Name of grant awarding organisation
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Town
County
Post Code

Date / Year

Dear Trustees,

**Foot Forward Trust – Supporting the development of young people.**

**About Us**

The Foot Forward Trust was established as registered charity in 1995. Our mission is to support the development of young people and provide opportunities for them to engage in purposeful activities and challenges that bring them together and enable them to realise their potential.

**Why do we exist?**

The charity began in a rural location as we recognised that mainstream services were anchored in the larger market towns. We serve young people in rural communities as they were underserved, and we didn’t want to leave these young people behind. For those young people with learning difficulties or SEND in rural communities, they are adversely disadvantaged by the lack development opportunities than their peers living in urban areas.

Recent local research by ‘Youth Suffolk’ finds that for children and young people in Suffolk’s rural communities there are fewer after school activity groups, youth clubs and youth engagement opportunities, including many options around uniformed groups. Transport is cited as essential of course. This mirrors our own engagement with parents and young people through engagement activities, our programmes and consultations – online survey and focus groups.

**Engagement and Service**

Our youth development programmes operate during the school holidays / half term or weekend days. They typically accommodate 12 participants and where the resources can be found, we may run two different programmes in different rural communities locally:

* **Build** is team focused.
* **Spirit** delivers purposeful and practical activities in the community.
* **Aim High** is an outdoor activities based youth leadership programme.

Our 1-day events include sports days, wellbeing events, horrible history, arts and crafty, animal magic and a virtual world (ICT / Virtual Reality).

**Our Impact**

Over the last 12 months we have delivered 7 different self-development programmes and 12 events that have engaged 560 young people.

*Participant outcomes*:

Each youth development programme has its own focus:

* Improving self-esteem through achievement and working with and placing trust in others.
* Developing learning through participation vocational development activities and challenges.
* Enhancing personal wellbeing and developed friendships.

Our participating young people are asked to provide feedback (forms, email, videos) following their participation and provide ideas that can influence future programmes and how they are delivered. Indeed, several participants have returned to support specific programmes as volunteers.

Parents feedback has been positive, not only from youth engagement provision perspective, but the vocational learning and development their children have experienced and the new friends they have made.

**Operations**

We have a part-time Project Manager, a full-time Youth Development Officer, five active volunteer Trustees, and a dozen or so active volunteers. We can contract in DBS checked sessional youth workers and specialists as our programme dictates.

**How we are funded**

Our income as a charity is very mixed and changes annually. When possible, we have been awarded small grants from Smethurst County Council, Gigglestop District Council and local Town and Parish Councils. The Smethurst Community Foundation, other grant awarding trusts/foundations and businesses have been extremely generous. To coincide our own charity development ethos, the corporate team challenge day now engages teams from 12 local businesses. Our trustees and supporters lead on a variety of fundraising initiatives, including marathon quizzes to our annual village to village sponsored walk.

We are seeking financial support of £2,000 that will support the continued efficient administration, planning and management that provides the platform for us to deliver our development programmes to young people.

Our annual report can be found on the Charity Commission website, but should you want to discuss our work or even visit us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely

Name
Chair of Trustees
Foot Forward Trust (charity: 111111111)
website:
email: