

Can you help us help Somerset?

There are many ways you could help us:

Set up a Named Fund

Named Funds can be established in our endowment fund by companies, individuals and their families and through trust transfers. This requires a minimum donation or pledge of £25,000. It is very straightforward to set up a Named Fund and is a simple alternative to a private Charitable Trust. We take care of all of the administration but donors can be as involved in the grant-making process as they wish.

Become a Patron

Donors who give £3,000 or more a year for three years, or make a one-off donation of £10,000, can become Patrons of the Foundation. We will work closely with Patrons to understand their priorities for local grant-making and we will arrange visits to local projects funded through the Foundation in their area. We will also organise an annual Patrons' dinner at a prestigious location around the county.

Join the Somerset Guardians Scheme

Somerset Guardians are people and local businesses who wish to be actively involved in the Foundation by donating £1,000 a year or more. Members of the scheme will receive invitations to special events to meet grant recipients, explore local issues and visit projects funded by the Foundation. Guardians will be able to direct their donation to one of the five Area Funds (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane, West Somerset) or to benefit the whole county.

Sign up as an Ambassador

This scheme is for individuals and families. You can become an Ambassador by giving a minimum annual donation of £100, or £150 for a family. We hope that you will spread the word about the Foundation and accept invitations to our annual reception and other events. We will send you a copy of our Annual Report and Newsletters to keep you up to date with our work.

Become a Friend

You can join our Friends scheme with a minimum donation of £25 per annum. We would ask you to spread the word about the Foundation and what it does. We will keep you up to date with our work through Newsletters and the Annual Report.

Leave a Legacy

You can leave a legacy in your will to the Foundation, either to support our general work, to support a particular area or establish your own Named Fund. Please feel free to contact us to discuss your ideas and wishes in absolute confidence, but we would encourage you to seek legal advice from your Solicitor also.



For more information please visit our website

www.somersetcf.org.uk

Or contact:

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Community Foundation Network
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Somerset
Community Foundation
Local giving for local needs

What are Community Foundations?

We are part of a national network of Community Foundations, charities dedicated to strengthening local communities, creating opportunities and tackling issues of disadvantage and exclusion.

We make a difference by directing grants to local charities and voluntary organisations that make a genuine and lasting impact on the lives of local people. Importantly, Community Foundations are independent and "cause-neutral". Our only agenda is to make sure that local giving meets the most pressing local needs.

Community Foundations have been active in the UK since the 1980s. There are approximately 60 Foundations now established across the country covering about 90% of the UK population.

Somerset Community Foundation

The Somerset Community Foundation, formed in 2002, has distributed grants worth almost £2 million to over 400 local community-based projects across Somerset.

Working with funders and private donors, we direct grants to a wide range of local charities and community groups who can reach those most in need and help build stronger communities. We are also building an Endowment Fund to provide long-term support to the county's voluntary sector.

The Foundation has an independent Board of Trustees and is run day to day by a small staff team.

How do we make a difference?

The Somerset Community Foundation has a special and unique role, because we:

- focus solely on Somerset, so we have the local knowledge to understand where the greatest needs are;
- have the flexibility to support a very wide range of causes, from the young to the elderly, from the arts to the environment;
- help all donors maximise the impact of their local gifts;
- can work with local businesses, families and trusts to establish their own charitable funds for specific areas and/or causes in Somerset; and
- work with the Government and other national funders to bring new funds into the county.

Who needs your help?

Many perceive the county as affluent, but there is considerable hidden disadvantage in our towns and villages. No matter where you live or work there will be people in the community who suffer disadvantage. Here are some examples:

- around one in seven households are occupied by lone pensioners and a quarter of pensioners rely on pension credit;
- 1/3 of households have one or more people with a limiting long term illness;
- over 81,000 children are growing up in families claiming tax credits;
- a third of enquiries handled by Citizen Advice Bureaux concern debt;
- 27% of adults do not have any qualifications;
- mental illnesses, such as depression, are estimated to be double the national average, rural isolation is a major contributory factor; and
- the lack of leisure and cultural activities for young people is leading to an increase in anti social behaviour and breakdown in communities.

Our grant-making is focussed on supporting the most disadvantaged, isolated and vulnerable people of all ages in Somerset, helping them towards a better quality of life and building stronger communities today and for the future. The projects we support vary enormously and include:

- developing children's potential;
- providing new opportunities for young people;
- advancing education and skills development;
- improving vulnerable adults' quality of life;
- encouraging healthier lifestyles;
- enabling self-help groups to thrive;
- helping people towards employment;
- using the arts to bring people together; and
- enhancing the local environment.

Why give through the Foundation?

Local charities and voluntary groups have a unique ability to support their community and reach those most in need. They are set up and run by the people who understand best what is needed in their community.

However, because the majority are small and not well-known, they often struggle to raise funds. At the same time many donors would like to support local organisations active in their area, but are unable to find them.

By channelling your local giving through the Foundation you will be joining a growing community of donors dedicated to helping Somerset.

Whatever and however you give, you can be sure that:

- your donation will only be invested in local causes in Somerset;
- we will use our flexibility and local knowledge to target funds where they are most needed; and
- your support will reach organisations that might otherwise struggle to raise the funds they need.

As we are a registered charity, your donation may be tax effective and in some cases significantly enhanced by the Somerset Grassroots Match Challenge (see below).

If you are concerned about a particular area or issue you may be able to establish your own **Named Fund** and benefit from our local expertise to maximise your impact.

We can also work closely with existing charitable trusts to help trustees maximise their impact, or reduce their administration.

Somerset Grassroots Grants Match Challenge

This is an exciting opportunity to increase the impact of your giving and change local communities for the better. Under the scheme we may be able to add 50% to new donations into our Endowment Fund. After gift aid is taken into account a £1,000 donation could be worth over £1,900.

Our challenge is to raise £1 million by March 2011 to secure an additional £500,000 from the Government for the long term benefit of local communities.

grassroots
grants

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