

Nine Lives - Themed Funds

Applicant: Friends Of Highfield Orchard

Request: £1000

Summary

Established in 2021 with the aim to protect and nurture the 150 fruit trees of Highfield Road Community Orchard and promote local community enjoyment and involvement in the Orchard's long-term health and development. The orchard is situated throughout the 3 to 4 acres of Highfield Road Park in Cheadle Hulme, a haven for dog walkers and local residents looking for a quiet piece of nature. The application is to support the cost of harvesting fruit in the winter months - which requires a specialist to be able to work at height.

About the group

We are a small group of local residents whom during lockdown took on the maintenance of our local community park orchard.

Our constitution states the group's Aims and Objectives are to protect and nurture fruit trees within Highfield Road Recreation Park, promoting local community enjoyment, involvement and safety in the orchard's long-term health and development.

How has the group grown in the wider community?

The park is owned by Stockport Council covering circa 9 acres. We are a wholly volunteer group of local residents established Summer 2021 supporting the stated constitution aim. We meet weekly, weather permitting, undertaking maintenance work on 152 fruit trees including Apple, Pear, Plum, Greengage and Medlar.

Initial achievements include initial pruning, base grass clearance of all trees, encroaching bramble removal, litter clearance. Establishing links with The Orchard Project, Stockport Greenspace, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and neighbouring allotment organisation. Obtaining initial funding from Ward Flexibility Funding to support procurement of tools, feed etc. £500 which with the use of our own tools got us a long way.

The site is bordered by allotments and houses. Main access is from Highfield Road, additional access points from Billys Lane and adjoining Heathbank Park play area. We are close to Cheadle Hulme centre with both good train and bus links.

Since our inception we have formed links with the neighbouring Allotments and schools who now use the park for their sporting activities and nature playground. The area is a popular area to meet up and walk their dogs as well as a shortcut to the main village.

What would you like your group to look like in three years?

We would like to bring the site to a stable maintenance programme and have the longer term aim to make the park a nature reserve and protect the site as a valuable green lung of Cheadle Hulme as well as establish further community outreach projects.

Project details

We want our funds to provide positive things for people. How would this award do this?

Your award if we are successful will be put towards the reduction of the fruit tree heights. The fruit trees were not maintained since their planting some 15-20 years ago and as such the accessibility of the fruit for all come harvest times.

We have requested the councils support in this as we are not allowed to work at height or use chain driven power tools so are unable for insurance purposes undertake the work ourselves. Sadly with the current financial pressures they can't assist so we have obtained a quote from their subcontractors Treestation of which would take a few years fundraising to raise, our income this year whilst being our best has been raised for specific tasks and equipment.

Completion of this work will create a valuable resource for the families, schools and groups who use the space and enable volunteers to be involved in the development and management of the site for the future.

How much money are you requesting, and what will you spend any money awarded on?

The funding will be spent on the winter pruning (apples and pears) to reduce the tree crowns to a working height. A similar quote is expected for the summer pruning of the remaining stone fruit (plums etc) to which we will seek separate funding over the coming year or two to achieve.

Any funding achieved will be a big help even if it is a part amount but completion timescales will be extended.

Choose an individual who attends your group on a regular basis and tell us their story.

One of our volunteers I-Hushan relocated to the UK from Twain during lockdown and was looking for a community project to get involved in. During lockdown we were the only group of people she physical interacted with and she has since become one of our key members using her skills for data analysis to support a national project tracking blossom / fruiting periods to aid a country wide climate change tracking programme. She regularly takes the most wonderful photographs tracking our progress and to share with her family and friends back home. She is also crowned Himalayan balsam queen and regularly goes above and beyond outside of the organised volunteer sessions. She has become a most valuable member of the team proving volunteering is multicultural and beneficial all round.

Budget

Total cost of the project: £999.6 Total requested: £999.6 Money secured: £

Town and project area: Stockport / Cheadle Hulme South

Annual income: £2965

Number of regular volunteers: 6

Volunteer hours per week: 9

Number of people benefitting: 200

Project start and end date: 04/03/2024 - 01/01/2025

Applicant: KRIMMZ Girls Youth Club

Request: £1000

Summary

KRIMMZ Girls Youth Club plays a vital role in empowering girls, fostering leadership skills, promoting community engagement and advocacy, and creating a supportive environment where girls can thrive personally and contribute to the community. They have applied for funding to be able to take the girls on a trip to London, the funding would cover transport to London, transport when they're in London, tickets to Kidzania and the London eye, the funding will also cover the cost of food, any additional costs to be covered by the parents.

About the group

KRIMMZ Girls Youth Club is a community group established in 2009 that has evolved since its formation by a group of young people, now led by Adult volunteers supported by a network of professional community development support.

The groups aims were to ensure that cultural and religious sensitivities were managed whilst engaging with female young girls. This engagement in a safe, managed environment has allowed lots of opportunities to be provided over the years which has given confidence to the parents that the girls are supported positively within the scope of their expectations and more so the girls are benefiting from social welfare, inclusion, recreational, leisure time activities and health improving initiatives.

Krimmz since its establishment have engaged with 1000's of young people and families across the different communities of Bolton.

With the success of the project delivered to young girls, the group has extended its delivery of activities to young boys and families, ensuring that the cultural and religious requirements and expectations are met.

How has the group grown in the wider community?

Our group plays a significant role in shaping and uplifting the community we are based in, having a significant impact on the individuals involved as well as the community at large. Our group provides a safe and supportive space for young girls to express themselves, learn new skills, and develop their confidence. They often have mentors or older members who guide and inspire them to achieve their full potential. KRIMMZ Girls Youth Club plays a vital role in empowering girls, fostering leadership skills, promoting community engagement and advocacy, and creating a supportive environment where girls can thrive personally and contribute to the community.

What would you like your group to look like in three years?

In 3 years time - we would envisage that the organisation grows with an increase in both volunteers and participants. We would want a number of participants to become deliverers and will support them in developing the skills and getting the required coaching certifications to allow this to happen.

Also in 3 years we envisage having a bigger space to manage directly from which we can run/start a number of sessions. At the moment we have access to a shared building with

another community organisation. We expect to have outgrown this provision so would require a dedicated base or perhaps one that is bigger.
Also in 3 years, we expect to have "tried most things" in terms of providing members with access to different sports and activities.

Project details

We want our funds to provide positive things for people. How would this award do this?

This award has the potential to provide several positive things for people and communities. By showcasing the accomplishments of award recipients, it can inspire others to take action and make a positive impact in their own communities. It serves as an example of what can be achieved through dedication and hard work. The award can contribute to the overall development of the community by promoting and reinforcing positive values, behaviors, and initiatives. It can foster a sense of pride and unity among community members while encouraging participation and engagement in social projects.

This fund can provide positive things by recognising, inspiring, and supporting individuals and organisations that are making a difference in their communities. It can promote positive change, foster collaboration, and contribute to the overall well-being and development of society.

The trip will provide a unique opportunity for the girls to participate in something outside their usual environment and provide a form of context for them.

Choose an individual who attends your group on a regular basis and tell us their story.

14 year old Fatima is the eldest of 7 siblings. Her family is home schooled and they also look after their elderly grandparents. Being the eldest, there is a lot of pressure and expectation from Fatima from her household. It is because of this responsibility on Fatima's shoulders, that she was not able to partake in any social activities with peers of her own age. Fatima also lacked confidence and was very shy before she started coming to our sessions.

Fatima was introduced to KRIMMZ through another home schooler. Since coming to KRIMMZ Fatima has come out of her shell and has met new friends who are members of the club also. She now enjoys the club activities so much that she wants to volunteer and with the correct mentoring and support we can provide her, is on path to become a potential future leader. Fatima's parents, have also fed back and are appreciative to how much Fatima's skills and social confidence has improved outside the club environment since she started attending our club. We look forward to continue working with Fatima to allow her to reach her full potential.

Budget

Total cost of the project: £1575.25 Total requested: £1000 Money secured: £

Town and project area: Bolton / Bolton, Greater Manchester

Annual income: £46000

Number of regular volunteers: 10

Volunteer hours per week: 300

Number of people benefitting: 15

Project start and end date: 26/05/2024 - 26/12/2023

Applicant: SMURFS

Request: £1000

Summary

SMURFS is a parent and toddler group who provide a friendly, safe environment that allows parents/carers to have a drink and a chat while their children play. As well as giving families a safe place to socialise and make new friends, they provide opportunities to go on family outings.

