they arrived. Other activities on the night included mini bowling, pie throwing and an auction.

Essex Community Foundation manages funds on behalf of companies, individuals and public agencies and distributes grants to voluntary and community organisations in Essex through an established grants programme. Since the Foundation was established in 1996, around 3,500 charities have benefited from grants totalling £14 million.

For more information about Essex Community Foundation and the Grassroots Challenge visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or for details about Baroosh, their menus and forthcoming events visit www.barooshchelmsford.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

PHOTO CAPTION: PHOTO WITH ESSEX CHRONICLE

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 £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.

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