



Registered charity number: 1048162

## **Press release**

Release date: 1st March 2010

### **CHARITY OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO LOCAL PROFESSIONALS AS CSR AGENDA RISES**

The Birmingham Community Foundation is calling for volunteers to join its fundraising and events team as demand for the charity's services reaches new heights across Birmingham and Black Country communities.

Each year the high profile community focussed charity helps to fund more than 750 local community and volunteer organisations and distributes around £2.5m in grants.

These local groups work with the elderly, children and young people who suffer disadvantage, which may be through poverty, age, ill-health or disability.

Recent projects include reading classes for stroke victims, days out for disabled children, sports clubs for those without access to pitches or equipment, support groups for women affected by domestic violence and a wheelchair basketball club.

The list is endless.

Zoë Keens, development director of the Birmingham Community Foundation said:

"Corporate Social Responsibility has never been higher on the personal or corporate agenda. Giving something back to the local community in which you live, work or play as well as making a real difference is now something that many aspire to.

“We are looking for Ambassadors from Birmingham and the Black Country to join us and help tell the story of what we do and achieve, as well as new members to join the fund development and events team that meets once a month to brainstorm and progress ideas.

“The more money we can raise into endowment funds, the more we can invest back into our communities making Birmingham and the Black Country an attractive place to live and invest. Our work has serious long term implications on the local economy as well as an obvious shorter quality impact on the lives of thousands of local people who are disadvantaged in some way.”

The Birmingham Community Foundation holds a number of key events each year, the most high profile being the Christmas Prom held at the Town Hall.

The foundation is part of a national network of community foundations that play a leading role in the development of local philanthropy and resources to sustain communities now and in the future.

Those interested in learning more about how they could help the Foundation can contact Zoë Keens on 0121 322 5560 or [zoe.keens@bhamfoundation.co.uk](mailto:zoe.keens@bhamfoundation.co.uk)

Ends

For further media information please contact Jennifer Chatham 0121 363 0074 or mobile 07775 912818.

#### **Notes to the editor**

Part of the wider Community Foundation network, the Birmingham Community Foundation is an independent charity that helps an average of 800 community and volunteer groups each year across Birmingham and Black Country. Its unique approach to philanthropy allows individuals and businesses to support their own specific local interests and causes and in doing so invest in the future of their community.

With an unrivalled in-depth knowledge of local communities and grant making, the Birmingham Community Foundation link people who care about their local

community and the wide range of voluntary organisations, community groups and local charities who do the hands-on work to make a real difference where we live. During the last 12 months The Birmingham Community Foundation has awarded more than £3.3 million in grants to more than 900 local voluntary and community projects.