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News Release

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Planting Seeds of Hope in Kingshurst

Community group Seeds of Hope has been given a new lease of life, with recent funding from the Fair Share Trust through Birmingham Community Foundation. Seeds of Hope are based at St Barnabas Church Hall in Chelmsley Wood and boost the lives of hundreds of local people living in the area. Project manager Jean Johnson co-ordinates a busy weekly schedule of activities from coffee mornings to street dance troupes.

The funding was to cover the costs of a project worker over 3 years which enables the group to keep going. Project manager Jean Johnson is hugely grateful for the funding and says: "The hall was derelict before our group started. We cater for all ages from babies with moms and tots groups to over 50's with coffee mornings and sequence dancing. Without Fair Share funding from Birmingham Community Foundation, we simply could not keep on going!"

Local elderly people and low income lone parent families' benefit greatly from the group which has been running for over a decade. The group found itself without funds to continue, until funding was made available through the Big Lottery Fund's Fair Share Trust. The centre has become the focal meeting point for the local community, enriching the lives of the disadvantaged and isolated in Kingshurst, North Solihull.

Vicky, a regular at the over 50's sequence dancing and Seeds of Hope's eldest member said: "I am 95 years old and I have very happy memories of Seeds of Hope, I come along 3 times a week. If it was not for Seeds of Hope I would never get out of the house!"

Nearly eight years ago, the Fair Share Trust was born. The Fair Share Trust aim to build community resources and skills by improving the environment in disadvantaged areas that have not received their fair share of Lottery funding in the past. Birmingham Community Foundation helps local communities to make a difference, by putting

regeneration into their hands and helping to change lives for the better in four areas of the West Midlands, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and North Solihull.

Ends

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For more information visit www.bhamfoundation.co.uk

Notes to the editor

Aims of Fair Share Trust for Solihull

1. Improve and establish community wide communication and information mechanisms
2. Develop and support existing community groups through training, administrative support and provision of facilities and commonly owned equipment
3. Form new community groups and projects with particular emphasis on cross community groups and projects
4. Support the acquisition and development of community owned assets and facilities