

Annual Review 2023



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Front cover image:
Kids Inspire is based in Chelmsford and provides a wide range of support to families, including those who have children with mental health issues.

Ferriers Barn (right). Providing opportunities for adults with disabilities.

Who are we?

Essex Community Foundation (ECF) is an independent charitable trust set up in 1996 by a local family who wanted to make a difference in their community by helping local charities and voluntary organisations in Essex.

Over 27 years we have expanded our work with individuals, families, businesses and charitable trusts, introducing them to local groups tackling issues in our communities. Our aim is to continue to increase funds to meet long-term community needs year-on-year.

We use our skills and expertise to carry out due diligence on the funding applications we receive and to match the charities' needs with the wishes of our donors. Our grant partners tell us, on a regular basis, about the impact the funding has had.

If you would like to get involved and give financial support to the Essex voluntary sector, please call us on 01245 355947.



This year's highlights

£4.4 million
paid out in grants

629 voluntary
organisations and
131 individuals supported

55% of grants
funded the core running
costs for groups, such as
salaries, rent and utilities

Donations received of
£4.1 million
including
£2.7 million
into endowment

Over £1.6 million
reported from gifts in wills

Our Foundation Hub was used for a
total of 2,200 hours by
charities we support

From the Chair

Nick Alston CBE DL Chair of Trustees

I am delighted to introduce our 2023 Annual Review. This is my fifth year as Chair of Trustees, and it has been another active and productive one at the Foundation. I have also had the great honour during the year of serving as High Sheriff of Essex, which has enabled me to see even more clearly the huge value the community and voluntary sector brings to our county.

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and global economic uncertainties have created a challenging environment for our local charities and voluntary groups. However, the resilience of the sector shone through, and over the past 12 months organisations have continued to demonstrate incredible commitment and adaptability.

Our Community Listening Projects continue to enable us to better understand the challenges that local groups are tackling and what we can do to help. Our latest research highlights the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, both on organisations and on their beneficiaries. You can read more about how our funding has helped in the next few pages.

- 1. Gateway and St Andrews.** Supporting those in need in Halstead.
- 2. Braintree Youth Project.** Providing opportunities for young people.
- 3. Together Free Foundation.** Raising awareness of modern slavery in Essex.



We have been in our new home for just over a year now and we have actively promoted the Foundation Hub to charities we support. The hub provides free office and meeting space and has already been used for over 2,200 hours. We facilitate collaboration and networking among local charities in many other ways too, and we continue to explore how we can advocate for them and enhance their collective impact.

One of our objectives has always been to help charities with their ambitions to become more effective, sustainable, and responsive to local needs. In this review we highlight the challenges for communities in the extensive coastal areas of Essex.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, this year we have paid grants totalling £4.4 million to support a wide range of charities working at the heart of their local communities. We remain keen not only to help charities expand and develop their work, but also to provide financial support towards their core costs. We know just how important this can be.



People are at the heart of our work, whether it is supporting initiatives to keep them safe or helping them to achieve their full potential. In this review we share heartwarming stories on these topics and show how we are keeping individual memories alive following generous gifts left to us in wills. We also write on pages 18-19 about our approach to our work, embracing sound environmental, social and good governance principles.

The challenges faced by our communities are forever evolving, but with your continued support we are confident that we can adapt and thrive, making Essex an even better place to live and work.

On behalf of the Foundation, I express my deep gratitude to our fundholders and donors, our volunteers, Trustees and staff team, led by Caroline. You are the "Essex Community Foundation family". Together with our friends and colleagues across the voluntary sector we are making a difference in our local communities, and I am excited to see what more we can accomplish in the year ahead.

Nick Alston



Listening to our communities

To be truly effective we must be responsive to grassroots issues and accountable to communities. Independent research is the basis of our Community Listening Projects (CLPs) and helps us to understand local needs. This insight ensures that our grants are easy to access and allows us to consider what further help we can provide.

Our projects to date have been key to us delivering our current five year strategy and responding to the unprecedented events of the past few years.

Our CLPs review existing data and commission new research to uncover the key challenges faced by the voluntary sector in Essex and the local people they support.

Our latest CLP focuses on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the preceding pandemic. It has highlighted the importance of a strong and flexible voluntary sector and the crucial role it plays as a partner to the health sector and to local authorities, helping to deliver community services from prevention and early intervention to mitigating the impact of crisis.

“By regularly listening to what local charities and groups say about their experiences, we can better understand how we can help them. Charities and groups will feel the impact of the cost-of-living crisis for many years to come. The time to effectively invest in our communities is now.

Andy Payne Worpole, Head of Programmes at ECF

Our latest CLP highlighted the need to:

- Encourage funders and commissioners to treat the cost-of-living crisis as seriously as the pandemic.
- Improve the ease and accessibility to funding, recognising that staff and volunteer time is a valuable resource best spent working with communities as opposed to writing bids.
- Implement responsible commissioning practices that consider the true costs associated with delivery services, including the fair and reasonable compensation of staff.
- Ensure the availability of information and resources relating to the emotional and financial well-being of staff and volunteers within the sector.