Funding is requested for a day trip to Blackpool, visiting the Zoo and hiring a minibus for parents and children who would not otherwise get the opportunity to go.

About the group

SMURFS is a parent and toddler group. We provide a friendly, safe and fun environment that allows parents/carers to have a drink and a chat while their children play. SMURFS gives the children their first experience of structured play and an opportunity to become accustomed to other children. We encourage a kind, sharing and loving attitude to play and "learning". Our sessions are open to anyone caring for children aged 0-5 years. We are open once a week, in term time, on Tuesdays 1.30-3.00pm. We run an age appropriate craft activity, usually nice and sticky and messy, provide drinks and a snack during a story telling session - puppets included!. We also hold a singing and music session towards the end of the session. There are toys available for a wide range of play.

How has the group grown in the wider community?

We are a link between the families who attend St Mary's primary school who have younger children. The school and the church are very supportive and we are able to liaise with the school in our activities especially when our children are getting ready for the big move up to big school. We also have a link to the Sure Start Team in the same way. We have many families who live on 2 large council estates in Rochdale - probably the most deprived and poverty stricken areas in the town. We visit the Sure Start Centre at Sandbrook Park and, occasionally, one of their team comes in to see us at one of our sessions. If any new parents visit Sure Start they will tell them. If there was a family that was experiencing problems and was struggling in anyway we would network with Sure Start in the process of supporting that family.

Our members come to SMURFS because they want their kids to get out the house and play, interact with other children. We introduce story time and music sessions with a bit of structure - relaxed and informal. This will help prepare the children for the formal regimen at school. Our members also want to see a friendly face and a warm welcome from us and a chat with the friends that they meet here.

As with last year the cost of living crisis has continued and household bills remain high. SMURFS provides a warm place to come and have a brew.

Our volunteers enjoy a weekly activity that makes them feel useful and appreciated. We are affiliated to St Mary's Church. Members of the PCC regularly visit our sessions and the PCC greatly appreciates the support network we provide to the local community.

What would you like your group to look like in three years?

We want SMURFS to carry on providing the above mentioned activities and support to families in our area of Rochdale. We love to see the children develop and grow in the time they spend with us - and then move up to big school. We have a quite a few young parents who bring their children who came along to SMURFS when they were babies!. We want SMURFS to always be there for our families and to provide a little bit of familiarity, stability and continuity in this community - which visibly experiences Chaos, anxiety and poverty on a daily basis.

Project details

We want our funds to provide positive things for people. How would this award do this?

This grant will allow us to take the SMURFS families for a day trip to Blackpool Zoo. It will be a focus point towards the end of the Summer term. It means that we will be able to spend the whole day together. Several of our families are on benefits with large families, maybe even single parents. It is impossible for them to afford to give their kids a treat like a trip to the Zoo. Quite often the families have to choose which children get to go on trips and more often than not the youngest children have to go to the back of the queue for available funds. The families rarely own a car so the coach trip is a great treat.

The trip gets the parents and children out of Rochdale for the day - to the Zoo which is a brilliant safe environment to let very young children run around outside. The kids get exercise and they really love the animals. It provides a chance to be with friends all day, take photos and chat and laugh and not have to worry about paying for it and getting there.

Choose an individual who attends your group on a regular basis and tell us their story.

We have a new young mum who has brought her little girl from new born last year. Her mum has come with her too. Unfortunately the young mum has had to go into hospital for an operation. Her mum has felt safe and comfortable bringing the baby to SMURFS because the baby now relaxes and feel safe with us. I think the grandmother really appreciates talking with us about how worried she has been and still is about her daughter's health. If the baby's mum is still having health issues - we hope that the grandmother feels confident to bring the baby on the Zoo trip.

