

## **Boots steps up its local giving to £250,000**

BOOTS, THE UK'S LEADING HEALTH and beauty retailer, has announced that it is set to give more money to local good causes through its Charitable Trust.

The Trust, which has been operating in Nottinghamshire since 1971, will award £250,000 this year and Notts charities and voluntary organisations working in the areas of Health, Lifelong Learning, Community Development and Social Care can apply.

One charity that has already benefited this year is the Partnership Council in Hyson Green. The Skills Exchange Project at this charity works as a 'time bank' where local people can trade their skills and earn credits for each hour that they give. A range of activities has been traded from guitar lessons to TV tuning, gardening and DIY. The Trust has donated £5,000 towards the costs of running the scheme.

Helen Rigby from The Partnership Council said: "This money is a real boost to our scheme. There are many unemployed or socially isolated people living in the area who have so much to give but don't value their skills. With a little bit of prompting and promotion, we now have people trading their DIY, gardening, befriending and language skills. We've even got people giving others without transport lifts to various appointments."

Kay Croot, Chair of Trustees for the Boots Charitable Trust said: "We are delighted to increase the amount that we are giving to charities in Nottinghamshire. Since 1971, we've given more than £9M to over 3,000 local good causes."

### **Ends**

**For more information please visit**

**[http: //boots-uk.com/csr](http://boots-uk.com/csr)**

### **Case studies**

#### **1. Citizens Advice Broxtowe**

This pioneering scheme, funded by Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust to bring advice to the heart of the community, was recently awarded £6,000 by the Trust.

Citizens Advice Broxtowe has been part of Stapleford's new, propose-built Care Centre since it opened its doors in 2006. Due to new PCT funding arrangements, it found itself with a shortfall of £6,000, which if not met, would mean the bureau could only provide advice for two days a week instead of three.

Rachel McGuire from the Boots Charitable Trust said: "We decided that this was a scheme that was well worth funding as the support that it offered and the way that it offered it was making a huge impact in Stapleford. Having the CAB in the health centre means that people can easily access its services and get the help that they need. We are looking forward to seeing how they develop this year."

Sue Maslowska, CAB's District Manager said: "Getting this funding makes all the difference to the work we're doing here. Having CABs in health centres is pioneering in Nottinghamshire - there is only one other such scheme in the rest of Nottinghamshire, which is in Ashfield.

"The Primary Care Trust is monitoring our success and this may mean that we see other CABs locating within GP surgeries and health care centres. Much of our work comes straight from the health centre as patients with ill health and stress-related issues are referred to our advisors by health care professionals."

The CAB in Stapleford provides a range of advisory services including debt counselling, job loss, housing advice, benefit information and help with depression. Their specialist team work with a number of other agencies to refer clients when additional help is needed.

**For more information contact Sue Maslowska on 01773 719 450**

### **Skylarks turns 30**

Skylarks, the respite residential centre near Holme Pierrepont, was awarded £4,000 to help to fund the widening of paths that would allow guests in wheelchairs to access the woodlands and the herb garden.

In keeping with its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, the new areas will be called the Pearl Pathway and the Pearl Herb Garden and will enable 1,500 guests to access all of the grounds at Skylarks, including the Woodlands Nature Reserve that is managed by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

Trust Fundraiser, Jane Hough, who works for centre managers Vitalise, said: "Many of our disabled guests spend little time outdoors due to access problems and our gardens make a huge difference to their stay. Boots' money has meant that we can now stop fundraising and get on with the work."

Trustee Oonagh Turnbull: "The Board was unanimous in its support for this project. Skylarks is a great centre that helps give respite to carers whilst giving the guest an enjoyable, stimulating stay. The gardens are extremely therapeutic and these pathways will make them even better. I can't wait to see the finished result."

**For more information, contact Jane Hough on 0115 981 9632**