What organisations said they are experiencing:	What we have done:
Higher costs and lower income due to increasing bills and demand, a reduction in public and corporate giving, and scarcity of funding.	We gave over £200,000 in cost-of-living one-off uplift payments to 205 organisations to help with the impact of higher inflation.
Volunteer capacity is challenging with people needing to return to paid employment to help cover rising bills.	We awarded more grants this year to support the core running costs of organisations than for projects. We shared these concerns with our fundholders to ensure they understood the importance of supporting running costs, including volunteer expenses and salaries.
Emergency funding is often limited to immediate need. Issues go beyond heating and eating, as the crisis has also increased challenges around social isolation, mental health and housing.	We awarded unrestricted funding and ensured our emergency funds criteria were not limiting, instead focusing on covering running costs so they could respond to the crisis as groups saw fit.
Increased volume and complexity of demand, resulting in unexpected expenses, higher running costs and challenges to their capacity.	We offered all grant partners the opportunity to extend their existing grant timelines to give them time to focus on short-term solutions.
Staff were being distracted from carrying out their work because they had to spend more time applying for funding to meet financial shortfalls.	We streamlined our online application so groups could spend less time writing bids and instead carry out their good work.

How we have helped

Giving vital support

3food4u, in Epping Forest, saw demand for people needing to access free food increase by over 50%. They received £5,000 to help cover their rent.



Building community cohesion

Colchester Mercury Theatre were concerned they would need to cut back on their community-focused projects to help reduce costs. A grant of £8,975 helped them to continue an

intergenerational choir for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. They also host creative monthly groups where people can take part in games.



Meeting immediate needs

Homelessness is on the rise as more people are unable to afford their rent or their mortgage, putting charities tackling this issue under strain. During the year, we supported the running costs of the Southend homeless charity, **HARP**, with £3,000.

Their newly built 56-bed Bluebird development helps people find stability and live comfortably while they engage with support services. There is also an on-site educational centre that offers residents training opportunities to help them towards independence.



What groups are telling us:

- 96% had experienced increases in running costs, in particular essential supplies and utility bills.
- 81% had noticed a decline in income; most of all from grant funding, followed by public giving and corporate giving.
- 77% of organisations had to take negative action, such as making redundancies, using reserves, or suspending services.
- 84% said the volume of demand for their services had increased, with 78% saying that people's needs had grown in complexity.

These figures are from our recent cost-of-living survey with 273 completed surveys, providing a 45% response rate.



Giving support where it is needed most

SNAP (Special Needs and Parents), Brentwood



It has been an especially difficult time for those with physical difficulties and for people who were already struggling with their mental health or finances.

Our independent Community Listening Project highlighted how the issues around 'heating and eating' were significantly impacting communities. It also highlighted problems with physical health, mental health, social isolation and housing.

The project noted that people were finding it harder to access health services, secure appropriate housing, maintain nutritionally balanced diets, afford prescriptions and participate in community life.

Organisations told us that the resulting hunger, loneliness, poor living conditions, ill health and stress had contributed to poorer mental health and increased substance misuse, addiction and anti-social behaviour in their community.

This year we gave grants totalling £4.4 million to help charities respond to local issues and provide greater support to their communities. Here we share some examples.

Harlow Citizens Advice Bureau revealed in their application to us that 80% of their referrals came from GPs who had patients experiencing stress-related illnesses due to intense financial worries.

Alpha Vesta, based in Brentwood, shared that 73% of women living with, or who have financial links with an abuser, said that the increased cost-of-living had either prevented them from leaving or made it harder for them to do so.

“Charities are to society what bees are to the environment. Everyone in society benefits from charities, just like we do from bees. Who will feed people in need if our foodbanks close? Who will give advice and support if our Citizens Advice can't continue? Who will shelter the abused if our refuges shut their doors? Who will ensure dignity in dying for your loved ones if we have no hospices?”

Caron Bradshaw OBE,
Chief Executive of Charity
Finance Group

Tackling hygiene poverty

Community Embrace, based in Harlow, offers a wide range of support to local people including access to free essential items, community events that build cohesion and a safe space for people to meet and socialise.

The organisation recently added a 'hygiene bank' to its services, giving away items such as deodorant, body wash, shampoo and more. They introduced the service after noticing that "people were avoiding seeing friends and teenagers were skipping school because of the shame and embarrassment they felt about their appearance."



Addressing social isolation

Rising bills mean that people have less money to spend on things that make life enjoyable. For many older people, who have no means to increase their income, this sadly means they are missing out on social opportunities.

Re-engage offers telephone befriending and group meet-ups to people aged 75 and over. They received £2,722 for work in Tendring. In the words of one older person: "I would not have coped very well without Re-engage. They have become close friends and have helped me in every way possible: mentally, and through their companionships in person or on the phone."



Mental health

A family with a disabled child pays around £581 more each month to have the same standard of living as a family with a non-disabled child. Understandably, this is having an impact on the mental health of families, many of whom are very worried about the current financial climate.

SNAP provides activities and support to Brentwood families who have children with special needs. They saw these concerns among their beneficiaries and received £5,000 to increase the counselling they provide to young people, their parents and siblings.

Read more stories about our grants in the supplement and on our website essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Community spotlight

The challenges of coastal living



David Hurst DL
Chair of Southend
Community
Fund panel

People who live in Essex have a precious asset within their reach: one of the longest coastlines in England. Stretching over 350 miles, the Essex coast embraces fascinating and historic towns and important countryside.

Living by the seaside can be idyllic, but for some it can pose challenges including isolation, a shortage of employment, lack of good transport links and sparse local services.

Many charities and voluntary organisations, led by local volunteers, have a close involvement with the places where they are based and in which they serve, and this means they can understand and help meet local needs.

David Hurst DL has been a member of the **Southend Community Fund** panel (SCF) for nearly two decades. He is the current chair of the panel, and he is always the first to praise his coastal hometown.

We work with David, and other members of the panel, all of whom are residents, to make decisions on grants. Since SCF was set up in 2001 it has awarded nearly £500,000 to support a wide range of local charities, voluntary groups and projects in Southend-on-Sea.

