

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 13 April 2011



COUNTY COUNCIL CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

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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 (4 April) to receive certificates and grants totalling £69,466 from the Essex County Council's Essex Millennium Fund and the Chairman's Fund.

In his speech, Cllr Rodney Bass, Chairman of Council praised the voluntary and community organisations present and thanked them for all that they are doing. He said "listening to the work that you do gives the rest of us a sense of realism about what is going on in Essex."

He continued that the Judging Panel are always impressed with the diverse range of activities that need funding and reminded everyone present of the importance of these two endowed Funds in that they will continue to improve the quality of life of people in Essex for generations to come.

PAVIS Foundation for the Visually Impaired was among the charities to benefit. Cllr Bass presented the group with a cheque for £3,160 to help with the costs of their resource centre and some external activities.

The Essex Millennium Fund was established as an endowed fund within 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 £660,000 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 people in their local community by participation in activities exploring culture and heritage. Since it was established 22 organisations have benefited from grants totalling over £83,000.

Essex Community Foundation manages 72 named 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 more than 4,000 grants totalling over £16 million awarded to Essex based charities and community groups. 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 59 local Community Foundations in the UK
- Collectively they manage endowed funds values at circa £224 million
- In 2009/10 Community Foundations distributed 26,000 grants to voluntary and community organisations totalling £74 million