

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 3 November 2009

Raising Money for Local Charities with a Song



121 New London Road,
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0QT
T. 01245 355947
F. 01245 346391
general@essexcf.org.uk
www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

The stunning surroundings of Pontlands Park in Great Baddow were the venue for the Bartella family's sixth annual charity event, raising money for the Bartella Charitable Fund to help young children and families in Essex.

Over 200 guests joined the Bartella family for a black tie dinner. Guests enjoyed a fabulous four course meal and were entertained by surprise performers Soprano Bella and local singer, Kirstie Wooldridge.

The event was a great success with funds raised receiving the added bonus of a 50% cash boost from the Government's Grassroots Match Challenge. This brought the total raised on the night to over £40,000.

The Bartella family who own the Heritage Leisure Group, which includes Pontlands Park, established their charitable fund in 2004 as they were keen to give something back to their local community. To date, the fund, which is managed by local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation, has distributed over £95,000 in grants to local charities and voluntary groups working with vulnerable children and their families in Essex.

Jason Bartella said, "We would like to thank everyone who came to our charity event this year. It was lovely to have such great support and the added incentive of knowing that all the money raised would be uplifted by the Grassroots Challenge was a great boost." He added "When we established our endowed charitable fund with Essex Community Foundation in 2004 we didn't really know how it would develop. Six years on, we are really seeing the difference that our money is making to the lives of local children and their families. There is no greater satisfaction for us as a family than that."

Essex Community Foundation is managing the Grassroots initiative in Essex which aims to encourage more people to give to local charities. All donations received by the Foundation before March 2011 are eligible to be increased by a minimum of 50% through the Challenge so the Foundation is keen to hear from people and businesses wanting to increase the value of their charitable donations.

For more information visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call Bob Sherer on 01245 355947.

[Ends]

(228/021109)

For further information contact

Laura Warren/Jo Murphy
Essex Community Foundation
Tel: 01245 355947 Fax: 01245 346391
E-mail: general@essexcf.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

PHOTO CAPTION:

The Bartella family fundraise for local charities at their annual charity ball.

(Back row L-R) Jason Bartella, Robert Bartella, Jackie Egan

(Front row L-R) Lisa Bartella and Jules Kilham

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 over £14 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 57 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds valued at circa £220 million
- In 2007/08 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £66 million and funded 20,500 voluntary organisations and community groups