

## NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 30 March 2010



### HIGH SHERIFF SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES

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The new High Sheriff of Essex, Michael Hindmarch, takes up his duties after swearing his Declaration at a ceremony held at Chelmsford Crown Court (29 March). He is the 830<sup>th</sup> High Sheriff of Essex.

The High Sheriffs' Fund will benefit from funds raised during his year, through which Michael will support voluntary and community groups working throughout Essex to make their communities safe from crime and the fear of crime.

The High Sheriffs' Fund is managed by local grantmaking charitable trust, Essex Community Foundation. Since it came under the Foundation's management in 1997, the Fund has distributed over £280,000 to 344 voluntary and community groups all working hard to make our communities safer from crime.

"I am looking forward to my year as High Sheriff and to travelling to all corners of Essex to meet the committed and dedicated people that are running charities and voluntary organisations in their local communities", said Michael. "Tapping into Essex Community Foundation's knowledge and expertise of the voluntary sector will help me to have a greater understanding of the needs in Essex".

Michael and his family have lived in Danbury for the last 34 years. His career has been as a director of a number of companies in both the private and public sectors in the fields of industry, retail and the media. One of his greatest interests is in encouraging and supporting business enterprise in young people. He is also a very interested in conservation and is a keen sportsman.

For information about the High Sheriffs' Fund and Essex Community Foundation visit [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk) or call Jo Murphy on 01245 355947. The next deadline date for applications to the High Sheriffs' Fund will be 1 December 2010.

[Ends]

(240/300310)

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 nearly 4,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £15 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 57 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds of circa £151 million
- In 2008/09 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £56 million.