David said, "Southend is great, and I love living here, but there are definitely areas needing support.

"The Southend Community Fund is a unique financial resource where residents are encouraged to channel

“The fund is such an asset for Southend, providing support for local charities and organisations and I am proud of what has been achieved since it was set up.

Peter Croysdill, Founder and President of SCF

- The number of children living in poverty in Southend is 20.6%, compared to 15.4% in the rest of Essex.
- The cost-of-living crisis has led to a widening in inequalities for a fifth of all children in the city.

their giving locally, and charities and community groups can apply for support year-on-year. It is a legacy for Southend-on-Sea and this is something I am keen to continue building.

"It's my ambition to grow SCF to a capital value of £10 million over the next four years. We want to raise awareness of it even more so locally and encourage people to give to it, and for solicitors to use money that lies dormant and put it to good use.

"Working with ECF has been a great success as they do all the administration for the Fund and assess all the applications from local groups to make sure that the money is spent correctly, where it is needed. It also means that the groups can access other funds that ECF manages."

Support for refugees

Unpuzzled Theatre Company, based in Westcliff-on-Sea, received £2,800 for a programme of work that welcomed Ukrainian refugees and helped them integrate into their new communities.

Working with the refugees, they adapted a traditional Ukrainian folktale into an interactive theatre workshop, which children, young people and families could learn and perform. This supported community cohesion, as it helped them learn English and make new friends.



Helping people in need

Southend Foodbank provides emergency food parcels and additional support for local people. They help families on a low income, people in debt and those facing homelessness.

A grant of £4,000 has helped them buy a van for transporting food parcels to their eight distribution centres, which are run by over 100 volunteers.



Keeping people safe

Each year on average, 312 people in the UK lose their lives through accidental drowning. **Chalkwell Lifeguards** provide a Beach Patrol and Rescue service and they received £2,750 to buy and upgrade their life-saving equipment to help them keep residents and visitors safe along Southend's foreshore.

Scan the QR code to make a donation to the Southend Community Fund or contact Perry Norton on 01245 355947.



Investing in safer communities

The Essex Police Proceeds of Crime Matched Funding Scheme (POCA) was set up with us in 2014 and is unique in the UK.

Each year Essex Police donates £75,000 to the Scheme, money that comes from the sale of criminals' assets. We use this as matched funding to incentivise local giving and increase the support for local charities and voluntary groups.

Since 2014, we have given grants totalling **£275,000** from the funds established with POCA match. These funds currently have a combined value of over **£1.2 million**.

B-J Harrington, Chief Constable at Essex Police, said, "We have been amazed by the ongoing success of the POCA Scheme with ECF and the generosity of those who have set up funds.

"Essex Police is committed to supporting local charities and voluntary groups in making our county a better and safer place to live. Through the POCA Scheme and by working with ECF we are pleased that criminals' assets are being turned into something positive and are helping our communities to tackle crime in Essex and support those who are affected by it."



Chief Constable B-J Harrington speaking at the High Sheriffs' Awards.

Charities making a difference

This year we gave grants totalling £171,892 to community safety projects. These included support for victims of modern slavery, diversionary activities for young people at risk and counselling for women and children who have survived domestic abuse.

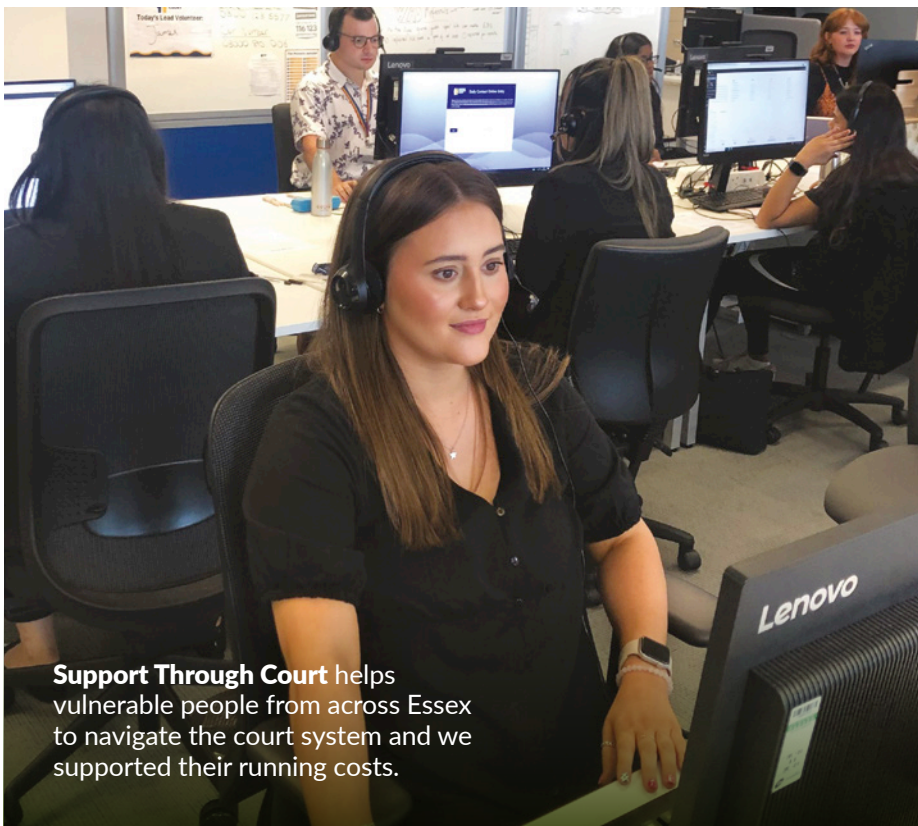


The Power of Gaming project is run by Maldon and District CVS. They received £5,000 to run weekly sessions that help young people learn about personal safety while online.



