

Nine Lives Community Fund

Progress and Impact Report 2008-2011



NINE LIVES
COMMUNITY FUND



**FOREVER
MANCHESTER**
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

Nine Lives Community Fund was launched in February 2008 and is the first set of chambers in Manchester to create its own charitable fund to support community activity in the north of England and to demonstrate the chamber's commitment to corporate social responsibility.



Fundraising is achieved by way of monthly contributions from members, clerks and administration staff at chambers together with individual fundraising events, charity golf days and contributions from professional development seminars.

The Fund is administered by Forever Manchester, the Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, who have a proven track record in grant administration.

Representatives from chambers form a panel which meets 3 times each year to consider funding applications which are sourced by the Community Foundation. Community groups and charities that have an annual income of less than £150,000 can apply for a grant of up to £2000. The Fund now has a focus on providing grants for equipment for sporting and diversionary activities for young disadvantaged people in Greater Manchester, aged between 10-18.

Panel

The Nine Lives Community Fund panel comprises the following representatives:

- James Fryer-Spedding
- Tony Morrissey
- Matthew Snarr
- Sara Lewis
- Tom Gilbert
- Wilma Harriman

Grants and Donations

From the launch of the fund until June 2011, **23** grants and donations have been made:

July 2008

- South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group
Heaton Moor, Stockport **£2,000.00**

January 2009

- Shore Fold Community Farm
Levenshulme, Manchester **£2,000.00**
- The Forest Project
Pendlebury, Salford **£2,000.00**

Donations

- Barnabus
Manchester **£695.50**
- Whirlow Hall Farm Trust
Sheffield **£2,000.00**

June 2009

- Stockport Brushstrokes
Bredbury, Stockport **£500.00**
- Irlam & Cadishead Community Festival Committee
Salford **£1,347.87**
- Droylsden Amateur Boxing Club
Droylsden, Tameside **£1,615.00**

Donations

- Whirlow Hall Farm Trust
Sheffield **£700.00**

October 2009

- Broadbottom Community Association
Broadbottom, Tameside **£671.50**
- Furniture Project
Kirkholt, Rochdale **£1,960.00**
- Good Companions
Bolton **£2,000.00**

February 2010

- Horizons Club
Manchester **£2,000.00**
- East Manchester Community Boat Project
Ashton-Under-Lyne, Tameside **£3,400.00**

June 2010

- Back o'th Moss Community Centre
Heywood, Rochdale £1,600.00
- Great Lever Voice
Great Lever, Bolton £2,000.00

October 2010

- Band United Football Group
Bolton £2,000.00
- Ashton Allstars
Ashton-Under-Lyne, Tameside £1,500.00
- Miles Platting FC
Ardwick, Manchester £1,500.00

March 2011

- 1099 Worsley Squadron Air Training Corps
Little Hulton, Salford £1,550.00
- Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club
Tyldesley, Wigan £1,550.00

June 2011

- Milnrow Tennis Club
Milnrow, Rochdale £1,475.00
- Company Fierce Academy
Moss Side, Manchester £1,000.00

Total £36,914.87

Great Lever Voice

A variety of projects as part of the Great Lever Voice have led to great success in engaging with young people within Great Lever, many of whom left school without any qualifications or had not attended school for some time.

As a result of participating in the vocational training offered, 69 young people have achieved over 100 qualifications which include job preparation interview skills, positive parenting, health and safety and food hygiene to name but a few. Showing the impact of Great lever Voice, 53 young people attending the project are now working or have re-entered training and education. Showing the positive impact of the project, many of the young people return to the project as volunteer young leaders.

“The course has really helped with my confidence”, says Lee, a participant. By offering opportunities that appeal to these young people, the project has broken a cycle of inactivity and disinterest. It also helps them develop confidence in job hunting, provides further training and helps the young people become more aware of issues in their local community.

In order to include them with goings-on in their community a local Residents Association invites the project to attend events. Proving the wider reaching effect of Great Lever Voice, feedback from local residents and other professionals in the area deems that the project is invaluable to the community as a whole.

“I was unemployed but Great Lever Voice helped me find a job suitable for me”, says Danielle. The evident success of these workshops has led to other agencies referring young people to Great Lever Voice as its activities become more widely known within the area. The young people themselves find they receive valuable support and often for the first time, have aspirations to apply for a job or further training to give their future a more positive perspective.



East Manchester Community Boat Project

“Let’s build a boat!”

A chance conversation in 1994 led to a two-year fundraising programme, resulting in *Community Spirit*, a 12-seat canal boat used to provide an educational and fun-based activity for children and adults who may be disabled or disadvantaged. “We work with people from all walks of life”, says Sue, who has been involved with the project for several years. “We take around a thousand people on trips every year.” Most of these people never experience Manchester’s canals in this way without the project, and it also acts as a crime diversion scheme for young people. It is a great and memorable day out for those who experience one of its voyages and is offered free of charge. “It’s a pleasure to help people out,” Sue grins.

As well as providing disadvantaged people with an invaluable diversionary experience, the Project also helps other community groups to fundraise, by providing boat trips as prizes to support fundraising initiatives.

The group requested funding to improve their technology, maintain safety standards by training crew and information officers and help provide more comprehensive information to their users on conversation, wildlife and general canal use and to help with running costs and maintenance of the boat.



East Manchester Community received £3,400 from Nine Lives to help cover these costs. “The grant enabled our group to reach out and engage with groups that would not otherwise have benefited from our facility – including single parents of small children and the hard of hearing. We will be working with local police officers and PCSOs to engage young people, drawing them away from potential crime.”

