

Good for business.  
Good for Somerset.



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# Helping you to do good, better

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The Somerset Fund was established by Somerset Community Foundation in 2018 to provide vital funding, support and advice for local grassroots charities and community groups. We're a trusted partner for good causes in Somerset that improve people's lives and strengthen our communities.

We've been helping families and businesses give locally since 2002, and have awarded funding of more than £7.5m to date. We support over 250 good causes every year and have a deep understanding of the needs of communities in Somerset.

Through The Somerset Fund, we want to unite local businesses and families who are passionate about Somerset and change lives, together. We'll make it easy and rewarding to give locally, and help you share your skills and expertise to strengthen local charities.

**In short, we'll help you do good, better.**



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# Supporting Somerset, together

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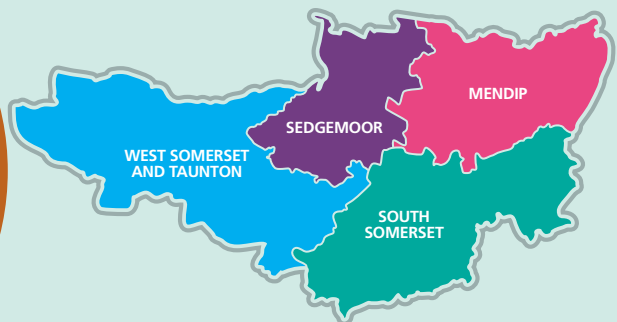
You can support The Somerset Fund with a donation from your company, through employee fundraising, or with a personal gift. **Your donation will be boosted by an incredible 50% through matched funding, meaning your giving makes an even greater impact.**

Many businesses want to invest in communities they – and their employees – care about. You can choose to support one of our four Somerset districts, or the whole county; it's up to you. If there's a particular charity or group you're passionate about, you can also encourage them to apply to The Somerset Fund – or one of more than 80 funds we manage – for a grant.

Our expert team will support good causes to apply for grants from The Somerset Fund, rigorously assess applications, and make sure your donations reach those most in need.

**88% of consumers said they were more likely to buy from a company that supports and engages in activities to improve society.**

Research from the  
UK Small Business Consortium



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# Supporting a wealth of good causes

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One of the great things about supporting The Somerset Fund is that your gift will benefit a wide range of causes – many of which are so small, you may never have heard of them. Our grants fund everything from parent and toddler groups, to mental health charities and homeless shelters. Where most funders can only support registered charities, we can also support social enterprises and small community groups.

The staff and volunteers of these charities are the beating heart of our towns and villages and work tirelessly to support people to fulfil their potential.

## Case Study PALS



Around 20% of West Somerset residents live on their own. Transport links are poor and many people are disadvantaged by rural and social isolation. **PALS (Proactive Lifestyle)** is a water fitness club in West Somerset which helps around 120 people from 18 to 80 with injuries or illness. Gentle aqua aerobics sessions by trained instructors aim to help members to become fitter, more mobile, healthier and happier. We made a recent grant to help the group train extra volunteers to meet increased demand, and have awarded PALS funding of almost £30,000 since 2009.

**“Somerset Community Foundation has been a lifeline. This grant will help us train three new instructors over the coming weeks and they are full of enthusiasm. Thank you!”** Barbara, Chairman of PALS

## Case Study Take Art



Research estimates that one in every six people have experienced a mental health issue in the last week. A recent grant to **Take Art** helped develop Word/Play, an innovative social prescribing project which uses performance poetry to address mental health problems. Participants work with poets over an empowering ten-week course, before taking part in a performance to share their work.

**“As the weeks have gone by my mind has opened, my confidence has grown and I am attending other groups that challenge me to look at myself and others differently... Word/Play put me on the right path to being a whole human again.”** Julie, Participant

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# Giving your time and expertise

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For many of us, supporting those in need is one of the most rewarding aspects of our lives. The Somerset Fund makes giving even more rewarding for our supporters and the charities doing great work in our communities. Supporters can take part in:

- **Expert skills workshops:** opportunities to strengthen local charities by volunteering to deliver specialist workshops for a group of charities in your area of expertise, such as marketing, finance or HR
- **Trustee roles:** opportunities for directors and experienced leaders to take up roles as Trustees of local charities, offering excellent professional development for your staff and vital skills and knowledge for the charity
- **Visits to projects you've supported:** you'll have the chance to meet those who have benefitted from your support, bringing your giving to life



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# Recognising your generosity

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As a supporter of The Somerset Fund, you'll benefit from a range of opportunities that celebrate local giving and bring like-minded people together:

- **Networking events:** we'll bring our network together regularly to build connections and hear from the great causes you're supporting
- **PR opportunities:** we can profile your support through press releases, our e-newsletter and social media channels
- **Recognition in our annual review and online:** all supporters of The Somerset Fund will be listed in our annual review and on our website
- **Keeping you updated:** you'll receive regular case studies and an annual impact report to publicise your support



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# Support The Somerset Fund today

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Join our community of businesses who are passionate about Somerset by supporting The Somerset Fund today.

We encourage supporters to donate £2,500 or more annually to ensure we can make significant grants to charities that need them most. We'd be delighted if you could commit to supporting us for three years, helping us to grow our grant-making in the years to come as demand for funding increases.

As a business, you can claim tax relief on all charitable donations.



**"I found The Somerset Fund when looking for a charity which aligned closely to what we do at Level Up to support independent businesses across Somerset. I knew the Foundation through my involvement with local youth sports clubs which benefited greatly from their support, so I know what impact they make at a grassroots level. The Somerset Fund offers my business a great opportunity to support groups and organisations within our community, while also raising awareness among other businesses of the good that they do." Graeme Crosbie, Level Up South West**

If you'd like to become a supporter of The Somerset Fund, or find out more about our work, please get in touch with **Laura Blake, Development Director on 01749 344949 or email: [laura.blake@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:laura.blake@somersetcf.org.uk)** Website: [www.somersetcf.org.uk/tsf](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/tsf)

\*15% will go towards Somerset Community Foundation's work supporting the local voluntary sector in Somerset

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A Somerset Community Foundation Initiative

[www.somersetcf.org.uk/tsf](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/tsf)

### Somerset Community Foundation

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