



Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund

A fund established by Mills & Reeve managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, offering grants to local charities and community groups.

Introduction

Set up in December 2008, the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund makes small grants to support small, local voluntary and community groups and organisations that are undertaking charitable work in Cambridgeshire.

This newsletter describes the most recent round of grants awarded and includes highlights from the feedback submitted by previous grant recipients.

The Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund is managed, along with a range of other community funds, by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (www.cambscf.org.uk).

Fund criteria

Grants are given to projects helping people that face disadvantage and to projects that engage and support local people, and therefore build stronger, healthier, more inclusive and sustainable communities.

The fund focuses around five core themes... children, young people and families; adults facing a life crisis; the natural environment; community development and engagement, and health.

Latest Projects Supported



Relate Cambridge offers emotional support to children, young people and families via one to one counselling, and training workshops. Relate have identified a need for counselling support in special needs schools and established that there is no provision currently available in this sector. They have been offering a similar service in main stream schools where they have had great success. Main stream schools have a dire need for such assistance, and the issues facing children in special needs schools are not only similar, but they have the added issues surrounding disability to cope with as well. *A grant of £1,000 was awarded to deliver one to one counselling support to children in the Castle School in Cambridge.*



Cambridge Student Community Action recruits between 100 - 300 student volunteers per year for projects that provide educational, sports and welfare support to disadvantaged children and the elderly. They currently have 18 Young Carers on their Big Sibling project. Once a week these children are visited by their Big Siblings, who are volunteers from Cambridge Universities, and taken out to the park, cinema, museum etc. or they do an activity in the home such as arts and crafts, board games or baking. The aim of the project is for the Young Carer to have a "buddy" to talk to and to take them out for some respite once a week. *The Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund has awarded a grant of £1,000 towards funding the young Carers Big Sibling project.*



Through **Cambridge City Credit Union** individuals or families can benefit from a regular co-operative savings scheme built on local trust because, if they suddenly require money for an unexpected repair, they will have a basis of saving on which to be granted a loan. This means that they are less likely to be tempted by pay-day lenders, to go overdrawn on a bank account or credit card and incur high repayment costs. Members are thus protected from getting into a spiral of debt. The Credit Union is based in one of the more deprived areas of North Cambridge and is of particular benefit to local residents. The Credit Union wish to produce a new publicity leaflet with the aim of increasing membership and extending the benefits to more local people. *A grant awarded from the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund will enable them to produce the leaflet and work towards increasing membership. Mills & Reeve are currently looking into how else they might be able to help the Credit Union, for example by providing marketing expertise.*

Feedback from previously funded projects

Cambridge & Ely Child Contact Centres provide a neutral place where children of a separated family can enjoy contact with one or both parents and sometimes other family members in a comfortable and safe environment, when there is no other viable alternative. A grant of £1,000 was awarded to help with running costs. During the period April to December 2011, the Cambridge Centre helped 54 families and the Ely Centre helped 27.



The Papworth and District Day Centre offers elderly people who are socially isolated a day each week of company with others, to include activities such as games, exercises, music and crafts. A grant of £1,000 was awarded from the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund to enable the centre to continue to offer lunches, transport for outings and to pay the organiser's salary. *"Cheers me up - I love it" said one of the clients.*

Freedom Club Timebank supports the local community by facilitating residents to share skills with each other and to get things done that they cannot do by themselves. The Timebank has also been working with people from the local homeless community and a grant of £500 from the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund provided more tools for the project. Members of the homeless community have gained skills and experience and residents have benefitted from having their gardens made over. The project has led to barriers being broken down between residents and the homeless community, and one homeless participant is now employed cleaning colleges.



Get Involved

You can get involved in a number of ways:

1. Encourage local community groups to apply for a grant from the Mills & Reeve Community Fund or any of the other funds that CCF manages.
2. Undertake some fundraising activities and raise money for the Mills & Reeve Community Fund.
3. Make a tax efficient gift on a monthly basis through a Payroll Giving Scheme.
4. Find out more about the projects that have received a grant from the Mills & Reeve Community Fund and offer to volunteer.

The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, an independent charity (1103314), makes grants to local grass root community groups. Individuals, families, business, public sector organisations, and other charitable trusts make this possible by setting up Funds with us. Our purpose is to provide a grant making and fund management service to our donors, while supporting projects that make a real difference to the quality of life for local people. Since set up in early 2004 the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, working in partnership with local and national businesses, charitable trusts, local government and individuals, has distributed over £4.5m to over 2000 groups across Cambridgeshire.