

NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH SHERIFF INVITES APPLICATIONS

The High Sheriff of Essex, Lady Ruggles-Brise is inviting local community groups, young people and volunteers to apply to the High Sheriffs' Awards Scheme for recognition and grants.

There are two parts to the High Sheriffs' Awards Scheme:

- Grants of up to £1,000 are available to voluntary and community groups that are working to make their local communities safer places to live and work.
- Recognition will be given to local people who have made an outstanding contribution in their local community, making it a safer place.

The deadline date for applications is 1 December.

The High Sheriff said "It is a great honour to be the Queen's representative for Law and Order in the County". She added "I do urge voluntary organisations that are working on initiatives with local people to keep our communities safe from crime, to apply for an Award. The Awards ceremony provides a unique stage on which to show off their work as well as a great opportunity for their valuable contribution to be recognised."

Local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation manages the High Sheriffs' Fund and administers the Awards Scheme, working with local Community Safety Officers and local Volunteer Centres. An independent panel of judges, chaired by the High Sheriff and including past High Sheriffs, will agree the Awards which will be presented by the High Sheriff at a special event to be held in March 2012.

The **deadline** date for completed applications to the High Sheriffs' Awards is **1 December**. Application forms and details about the criteria can be found on the Foundation's website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or if you would like to discuss an application, please contact the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018 who will be happy to help.

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For further information contact

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Notes to Editors:

Photo Caption: High Sheriff of Essex, Lady Ruggles-Brise

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