Budget

Total cost of the project: £1022.14 Total requested: £1000 Money secured: £

Town and project area: Rochdale / Rochdale

Annual income: £1217.5

Number of regular volunteers: 1

Volunteer hours per week: 15

Number of people benefitting: 49

Project start and end date: 25/06/2024 - 25/06/2024

Applicant: Standish Lip Reading Society

Request: £1000

Summary

Standish Lip-reading Society support adults with severe to moderate hearing loss and others with multiple disabilities living in Wigan. They offer weekly tuition aimed at improving skills, confidence and overall well-being.

previously funded by Autotrader for similar.

Funding is requested to cover the cost of the weekly sessions, paying for the lip-reading tutor, room hire and insurance.

About the group

Aim - Standish Lip Reading Society currently supports adults with moderate to severe hearing loss and others with multiple disabilities,

living in Wigan and surrounding districts by encouraging membership of our organization.

Objectives - to help those who suffer from hearing loss and other disabilities by providing them with an opportunity to practice / improve lip reading skills through weekly tuition by a qualified teacher. To provide support and address elements of low self esteem due to social isolation and loneliness, which is common place to those who have hearing disabilities.

To raise funds to further develop and sustain Standish Lip reading as a society, now and in the

future as we are not a registered charity.

How has the group grown in the wider community?

All our members have a hearing disabilities and attend a weekly lip reading lessons delivered by experienced qualified

teachers at Standish Community Centre. teacher . Both teachers have a hearing loss and understand how important it is that we as an organization, try to improve the quality of life for all our members, prevent isolation and loneliness, to be aware of other mental health issues due to hearing loss.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, we saw a rise in society membership and attendance at classes due to promotion of our new web site and Face book Page.

Working closely other professional bodies such as the NHS and Adult Services we were also able to promote awareness of deaf issues and the affects this disability has on those living locally and in the wider community through power point presentations, supermarket collections and leaflet distribution at various venues around the community..

In order to practice and improve lipreading skills, all our members are encouraged and provided with opportunities to attend local theatres, cinemas and restaurants. These trips and outing are only made possible by members volunteering to raise extra funds and the management team arranging trips and outings.

Funding support for our social activities come from various charitable organizations, as one off donations and through our own fund raising efforts as a society. The various trips and outings enable members to socialize, form new friendships, enjoy different experiences, stage text at theatre- practice and improved lipreading skills. Unfortunately in the last few

years these activities have had to be put on hold due to the Covid pandemic. It is hoped these activities may continue again at some time in the future?

What would you like your group to look like in three years?

In 3 years from now, the expectation is, that Standish Lipreading Society with increased grant funding support will still be doing what it does best, which is promoting, providing and delivering, unique lip reading services in the community to those adults living locally, who need help to understand and manage their hearing loss. We will continue to campaign through the power of social media and by whatever means we can to raise deaf issues and awareness of how having a hearing disability not only has a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of the people that have a hearing loss but how it affects those who they come into contact with such as family friends and general public.

Project details

We want our funds to provide positive things for people. How would this award do this?

Without vital financial support we have received over many years from funding organizations such as your selves and Forever Manchester, we would not have survived as an organization and would not be able to continue providing the unique services we provide today or the delivery of lip reading lessons, every week by engaging and paying for our 2 amazing experienced qualified teachers. As far as we can ascertain we are the only organization in the local community who provide lipreading services to adults with hearing loss and it is hoped that with the right financial backing we can continue in the future.

How much money are you requesting, and what will you spend any money awarded on?

Engaging services of 2 qualified lipreading teachers and community Centre room hire costs.

Choose an individual who attends your group on a regular basis and tell us their story.

We have a number of members who have had had hearing issues as children, into adulthood but one member of the group stands out has truly amazing, in that she was born deaf and has used sign language all her life to manage her deafness and to communicate with others. when joining.the society she insisted that she wanted to learn and practice lipreading as she wanted to appear as though she was just the same as other members who have a hearing loss and attend classes every week. she activity participates in lessons and does not hesitate to correct the teacher if she can't understand what is bring said without voice and asks for it to be repeated and clarification as to what is being talked about. A wonderful member who knows what she wants out of attending lip reading classes

Budget

Total cost of the project: £1000 Total requested: £1000 Money secured: £

Town and project area: Wigan / wigan

Annual income: £4439

Number of regular volunteers: 10

Volunteer hours per week: 25

Number of people benefitting: 26

Project start and end date: 28/02/2024 - 30/11/2024