

How we work

Making a difference

The main focus of our Community Foundation is to change people's lives for the better across the West of England. We do this by enabling a wide variety of donors to fund projects that make an impact where people live and work.

By directing grants to local voluntary and community organisations, the money goes to those who have identified a need and decided they want to do something about it.

We aim to make giving a rewarding experience by showing donors exactly where their money goes and how their grant has made a difference.

The Ron Barnes Bursary Fund

Approaching retirement, after a long and successful business career in engineering, Ron Barnes found himself in a position to offer to others the kind of help he had received with his own education and came to Quartet Community Foundation with the idea of setting up a Legacy Fund.

After discussing various options he decided to set up a Named Bursary Fund instead. This allowed him the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and have the satisfaction of seeing the impact of his grants during his lifetime.

With the help of the Community Foundation he established the criteria for the grants he would make. Grants are awarded to undergraduate students of selected science subjects who come from defined postcodes around Ron Barnes' home, south of Bath. Priority is given to applicants with no previous family history of going to university.

Last year the R W Barnes Fund paid out £17,900 in grants ranging from £1,300 to £2,500 to eight students studying at universities, including Imperial College, the University of Cambridge, the University of the West of England, and the University of Bath.

The Rolls Royce Funds

Rolls Royce have been working with Quartet Community Foundation for over 10 years to help the company achieve its goals giving to the community around their Bristol plant in South Gloucestershire on the northern fringe of Bristol.

Rolls Royce have grown their Endowment Fund to the value of over £180,000 and the grants made each year focus on four areas: education, the environment, regeneration and arts and culture.

“One big advantage of Quartet's service to us is their recommendations of groups that meet our criteria, they provide information on each proposed grant and then make them on our

behalf from the endowment funds they hold for us,” said Roger James, Community Relations Manager for Rolls Royce.

The Rolls Royce Fund recently made a grant of £1,000 to the Little Stoke Youth Centre which is located within a mile of the Rolls Royce plant. The Star Kids Group at the Centre provides a range of activities for young people aged between 12 and 19 years who have physical or learning disabilities. The grant has allowed them to employ an experienced drama teacher for 11 weeks to extend a programme which had proved very popular with the young people involved.

Upper Horfield Community Trust

The Upper Horfield Community Trust has grown year on year from its establishment in 1999 into the hub of the community, providing facilities and varied services including rooms for activities, an after school club, computer classes and more recently a community shop and cafe.

They encourage people to set up groups themselves and can help them get off the ground and apply for funding in their own right

The Community Trust has received grants since its inception through Quartet Community Foundation, from both statutory bodies such as Bristol City Council and Sports Relief and also from funds held on behalf of companies and individuals.

“The Community Trust in Upper Horfield is driven by local people on the ground addressing the needs of their community as they see them first hand. Through innovative thinking, a willingness to collaborate with neighbouring communities, local schools and other organisations and a focus on encouraging local people to do things for themselves, they have created an environment that is safer and have increased the quality of life of many, many people,” said Deb Appleby, Chief Executive at Quartet Community Foundation.

Sports Relief and Quartet Community Foundation

Over the last 6 years the Community Foundation has distributed almost £250,000 to local groups across the West of England on behalf of Sports Relief. Most recently in April 2010 Sports Relief chose the Foundation to distribute funds of £62,500 from its Community Cash Fund. This was promoted in the Evening Post.

Grants of up to £1000 were offered to community groups undertaking work to help people of all ages build their skills and increase their sense of achievement.

Groups had to demonstrate clear evidence of a sustained beneficial impact on people’s lives. Priority was given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage.