

**Nine Lives Community Fund**

**Annual Impact Report**

**2014 - 2015**



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**About Forever Manchester**

Our job is to fund and support community activity throughout the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. We do this through generous contributions from individuals, families and businesses. People like you.

The impact of this support is real. It is the impact of community activity. It is the impact that ordinary people have when they do extraordinary things together. It’s about a hand up, not a hand out, it’s about focussing on what’s strong, not what’s wrong and it’s about recognising that there is no us and them…only us.

Community activity is a unique resource, helping to improve mental and physical wellbeing, reducing social isolation, developing confidence to try something new, raising aspirations and employability as well as providing an opportunity to meet and connect with each other.

We live in a ‘find it, fund it, fix it’ world. A culture dominated by a glass half empty mind-set that assumes we’re all too dumb or incapable of sorting things out ourselves and by policies that consign people to being passive recipients of state funded services, creating increased dependency not a culture of independence or empowerment.

We’re at a unique point in time. A time when our generation needs to recognise that we need to look after our communities and make sure that they are great places for future generations to live, work and love.

And if this is currently the norm then just think what the immediate future might hold – life expectancy rising faster than imagined, with people expecting to live until they’re 90 by the year 2030 and research suggesting that most students will still be paying back loans from their university days in their 40s and 50s and inevitably more austerity measures.

Life is going to look very different if we carry on hurtling forward at this speed without stopping to take stock. We need to start thinking about the future in far longer terms than we currently do, recognise what might lay ahead and understand the implications and start to put the building blocks in place now to ensure that society is in a fit state to look after itself.

So whether you think of your community as where you live, where you work or where you play, let’s recognise that we’ve all got unlimited potential, assets, skills and talents and that if we pool them all together we will become stronger and we will build a movement of people who choose to take action for the common good.

**Al Mackin, Forever Manchester Chairman**

“It feels like I’ve been part of the Forever Manchester family forever, but I can still vividly remember the first time I came across the charity in 2011. Since then I’ve gone from being an Ambassador, to a Board Member and now I’m very proud to be Chairman of a great charity that has a huge heart. And one that beats to a distinctive, Manchester rhythm. My role is partly legal, partly supportive and part rabble rouser, and I’m a small cog in a charity that supports thousands of wonderful individuals. The real power of Forever Manchester comes from everyone who has said “I want to be part of this,” the staff, the Ambassadors, the supporters, the groups, the Board, our President and our Vice Presidents and most of all the people involved in community activity on a regular basis. An army of unique and talented Mancunians (and adopted Mancunians) who want to make this great region even greater.”

**The Nine Lives Community Fund**

Forever Manchester’s Nine Lives Community Fund is a partnership between Forever Manchester and the chambers of Charles Garside QC at 9 St. John Street, Manchester.

Nine Lives 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. They aim to support **nine** community projects each year.

Representatives from chambers form a panel which meets 3 times each year to consider funding applications which are sourced by Forever Manchester.

Community groups that have an annual income of less than **£150,000** can apply for a grant of up to **£2,000**. The Fund has a focus on providing awards for sporting and diversionary activities for young disadvantaged people in Greater Manchester, aged 10-18 years.

**Fund Breakdown Oct 14 – Sept 15**

* **19** applications received
* **£34,431** of funding requested
* **£11,131** awarded to community groups
* **9** successful applicants
* **6** rejected applications
* **4** cancelled applications

**Awards Overview**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group** | **Amount Awarded** | **Purpose** |
| Bolton Deane & Derby Cricket & Social Club | £450 | Bolton Dean & Derby Cricket and Social Club is a long established club based at Sunny Side Park in Great Lever. They promote and encourage healthy recreation to residents through cricket. Children and young people are given the opportunity to play competitive cricket in an organised league. The club also organises cricket and football competition and social function days such as fun days, BBQs and curry nights for the community.  The Club successfully runs 12 under 16’s teams, but due to demand more were needed. Funding allowed the Club to field two more teams in the junior section through buying equipment, paying for venue hire, volunteer expenses and training, and transport expenses. |
| Stretford & Urmston Sea Cadets | £786 | The Cadets support young people by promoting valuable personal attributes and high standards of conduct, using a nautical theme based on the customs of the Royal Navy. They provide exciting and challenging training which generates self-confidence, self-reliance, initiative, loyalty and a sense of duty, whilst encouraging leadership qualities and team working.  The Cadets had the outside of their building on Bradshaw Lane cladded in steel, to help preserve the building and to secure it from attempted robbery. They also had a very secure fence around the building, but the gates were very old, weak and unstable. Funding allowed the Cadets to install steel gates and to secure the site and to also add signs to the gate informing people who they are and what they do. |
| Cherrybrook FC | £850 | Cherrybrook are a charter standard Football Club, having achieved the highest marque that the FA offers. The club provides opportunities for children to engage in social activities through sport.  The award from the Nine Lives Community Fund allowed the Club to hire a pitch at Laithwaite Park to run sessions over 18 weeks, enabling them to provide free training courses to introduce children from the Douglas area to the pleasure of sports participation with a view of forming the children into football teams and participating in local leagues. |
| Breaking Barriers | £1,000 | The ultimate purpose of Breaking Barriers is to give 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.  The award was given towards the costs of hiring a hall, catering, and a DJ, and photographer so that they could host a 'Winter Ball' for disabled people who are not able to, or feel uncomfortable, attending the end of year 11 prom at their mainstream school. |
| Denton Girls Football Club | £1,250 | Denton Girls FC started in 1997 as a junior girl’s football team due to local demand. They aim to help address the high drop-out rate of high school girls across sport. The Club recently engaged with the national ‘This Girl Can’ campaign, through a programme where coaches and volunteers provide support to girls who wish to either advance their knowledge of Sport or to provide training to those who wish to pursue a career in sport.  Funding was awarded to enable 50 members to attending a training session, and also to extend an invitation to 25 girls from Germany to visit Denton FC and spend and spend 4 days of cultural and social football education, culminating in playing in a National Football Tournament with the German players. |
| South West Manchester Cricket Club | £1,360 | South West Manchester Cricket Club provide cricketing opportunities for people in the areas of Chorlton, Stretford and Whalley Range.  The Nine Lives Community Fund supported the Club with an award so that they could extend provision. Funding enabled the Club to provide children between the ages of 10 - 18 with cricket sessions over 40 weeks, as well as contributing to the costs of a Level 3 coach and the hire of indoor nets. |
| WAVE Adventure | £1,435 | WAVE Adventure supports communities to access healthy adventurous outdoor activities. They particularly focus on areas where people may be experiencing multiple disadvantages and are less likely to be able to take part in the activities they offer without WAVE’s support. They work in partnership with relevant organisations and in communities with groups and individuals to enable the hardest to reach to experience healthy activities and to take part as volunteers.  Funding was awarded to deliver an outdoor activity programme for young people, aimed at equipping them with the confidence and skills to become volunteers and mentors so that they can go on to support other vulnerable young people and introduce new participants to climbing and a range of adventurous sports such as canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, hill walking, gorge scrambling and rock climbing. |
| Moss Side Fire Station Amateur Boxing Club | £2,000 | The club is based in Moss Side and is affiliated with and located on the premises of Moss Side fire station. The Club engage with socially excluded, marginalised and vulnerable groups who are currently under represented in the community including the Somali community, disabled boxers, and women, as well as developing amateur talent to its full potential. As a club, they do not exist purely to facilitate the sport, but use the sport to engage with and work within the community.  The award allowed them to purchase a variety of equipment specifically for the 10 – 18 range of children who come to the club, enabling them to fully participate in active work in the gym. |
| Mancunian way | £2,000 | Mancunian Way is a charity born out of the ashes of the riots in the summer of 2011. It aims to fill the gaps left in service provision by public authority cuts, providing activities which reduce anti-social behaviour and give young people an alternative path.  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. |