

**“Devon Community Foundation: A Community Foundation is a catalyst and mechanism for social action, bringing community groups and donors together”**



**Breughel. “The Fall of Icarus”. c. 1554-1555**

In Greek legend, Icarus made himself wings, but flew too close to the sun, so that the wax in his wings melted and he fell to earth. Icarus, young, ambitious, full of creativity but perhaps not always with the greatest ideas!

But the painting isn't really about Icarus. It is about apathy. As Icarus quietly drowns in one corner of the painting, the ploughman keeps looking down, just doing his job, the shepherd looks dreamily into the distance, the fisherman ignores the splashing legs in front of him and the ship that could so easily have thrown him a rope, sails on by. What seems an idyllic scene is, in fact, a tale of apathy; an absence of compassion while someone nearby drowns.

Changing this is, fundamentally, what Community Foundations are all about – building compassionate communities.

**A Community Foundation is a catalyst and mechanism for social action, bringing community groups and donors together**

Across Devon there are thousands of local people tackling disadvantage. But they

can't do it alone. They struggle to find the funds, support & skills they need. We connect people and organisations who care to local causes and groups which make a real, lasting difference to local lives. We receive hundreds of donations every year which we use to help communities help themselves.

We do this by accepting donations into our charitable funds, claiming any tax relief that is available and pooling all those donations to create two forms of fund. We manage these funds in a general pot or offer a bespoke service to philanthropists where they create significant funds. These can be targeted at specific issues or geographic areas close to the donors' hearts.

The first is a fund for immediate giving where, as donations come in, we are simultaneously receiving and assessing applications from local groups in the social economy. These can be charities, Social Enterprises or non-constituted charitable organisations.

The second fund has a more strategic purpose. This is an endowed fund where donations received are put into an invested (endowed) fund and the yield from that investment is used for grant making each year.

Social Enterprises can apply to us for grant funds to set-up, for their core costs or for ongoing development of the idea. We also signpost to other sources of funding be that grants or loans.