



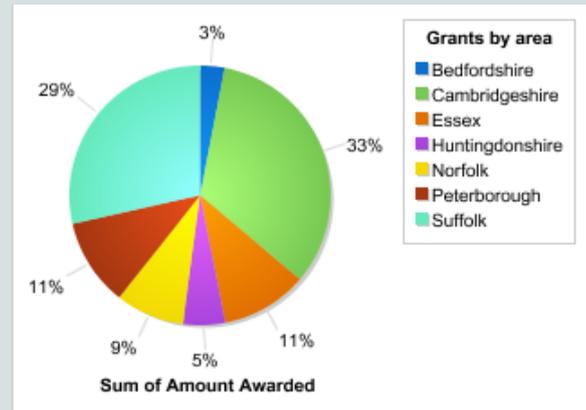
# RIDGEONS COMMUNITY FUND NEWSLETTER

## About the fund...

Established by Ridgions and managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, **The Ridgions Community Fund** offers grants of between £250-£750 to support small, local voluntary and community groups and organisations undertaking charitable work. Since 2011 the Fund has awarded grants totalling over £24,000.

The focus for the Fund is on projects aimed at: **improving health** and working with **children, young people and families**.

Groups are eligible to apply if they are based within a 10 mile radius of the Ridgions' branches in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Hertfordshire.



## May Panel 2013

The panel met on 20th May for the second panel meeting of the year. 13 applications were received from groups in Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex, with 8 grants being awarded and one 'in kind' donation. This newsletter provides details of **grants awarded** in May 2013 and **feedback** on previously funded projects. The next panel will be held in September, **deadline for applications 25th August 2013**.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**CAMBRIDGE STREET PASTORS (CAMBRIDGE CITY)** were awarded a grant of £750 (May 2013) towards running costs of their 'Safe Refuge'. The Safe Refuge will offer anyone in the city centre a warm, welcoming and friendly place to seek assistance, have a chat, wait for a taxi, or simply chill out, any time between 10pm and 4am on Saturday nights. Free refreshments and access to a toilet are available to all, in an informal cafe environment staffed by volunteers from local Christian churches. It is located in the side chapel of St Columba's Church in Downing Street, Cambridge. The Safe Refuge is also open on Friday nights—this grant will help to ensure it is also open on Saturday nights.

**CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT (EAST CAMBS)** were awarded a grant of £750 (May 2013) to continue with weekly provision of their youth work facility to Kingfisher Drive, Soham (East Cambs). There will be 35 sessions during the year which will provide an informal and safe place for young people (aged 11-18) to meet in their community with opportunities to take part in positive activities, build relationships, take on young volunteer roles, improve communication with other members of their community and receive signposting to relevant specialist services. Activities include Sports, discussion topics, 1-2-1 discussions with youth workers, quizzes etc.

**FEEDBACK—KINGS HEDGES FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT (CAMBRIDGE CITY)** received a grant of £350 (August 2012) to purchase a selection of children's story books in a range of languages.



For many of the families accessing this service, English is not their first language. These books have made story time sessions much more inclusive and it means the families can begin to share words from their native language with their own children and other children/families who are attending.

*"This generous donation means a huge amount to our project and the families we work to support. Being able to buy a variety of beautiful bi-lingual books means many families can come together in sharing the delights of a story time session, irrespective of which language they speak." - Suzy Kay (Fundraiser/Development Worker)*

# SUFFOLK

**HOME-START SUFFOLK COASTAL (IPSWICH)** were awarded a grant of £500 (May 2013) to support their Home-Visiting work in Ipswich East during 2013/14. Home-Start Suffolk Coastal has been piloting the extension of its Home-Visiting and family groups services to Ipswich East since December 2012. Service monitoring and demand for the service has highlighted significant need for the service in East Ipswich and this grant will enable them to run home visits for a year. Volunteers visit families in their homes once a week to provide support, advice and information.

**D.I.A.L-DISABLEMENT INFORMATION & ADVICE LINE (LOWESTOFT & WAVENEY)** were awarded a grant of £750 (May 2013) towards paying for helpline costs. The helpline runs 25 hours a week to provide information & advice. Changes in benefits mean that demand for their service has increased and more and more forms have to be completed by phone or online, which is not possible for many of their clients who have learning difficulties, hearing impairments or mental health problems.



**FEEDBACK—THE ROTARY CLUB OF SUDBURY** received £375 (November 2012) to organise 'Crucial Crew' - an annual event for 10yr olds to have a better understanding and awareness of potential dangers.

Crucial Crew provided a safe environment in which the students could learn valuable life skills through 10 different scenarios presented in partnership with the Fire Brigade, the Police, Road Safety, St Johns Ambulance and UK Power networks and volunteers and Rotarians.

*"Thank you for sponsoring the Rotary Club of Sudbury Crucial Crew 2013 and enabling us to provide active learning, safety and life skills experiences via 10 scenarios to 565 year 6 students from 14 local schools in a safe environment."*

**FEEDBACK—SUFFOLK SURVIVORS OF BEREAVEMENT BY SUICIDE** received £400 (August 2012) to help develop the support services offered by the group. A lady in our group sadly lost her husband who took his own life by jumping from a bridge. Prior to SOBS being established she had nowhere to turn to and little if any support. As a regular attendee of SOBS meetings she is now starting to come to terms with her loss, having been able to not only talk to other survivors, but also in the strength she has gained from reading the books the group have been able to provide to her.

*"The support received allows people who have lost their nearest and dearest to the terrible loss that is suicide to start to recover their own wellbeing."*



**SAFFRON WALDEN OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP (SAFFRON WALDEN)** were awarded a grant of £250 (May 2013) to purchase equipment (a sit & ride car, a trike and a musical baby gym) to help with the development children's gross motor skills. SWOP is open to any child with any form of disability, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, brain damage, speech delay. They offer a range of activities to help development - climbing, fine motor skills - messy play, painting, books, dressing up etc.

**FEEDBACK—THAXTED CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED** received £250 (November 2012) to cover 2 weeks costs for specially adapted minibuses.

The support is *"so much valued as it shows appreciation of what the Centre does for local disabled people."*



## ESSEX

## BEDFORDSHIRE

**FUN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (KEMPSTON)** were awarded a grant of £750 (May 2013) to fund a Field Studies Trip which combines a visit to fields, wood and pond.

The 'Sports Power' 5 day course is a disguised literacy project. It was noticed that some young people could not read and others had poor reading skills. F4YP now work with schools to recommend pupils who may need some help to improve their reading age. Throughout the course young people are given 1-2-1 time on reading while the science angle encourages interest at school and gives young people who may otherwise never spend time outdoors to get out into the countryside.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE

**CORNERSTONE PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTRE (HUNTINGDON)** were awarded a grant of £285 (May 2013) to cover printing costs of two information leaflets for GPs. 2 brochures have been designed - one on unplanned pregnancy and the options, one on abortion and post abortion stress.

**BRAMPTON MEMORIAL DAY CENTRE (BRAMPTON)** were awarded a grant of £375 (May 2013) towards organiser's wages. The day centre is open for elderly/disabled residents on a Tuesday 10-3.

**ST IVES DAY CARE CENTRE (ST IVES)** were offered a donation in kind (May 2013) to supply decking for an outside area.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You can get involved in a number of ways:

- Encourage a local community group to apply for a grant.
- Fundraise for the Ridgeons Community Fund.
- Volunteer for one of the projects supported.

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.

*This Fund newsletter has been produced by the Foundation The content is written by employees of the Foundation. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure the information is correct, this cannot be guaranteed. Please contact the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation if you have any comments about the content .*