

# What we do and why

## Oxfordshire Community Foundation is a charitable organisation that connects donors with dynamic local causes that make change happen.

Our organisation is one of 48 community foundations across the UK, and over 1,700 similar foundations across the world. We work with our generous donors to provide a permanent, flexible and growing source of local charitable funding that will directly address the needs of Oxfordshire's most vulnerable.

Oxfordshire Community Foundation carries out three key activities:

- Empowering **donors** to grow the value of their charitable investments, and support a portfolio of local causes that reflects their interests
- Delivering sustainable funding to **small community groups**, helping them improve the wellbeing of the most disadvantaged people and neighbourhoods
- Showing innovative and strategic **thought leadership** and local expertise, to help the local charitable sector make a genuine and lasting impact on communities in Oxfordshire



## Community investment and philanthropy



We take a long-term, strategic view of charitable giving. The community foundation model is based on the notion that gifts and donations are more effective when they are collectively pooled together. These can then be used to contribute to the growth of an endowment fund, which is professionally managed to produce the best returns. The income from this fund is used for immediate grant-making, whilst over time the capital continues to grow. This means that the foundation has the potential to award ever larger grants for bigger and better projects – all the while remaining relevant to the community it serves.

**Using this approach, OCF has been able to achieve a 10 x return on investment, delivering more than £10 in combined grant-making and new endowment donations for every £1 of running costs.**

## A trusted partner for those who want to give something back



We provide a personal service to help people invest in their local area. Individuals, families and companies work with us to give their money, time or skills to help meet the specific needs of Oxfordshire residents. This might take the form of a named fund – a cost-effective and practical alternative to founding a new charity or private trust – or simply by using our local knowledge to match donors' passions and interests to grassroots projects that are helping tackle key issues.

**One donor to the Future-Building Fund says "OCF is creating an environment where people get excited about giving and making a real difference to charitable enterprises."**

## OXFORDSHIRE IN A NUTSHELL



Our wonderful county is home to two world-class universities, idyllic countryside, a wealth of history and culture, and thriving technology and manufacturing industries. However, amongst privilege and wealth nestles difficulty and deprivation. Some surprising facts about a different Oxfordshire, right on your doorstep:

- 11.7% of children in Oxfordshire live in poverty; 9% in severe poverty
- In some areas, 40–50% of adults have no educational qualifications at all
- There is a drop in life expectancy of 10 years in areas 10 minutes apart
- The county is amongst the top 15% in the UK number of homeless per household



In 2014, OCF awarded more than **£200,000** in grants to over a hundred different community groups working directly to tackle homelessness, social exclusion, child poverty, rural isolation and disability.



### Our vision

*For communities in Oxfordshire to thrive, and for disadvantage and social exclusion to be a thing of the past*

### Our mission



*Harness wealth, wisdom and skills to deliver community investment in Oxfordshire*