Representatives from Nine St. John Street Chambers visited the project in August 2011 (*above*)

Company Fierce Academy

Company Fierce Academy is based in Moss Side. The Academy uses dance to promote, maintain, improve and advance the educate of disadvantaged young people, particularly those in the BME community. They want to use dance as a life enhancing and enriching experience for the young people, driven by the firm belief that there is the talent, hunger and passion present in the community to succeed.

Because many parents are on low incomes or are single parents, the Academy ensures classes are affordable for the parents; some children have learning difficulties and need the support of CFA to help keep their child focused on something in their life. There is a lack of opportunities for these young people because their parents could never afford to pay for expensive dance classes, and there is a lack of facilities for young people in the local area.

“We want to use dance as a life enhancing and enriching experience,” says Donna Pritchard, who co-ordinates the group. “Some of the young boys we work with have ADHD, Dyslexia and other disabilities. Without the class, these young boys would never see or even participate in dance as an option for them, let alone consider dance as a potential education or career choice because most of the young males come from high crime areas, from areas of Manchester where gun and knife crime are high and there is a strong belief in male gang culture.”



Company Fierce received £1,000 from the Nine Lives Community Fund; the group created an “All Male Dance” class based at Zion Arts Centre in Hulme on Saturday afternoons. We want to reach out to the young males in our community. The group wanted to show an alternative to gang culture by offering them something different to do with their time and share the gift of dance with them; to give them the opportunity to do something at the weekend that could lead onto a career path for them or a hobby that they will enjoy.

“One of the best things about the boys class is the cultural diversity of young males we have in the class. We have had a number of studio sharings where the young males performed in front of their parents, Zion staff and other community members. These showings brought people from different cultural backgrounds under one roof to share in the boys experience, creating a great community vibe”, says Donna.

“My son enjoys the classes,” one parent reports; “What I really like is that he is not made to feel that he has to be fantastic, which is what so often happens when teaching a performing arts discipline. He is taught and allowed to develop at his own pace which is fantastic.”

Projects funded in 2010-11

Band United

Band United Football Group provide access to sport for adults, mostly young adults who experience severe and enduring mental health problems. Their activities include 1 weekly practice session, entrance into the Greater Manchester league, training, friendly matches, entrance into countrywide tournaments, opportunities to exercise and some social activities. They received **£2,000** from the Nine Lives Fund to provide a co-ordinator, pitch fees, and equipment. The project is aimed at young men who experience severe and enduring mental health problems, particularly those who are not competitive but just want a game of football for pleasure each week.

Ashton Allstars

Ashton Allstars provide sports-related activities such as football, cricket, and climbing; residents from the local area meet up to around twice a week to engage in such activities. Funding from Nine Lives of **£2,018** enabled sporting activities to allow local residents to improve on their fitness and to ensure they are doing something to keep healthy, building on the success of the project's previous sessions, which were attended by a diverse range of people from different backgrounds such as white, Pakistani, Indian, Congolese, Bengali, Ethiopians and others. The sessions felt like a huge community coming together regardless of backgrounds, culture or race.

Miles Platting FC

Miles Platting FC are a relatively new youth football team affiliated and structured with Manchester FA. The aims of the group are to develop community cohesion on several levels. The group is multi-cultural and multi-ethnic, challenging stereotypes from all communities and highlights that football really does have no barriers. The objectives are to transform the lives of young men including young offenders, BME, refugees - using football as a vehicle for change by creating a team. The project provides health benefits for all participants, and youngsters who do not usually have the opportunity to take part are encouraged to get involved. The club were recipients of **£1,500** Nine Lives Community funding to provide equipment to enable them to run an after school club on Friday afternoons to build links between the school and our club, as well as drop-in sessions for children, teenagers and adults on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

1099 Worsley Squadron Air Training Corps

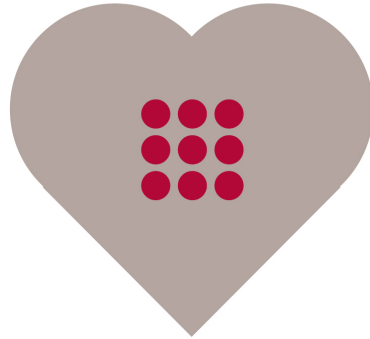
The 1099 Worsley Squadron works to promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the RAF, as well as to foster the spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of good citizenship. They received **£2,000** from Nine Lives to purchase some band equipment to help towards the music diploma. Much of the band equipment was quite archaic and in need of replacement. The band allows the Corps to represent local fetes and parades in the local community, such as St. George's Day, local whit walks and Remembrance Day parades.

Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway

Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Club aims to provide and promote cycle speedway racing, and stages twice weekly coaching/training sessions, promotes competitions, organises teams to compete in competitions at tracks throughout Great Britain, leisure rides and social events whilst also staging ad-hoc Come And Try-It sessions for schools, groups and sports clubs. The Club is Sport England Club Mark Accredited. The group received **£1,550** to provide a CCTV system for security as well as a computer and printer to improve race day organisation by recording competitor details, schedules and results, with copies distributed to relevant officials, and a camcorder to aid coaching by enabling races and training sessions to be filmed. This will permit coaches and riders to view race action and technique, thereby providing visual feedback.

Milnrow Tennis Club

Milnrow Tennis Club provides facilities to play social and competitive tennis for all ages. They are a member of 2 local leagues and the Lancashire Lawns Tennis Association, and run 3 mixed, 1 men's, 1 ladies and 3 junior teams that play matches in various leagues. They have a comprehensive junior tennis coaching programme running 12 months of the year. Through the school holidays the club runs tennis camps which are 5 day sessions of coaching and competition. They requested funding for coaching tennis balls, equipment and coach's fees, in order to make the coaching lessons as cheap as possible by keeping the equipment and coaching costs down, and received **£1,475** from the Nine Lives Community Fund.



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