The Knife Angel sculpture is 27-feet tall and constructed from 100,000 confiscated or surrendered weapons. The sculpture, which travels around the country, was hosted by Chelmsford during the year.

We provided **Chelmsford CVS** and **Keep It 100 Essex** with a grant of £2,500 to deliver associated awareness raising workshops, which educated young people about the implications of carrying a weapon.



Support Through Court helps vulnerable people from across Essex to navigate the court system and we supported their running costs.

Nick Alston CBE DL, High Sheriff, presenting the High Sheriffs' Shield to St Vincent de Paul Society for their work helping people who are homeless in Southend-on-Sea.



High Sheriffs' Fund

We were pleased to work with our Chair, Nick Alston CBE DL, when he took on the role of the 842nd High Sheriff of Essex for 2022-23.

Trophies, certificates and £38,000 in grants were presented to groups at the annual High Sheriffs' Awards, which was supported by Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. BBC Essex also broadcast live from the venue, giving a wider platform where groups could share their brilliant work.

Nick handed over the role of High Sheriff to Charles Bishop in April 2023.

“Essex is a wonderfully diverse county, and I had a brilliant year getting out and about to meet as many people as I could during my time in office. I was keen to raise the profile of volunteers and how much they contribute to our county. I hope that my presence helped to draw attention to their important work and the issues they are tackling.”

Nick Alston CBE DL

Giving through us

Each new fund set up with us by an individual, a family, a company or a public agency, is tailored to meet the founders' wishes and to meet needs in the local community.

We manage around 180 charitable funds, some with a geographical focus, others directed to a particular area of interest, such as children and families, social isolation or mental health.

The stories behind all our funds and the reasons why people work with us are as different as the donors themselves, and you can read about many of these on our website. Here we have highlighted two new fundholders who started working with us this year.

A new family fund

The Donovan Family Fund has been set up by Kate Barker and her son Ralph. Kate has an in-depth understanding of our work as she was an ECF Trustee from 2011 to 2018.

Kate, an economist, has an impressive CV. She was Chief Economic Adviser at the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) and has been a Member of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. She has led two major policy reviews for Government, on housing supply and on land use planning. It was for her contribution to housing and the economy that she was appointed a CBE and awarded a Damehood.



Kate grew up in Stoke-on-Trent, but we are pleased that after many years of living in Essex, she and Ralph feel connected to our county and wanted to make a difference by setting up a Fund with us.

“I have come to value Essex for the vital and varied place it is. Being a Trustee for ECF opened my eyes to so much good support work that is done across the county, and more sadly, to the need for it.

The experience of COVID-19 reminded many of us of how tough and debilitating loneliness can be. Young and old can experience this for different reasons. The need for a friendly face or word can be acute. It seems a vital moment to give a helping hand.

Dame Kate Barker CBE



A new corporate fund

We worked with National Highways to give £250,000 in grants from the **Lower Thames Crossing Community Fund (LTC)** to support 40 projects in Thurrock, Essex and Havering along the route of the development.

The **Friends of Dagenham Park** received a grant to enhance the park for local people to enjoy.

Working with professional advisers

Our regular networking events for professional advisers who advise clients on estate planning, wills, probate and tax, continue to be very popular. Held at venues around Essex they are a great opportunity to understand how we can work together to help people achieve their charitable goals.

If you are a professional adviser who would like to learn more about how we work or join our events, please call Perry Norton on 01245 355947 or email perry@essexcf.org.uk.

Working with our existing fundholders

It is a privilege to manage the funds set up by our donors. By engaging with them throughout the year, guiding them through the process to support applications and sharing stories about the impact of their grantmaking, we hope to inspire them to continue giving.

During the year, our existing fundholders added donations totalling nearly **£760,000** to their funds. One of the largest additional donations we received this year was a **gift of shares**.

The process to gift shares is straightforward and one of the most tax-effective ways to make a charitable gift as you don't have to pay any capital gains tax on the shares you donate, and you can claim income tax relief too.

If you would like to make a gift of shares to establish or top up your fund with us, please email Catherine Burton catherine@essexcf.org.uk.

“Increasingly, my clients are talking to me about the different ways they can leave a gift to charity in their wills. These events are a great opportunity to talk to other advisers who are having similar conversations and listen to the different ways that ECF can help our clients achieve their varied charitable goals.

Ann Coutts, Ellisons Solicitors



Every donation makes a difference

There are lots of ways that you can give to your local community through us:

Gift shares, land or buildings

Give a single or regular donation to our Acorn Fund

Leave a legacy by including us in your will

Set up your own charitable fund

Give to one of our existing funds

Our **Guide to Giving** will answer some of your questions and is available to read and download on our website essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk. Alternatively, please call us on 01245 355947.



Leave a gift in your will to help people in Essex

It is estimated that of the 75% of people who give to charity in their lifetime, only 7% leave a gift to charity in their will.

By leaving 10% of your estate to charity, you will benefit from a reduction in Inheritance Tax from 40% to 36%.

Including us as a beneficiary is a meaningful way to leave a lasting legacy and support the causes that are close to your heart.

Your gift will last for many years to come and there are tax incentives when you give to charity in this way. If this interests you, a good place to start is by talking to your professional adviser, or we would be happy to talk through your ideas with you.

Here are two stories about people who, after talking through their wishes with their solicitor, left us generous, but quite different, bequests this year.

