



Nine Lives Community Fund

Celebrates a Decade

2008 - 2018



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The Nine Lives Community Fund was established in 2008 on behalf of 9 St. John Street Chambers to support grassroots community projects that delivered what could be described as diversionary activities for young people with applications.

Working in partnership with Forever Manchester a panel of barristers and staff at 9 St, John Street have met to consider funding applications and have made visits to projects across Greater Manchester.

Donations to the fund have been made, throughout this time, by monthly donations from members of chambers and staff and via fundraising activities and events such as 10k runs, cake sales and chamber events.



Over the last 10 years:

- Number of projects supported: **67**
- Number of beneficiaries: **8,192**
- Amount awarded: **£103,171**

Some of the projects supported during that time

Great Lever Voice offers a range of vocational training courses which 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.

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.

“The course has really helped with my confidence”
says Lee, a participant.



South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group is a local parent-led charity, which supports children and adults who have Down's syndrome and their families providing activities, social events, speech and language therapy, information and training to enable young people to fulfil their potential.

The group established the Chatterbox Club, supported by the Nine Lives Community Fund for a number of years, providing the opportunity for children to meet with others of a similar age for group speech therapy. Sessions are delivered by qualified speech and language therapists who have specialist training in the specific communication needs of people who have Down's syndrome.



“As a parent you no longer feel on your own. My boys can play with other children the same and I've seen dramatic improvements in their speaking since starting the lessons.”

Jill, mother of twins Harry and Thomas

Breaking Barriers provides opportunities for disabled children and young people the chance to try new things and have new experiences. They listen to what the families would like and do their best to make it happen. The group promote inclusion and understanding and celebrate the fact that everyone is different and work as hard as they can to turn what can be challenging circumstances into something positive and enjoyable.

East Manchester Community Boat Project based in Tameside, manages a 12 seat narrow (canal) day boat, named 'Community Spirit'. The project aims to provide an educational and fun-based activity for children and adults who may be disabled or disadvantaged 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.



Lower Kersal Young People's Project was established in 2004 to promote and provide educational, recreational and social activities for young people between the ages of 11 – 19 years such as the youth club, gardening and allotment sessions, trips out and life skills such as cooking, making films and documentaries.



'Fruits Of Our Labour' was a new community based project led by LKYPG that culminated in an evening of entertaining and informative events in commemoration of World War I.

Mancunian Way started a new youth club in Gorton for young people aged 12 plus and soon had an average of 50 young people attending each Friday. Funding was awarded to support the costs of a sports coach to run 32 sessions to facilitate organised sports for young people, introduce new sports, and through sport foster a sense of respect and community. By offering new activities they also hope to attract new members to ensure local young people have access to quality sports which are fun and entertaining.

Droylsden Amateur Boxing Club trains young people from the age of 10 upwards in the art of boxing. They provide a safe and constructive environment for young people to learn the discipline in the sport and respect for whilst helping to improve their lifestyles through their physical fitness and giving them a sense of pride in their achievements.

'Boxing is my life!' grins Charles, club's chief coach at Droylsden Amateur Boxing Club, and his enthusiasm is clearly infectious – nearly 50 people of all ages get together at the club to train and compete.