Barbara Huntley Legacy

Barbara lived in Boreham and was aged 89 when she died on 5 February 2022. Not much is known about her early life, except that she was born in Hornchurch and lived in Barkingside and South Woodford. Around the age of 32 she went to work for Pember and Boyle in London as a stockbrokers' clerk. It was during her time there that she met Stan Huntley, a stockbrokers' messenger, and they married in 1991.

Sadly, Stan died in 1998 and although he had children from a previous marriage, Barbara did not have her own children. Following discussions with her solicitor, Barbara decided that, after making some provisions for members of the family, her residuary estate would come to us to support charities helping children, especially those of pre-school age.



“Barbara always enjoyed life. Even in her older years she had a great sense of humour and was such good fun to be with. She exuded warmth and calm and people just gravitated towards her. I am pleased that after making provision for members of her family, the residuary of her estate, donated to ECF, will ensure that local charities continue to benefit from her generosity.”

*Fiona Ashworth,
Thompson Smith and Puxon*

Dr Geoffrey Sneed Engineering Fund



Geoffrey lived in Ilford, in the house his parents had bought and where he grew up. He was a clever student with an aptitude for maths, science and engineering. After graduating from Imperial College, London, he continued his studies with a PhD. He went on to teach physics, maths, chemistry and applied sciences at Ealing High School for 15 years and pioneered the teaching of the latter at sixth form level by helping to create the first purpose-built laboratory and unique experimental equipment installed in a state grammar school.

He was also a research director at the University of Surrey and held appointments at the Science Museum and Imperial College. In 1979 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship by The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, and with this he travelled all over the world, where he studied the teaching of science.

Among Geoffrey's notable contributions was inventing a pulsometer, which was much needed in the medical world

and is still in use today. He also formed the Molecule Club, under which many schoolchildren were brought to the Mermaid Theatre in London to see a musical show covering scientific principles and which also travelled in a caravan to schools in the Midlands.

Cars held a special place in Geoffrey's heart, and he was associated with the motor industry all his life, using his knowledge of science and engineering to write many books on motoring, its history and inventions. His pride and joy was a red 1969 Morris Oxford, which he drove off the assembly line and meticulously maintained throughout his life.

When he died, Geoffrey had no family to leave his estate to. Given his significant contribution to learning and education, it is no surprise, therefore, that when his solicitor proposed the idea of setting up a charitable fund, in his name, to support the education of young people in the subjects that he was so passionate about, he agreed without hesitation.

“When talking to my clients about their estate planning, we discuss any charitable interests they may have. If it is appropriate, I am always pleased to suggest including ECF as a beneficiary. In my view, they are best placed to continue the wishes of my clients and this provides a lot of comfort for them, knowing they will continue to help others after their death.”

Fiona Ashworth, Thompson Smith and Puxon

Types of legacy

- **A residuary legacy:** a gift made from the remainder of your estate once all other bequests to family and friends have been made and debts paid off. This can be a percentage of the remainder, or all of it.
- **A pecuniary legacy:** a fixed amount specified in a will.
- **A specific legacy:** a particular item left as a gift in your will, for example, shares, property, jewellery or a painting.
- **A reversionary legacy:** allows the surviving partner to benefit from the estate during their lifetime, and then for the balance of the estate to pass to the Foundation.

We can help you to leave a legacy for your community

No matter what you want to achieve with your charitable giving, we have different options that make it easy for you to support a wide range of local voluntary organisations that are working at the centre of our communities.

Find out more on our website:



Request a copy of our legacy leaflet.

Helping people achieve their full potential



We have a small number of charitable funds that support people where finance is the barrier to them achieving their full potential or where they need help to overcome hardship.

Wherever possible, we work in partnership with charities, schools and other organisations to identify those who may benefit from support. This year we gave grants totalling **£185,958** to **131** individuals.

These grants have helped with the cost of education or training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, the arts, or sports. Additionally, they have provided opportunities to learn new skills and given support to those experiencing financial hardship, physical or mental health issues.

Main picture: Rio Rogers is 18 and lives in Pitsea. He has autism and received £2,546 from the **Full Potential Programme, Essex and Southend Sports Charitable Fund** and **Annabel and Gerald Malton Charitable Fund** to train and compete at the Para British Championships.

Education

The average university student now graduates with £57,000 in debt. Student finance and maintenance loans are helpful, but they are not always enough to cover additional items such as books and equipment.

Harry Donegan is an aspiring young physicist from Colchester. A grant of £750 from the **Salter McKinlay Charitable Fund** is helping with course-related expenses while he studies physics at Lancaster University.

Harry's mum died of cancer when he was just six years old. He, and his brother Alfie, were brought up by their dad, who worked two jobs. Harry went to the Gilbert School in Colchester, near his home, and after achieving excellent GCSE results he was offered a place at the Colchester Royal Grammar School. He is now completing a Masters at Lancaster University and wants to continue his studies with a PhD.

Arts

Having achieved his Grade 8 clarinet at just 16, **Nathan Quilter** from Canvey Island is now a regular member of the Essex Youth Orchestra, Essex Youth Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Aldeburgh Young Musicians and volunteers with the Essex Marching Corps. He has gained a place to study at the Royal College of Music (RCM) where he will further his skills and after which he intends to pursue a career as a musician.

We gave Nathan £1,500 from the **Belinda Starling Memorial Fund** to help pay accommodation and equipment costs while studying at the RCM.





Sports

The average cost for a family to fund a young person's sporting ambition is £7,100 a year. For many families, this is beyond their means and their only option is to look for funding elsewhere.

At just 13 years old, **Evie Knaapen** is a rising young table tennis star. She was the England No 1 for under 11s, is currently England No 4 for under 13s, and she has her sights set on competing at the Commonwealth Games.

Evie lives with her parents and siblings in Southend-on-Sea, and they support her as much as they can, but costs are becoming increasingly expensive. We gave her £2,000 from the **Annabel and Gerald Malton Charitable Fund** and the **Essex and Southend Sports Charitable Fund** to help with training and travel costs for competitions.

“Evie’s talent was obvious from a young age, so we kept pursuing it. Getting to the top is one thing, staying there is another. We are very grateful for the grant as it has helped us to provide Evie with the training and competition opportunities she needs.

Pascal, Evie’s dad



Physical health

Over half of families who have a child with a disability say that extra associated costs are only partly covered by their disability benefits.

Isabella Damree is eight years old and has cerebral palsy having suffered a stroke at birth that affected the left side of her brain and the right side of her body.

A grant of £5,200 will pay for physical therapy sessions, which will help Isabella to gain strength so she can stand independently and learn to walk.

If you know someone who has an exceptional talent or may be a future young leader and finance is the barrier to them achieving their full potential, please contact us on **01245 355947**.

A responsible approach to environmental, social and governance issues



Environmental

Quality and functioning of the natural environment

Social

Rights, well-being and interests of people and communities

Governance

Management and principles both internally and externally

During the year we continued to build on our **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)** approach. We have embedded ESG into our Trustee Board meetings and in each of our Trustee working groups, with the Chair of each group ensuring ESG remains a priority and is reported back to the Board.

For us, ESG issues recognise the importance of caring for the environment, addressing social inequity and the need for good governance across all that we do.

Key points

- We are continuing an in-depth review of our investment policy to take greater account of ESG issues in order that they can inform our investment portfolio and other areas of work. We will undertake further work with our fund managers on ESG and responsible/sustainable investment reporting to ensure that our endowment investments reflect our ESG criteria.

This year, we noted ESG within our Finance and Investment Committee risk register. In addition, our Trustees and staff attended workshops to consider potential investment exclusions. These sessions explored issues including our aims and objectives, who our stakeholders are, and the legal and regulatory framework for charity investments.

- We remain a signatory to the Living Wage and the Funder Commitment on Climate Change.
- Our grantmaking is tagged to 12 published UN Sustainable Development Goals which help to inform our work further.
- We have a continued focus on managing environmental factors within our office building, which was designed with heating and cooling systems and insulation for maximum energy efficiency.

Our values

We are **accountable** to our community, donors and funders, by being transparent in all our communications and activities.

We remain committed to being an organisation that is **approachable** to donors, grant recipients and strategic partners alike.

We encourage and support **innovation**; recognising that needs are best tackled through the independent and creative determination of people.

We act with **integrity** and **professionalism** at all times.

We are **responsible** for all we do and have regard to environmental impact, social issues and good governance relating to ourselves and our investments, our donors and our partners, and our grantees/beneficiaries.

Building stronger communities

We tag our grantmaking to 12 published UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we use this data to inform our work.

While this is a global approach with a wide agenda, local giving plays an important part in helping to tackle poverty and other deprivations. This includes improving health and education, and reducing inequality, alongside supporting activities that help to tackle climate change and preserve our planet for future generations.

SDGs	Applications
Climate Action	2
Decent Work and Economic Growth	30
Gender Equality	4
Good Health and Well-being	262
Industry Innovation and Infrastructure	9
Life on Land	2
No Poverty	21
Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	8
Quality Education	61
Reduced Inequalities	45
Sustainable Cities and Communities	70
Zero Hunger	42
Total	556



Reduced inequalities

Phab Life runs a café in Leigh-on-Sea that helps young people with additional needs to gain valuable work experience and hospitality training. They received £8,000 jointly from the **Southend Community Fund**, **Coombeewood Amenity Fund** and **Maypole House Charitable Fund**.

“Over the past year, we have seen 12 of our young people complete the programme and either go on to paid employment or other working opportunities. We have also built up a social network group with regular activities to help the young people to create lasting friendships.

*Sandra Howarth,
Trustee Phab Life*

Sustainable cities and communities

Bradwell-on-Sea Community Shop was awarded £4,712 from the **Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund** to create a small self-service café inside the shop. Based in a rural community, the café is now a focal point where local people meet, and hosts a parent and toddler group.

“We now employ a full-time manager, from the village, to run the shop and the Post Office and we have over 30 fabulous volunteers who run the store on a shift basis and keep the shop open seven days a week.

Rachael Smith, Manager



Promoting good health and well-being

Great Yeldham Men's Shed received £6,000 from **Essex Rural Fund** to help set up and start their work. We have funded several men's sheds across the county, all of which

promote positive mental well-being by providing a safe place where men can talk about personal issues while making new friends, sharing skills and learning new hobbies.

Thank you!



We are extremely grateful to everyone who has donated to funds we manage, or supported activities and events organised by others. It is thanks to the people who give generously that we can support a wide range of charities and local groups to continue or further their work.

Birketts LLP hosted a 'Soup Event' at Hylands House in Chelmsford, which was attended by many local businesses. The focus was on the importance of the voluntary sector in Essex. Four local charities were invited to talk to guests about their work, which was a great way to raise awareness, and each charity received a donation at the end of the evening.



The Priest Foundation received many donations thanks to the huge effort by Aron Priest and friends, who for one of their fundraisers cycled 160 miles across the Alps, climbing 10,000 feet over four days. Aron, who lives in Rayleigh, set up his Fund to support people experiencing mental health issues in Southend-on-Sea and Rochford.



Around 80 walkers joined the annual **Essex Rural Fund** walk. This year's event was a six mile stroll from Manningtree Station, through the Stour Valley and back to Rivers Hall in Boxted.

“Our huge thanks to the **Real8** team who organised an excellent golf day. We are grateful to all the companies who sponsored holes and took part, raising an amazing amount of money that will help us save and improve the lives of **Essex heart patients**.

Dr Gerald Clesham, Consultant Cardiologist at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford and the Essex Cardiothoracic Centre, and EHF founder.



Real8 Group, a chartered town planning, quantity surveying and project management company, organised an enjoyable charity golf day in Chelmsford and raised over £10,000 for **Essex Heart Fund**.



Lots of events and activities have been organised by **Charlie's Champions** this year, raising money for the **Charlie Watkins Foundation**. These included an annual 5-a-side football tournament hosted by AlescoDA, a sponsored skydive and a cycle ride from Lands End to John o'Groats.

A big thank you to our Members, those who give regularly to us or other funds we manage, and to those who established new funds during the year. Together we are making a real difference in our communities.

Mrs Margaret Ainsley
Mr & Mrs John Aldridge
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Alston
Mr James Appleby
Mrs Karin Arora
Mrs Fiona Ashworth
Mr Richard Bailey
Mr & Mrs Alan Ball
Dame Kate Barker CBE
Mr John Barnes
Mr Jason Bartella
Mr & Mrs Frank Bengtson
Mr Adrian Biggs
Birkett Long LLP
Birketts LLP
Mr Charles Bishop
Mr Peter Blanc
Mr & Mrs John Bolingbroke
Mr Jonathan Bond
Sir Jeffery & Lady Bowman
Mr David Boyle
Brentwood CVS
Mr Bryan Burrough DL
Miss Lucy Burton
Butler Educational
Foundation
Mr George Capon
Castle Point Borough
Council
Mr Bernard Chalk
Chelmsford City Council
Chelmsford Cultural
Development Trust
Chelmsford Star Co-op
Mr Roy Clare
Mr & Mrs Charles Clark
Mrs Jane Collier
Communities and Sanctuary
Seekers Together
Mr & Mrs George Courtauld
Cubico Sustainable
Investments Ltd
Ms Gail Cunningham

Mrs Jill Curd
D J H Currie Memorial Trust
Mr David Davies
Dedham Vale AONB and
Stour Valley Project
Diocese of Chelmsford
Mr Peter Donovan
Mr Graham Doubtfire
Douglas Allen Estate Agents
Earls Hall Wind Farm Ltd
East of England Co-op
Mr Jonathan Ecclestone
Mr & Mrs Russell Edey
Mrs Gay Edwards
Ellisons Legal LLP
Mr Robert Erith
Essex and Southend
Sports Trust
Essex Boys' and Girls' Clubs
Essex County Council
Essex Police
Col Stephen Foakes
Ford Dunton Technical &
Engineering Centre
Mr Michael Fowle
Ms Lara Fox
Frank Litchfield General
Charitable Trust
Mr & Mrs Timothy Gallagher
Mr & Mrs Richard Garside
Mr Philip George
Mr & Mrs Peter Glossop
Mrs Carole Golbourn
Mr Anthony Gold
Mr Charles Gooch
Mr & Mrs Patrick Griggs
Mrs Sue Gull
Mr Simon Hall
Harlow Council
Estate of Jean Harper
Ms Natalie Hawkes
Mr & Mrs Roger Heath
Mr Jeremy Hill

Mrs Caroline Hoare
Sir Michael Hodgkinson
Mr & Mrs Bill Hollis
Mr & Mrs Norman Hume
Mrs Jane Humphreys
Estate of Barbara Huntley
Ms Margaret Hyde
InterAct Chelmsford Ltd
John Laing Charitable Trust
Joseph and Lilian Sully
Foundation
Mr Benjamin Lamers
Mr & Mrs Keith MacDonald
Mr Bruce MacWillson
Mr & Mrs Gerald Malton
Mr & Mrs Atul Manek
Mrs Angela Marks
Mr David Martin
Masonic Charitable
Foundation
Mr Andrew May
Mersea Homes Limited
Mid and South Essex NHS
Foundation Trust
Milsom Hotels
Mr Jonathan Minter
Mr Ben Minter
National Highways
Dr Ann Naylor
Mr Douglas Nichols
Office of the Police, Fire
and Crime Commissioner
for Essex
Mrs Gaye Orford
Mr & Mrs Robert Overall
Ms Ann Owen
Mr Christopher Palmer-
Tomkinson
Mrs Julia Peel
Lord Petre
Mr & Mrs Val Poter
Mrs Rhiannedd Pratley
Mr Hywel Pratley
Provide

Renew Counselling
Mr Owen Richards
Rickard Luckin
Mr & Mrs John Robinson
Roman Kitchens
Mr Brian Roscoe
RSM
RUB White Charitable Trust
Rural Community Council
of Essex
RWE
Saffron Building Society
Mr & Mrs Amrik Sandhu
Scrutton Bland
Mr Stephen Shea
Mr Colin Sivell
Estate of Geoffrey Sneed
Mr & Mrs John Spence
Mr Jeremy Squier
Mr John Stanger
Mr Antony Stark
Mr & Mrs David Starling
Teledyne e2v
TFP Financial Planning
The Dulverton Trust
Col Charles Thomas
Mr & Mrs Robin Thurgood
Tolhurst Fisher
Turncole Wind Farm Ltd
Mrs Rosemary Turner
Mrs Kay Twitchen
Mr Tim Watkins
Dr & Mrs Alastair West
Dr & Mrs James Whiteaway
Wilkin & Sons Ltd
Louise Willsher
Mr & Mrs Haydon Yates

Our team

Staff

Caroline Taylor
Chief Executive

Zoe Brampton
Grants Officer

Catherine Burton
Head of Finance

Kate Dawes
Communications
Manager

Dee Davies
Executive Assistant

Adeola Dosunmu
Grants Officer

Lisa Green
Grants and
Programmes
Administrator

Tracy Hardy
Finance Officer

Maria Kravchuk
Grants Administrator

Jo Macaulay
Head of
Communications

Steven Mackenzie
Head of Operations

Perry Norton
Head of Development

Andy Payne Worpole
Head of Programmes

Frankie Webb-Huseyin
Grants Officer

Fran Wright
Programmes Officer

VOLUNTEERS

Lorraine Brooks
Andrew Clarke
Anne Fitzgerald
Barbara Garside

Trustee Board (as at 30 June 2023)

Nicholas Alston CBE DL	Chair Former Senior Civil Servant; High Sheriff of Essex 2022-23
Charles Bishop	Chair, Finance and Investment Committee Former Partner and Chief Administrative Officer, Cazenove
Gemma Cartwright	Association of Charitable Foundations
Gail Cunningham	Former Head of Investment Learning, Association of Charitable Foundations
Emma Goode	Managing Director, 24Fingers
Simon Hall MBE DL	Chair, Grants and Programmes Committee Former Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP; High Sheriff of Essex 2017/18
Sandra Hollis	Chair, Fund Development Committee Former Global Accounts Manager, Reuters Ltd; Former Pro Vice-Chancellor, Anglia Ruskin University
Soumya Krishna Kumar	Quantitative Trader, Susquehanna International Group LLP (SIG)
Atul Manek	Former CFO and COO, Insight Investment
Ben Minter	Portfolio Director – Charities, Cazenove Capital
Claire Read	Company Secretary Chair, Governance and Compliance Committee Partner, Birkett Long LLP
Jo Wells	Former Director, The Blgrave Trust

Co-opted Committee Members

Rae Brooks	Finance and Investment Committee
Russell Edey	Finance and Investment Committee
Dan Haylett	Fund Development Committee

Patron

Jennifer Tolhurst	The Lord-Lieutenant of Essex
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President

Lord Petre JP KCVO

Vice Presidents

Dame Kate Barker CBE	Non-Exec Director, Man Group plc; Trustee Chair, Universities Superannuation Scheme
Jason Bartella	Managing Director, Heritage Leisure Group
Dr Jerome Booth	Economist; Chairman of New Sparta Asset Management
David Boyle JP DL	High Sheriff 2002/03
Charles Clark OBE QPM DL	Chairman, Essex Police Museum Trust
Giles Coode-Adams OBE DL	High Sheriff 2000/01; President of RHS 2006-2008
George Courtauld OBE DL	President, Rural Community Council of Essex; President of EWAG; President of SSAFA (Essex)
Robert Erith TD DL	President, Dedham Vale Society
The Right Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani	Bishop of Chelmsford
Ben-Julian Harrington QPM	Chief Constable, Essex Police
Rupert Marks DL	Chairman of Pioneer Sailing Trust
Jonathan Minter FRCGP DL	ECF Chairman 2013-2018
John Spence CBE DL	Councillor and Cabinet Member ECC; Member of Anglia Ruskin University Philanthropic Foundation; Member Chelmsford Cathedral Council; Chairman Spicer Haart Group
David Starling	ECF Fundholder

Financial highlights

	2022/2023	2021/2022
Total income:	£5,333,896	£5,375,133
Endowment Funds:	£46,200,003	£44,919,172
Donations to Endowed Funds:	£2,678,724	£1,866,332
Donations to Restricted Funds and Grants:	£1,359,155	£2,361,670
Other Income (including investment income):	£1,296,017	£1,147,131
The total cost of running the organisation:	£960,639	£762,261
Total unrestricted reserves:	£1,462,060	£1,517,300
Value of grants paid from Flow-through donations:	£1,545,749	£1,914,779
Value of grants paid from Endowment donations:	£2,881,617	£2,507,343
Total grants paid in the year:	£4,427,366	£4,422,122

Auditors	Haysmacintyre LLP
Bankers	Handelsbanken PLC
Investments	CCLA Investment Management Ltd; Rathbones (Incorporating Investec Wealth & Investment); Liontrust
Payroll	Streets Whittles LLP
Solicitors	Birkett Long LLP

Our audited Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022/2023 incorporating the auditor's report, will be available to download from our website after our Annual General Meeting on 23 November 2023. To request a hard copy please contact Catherine Burton, Head of Finance, on 01245 355947 or by email to catherine@essexcf.org.uk.



Jonny Minter, ECF Vice President and fundholder and his wife, Margaret, visit the Men's Shed they host on their farm in North Essex. There are around 25 Men's or Community Sheds in Essex, providing a place where people can have a cup of tea and talk, share experiences, learn new skills, create, fix and rebuild items.



Join in and help us make a difference



Please give now

- **Give online** through Enthuse.
- **Donate by card** over the phone, by calling us on **01245 355947**.
- **Send a cheque** to Essex Community Foundation at 3 Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford, CM1 1GU.
- **Speak to us** to make a donation by bank transfer or to set up a regular gift.

Among the many local charities we supported to improve lives in Essex is **St Helena Hospice**. One of their patients always enjoyed visits to the seaside so they brought the beach to her, complete with sand, pie and mash, and even a rescue donkey called Sam.



Essex Community Foundation
3 Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1GU
Tel: 01245 355947
Email: hello@essexcf.org.uk
essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Essex Community Foundation
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