

What is the ECF ?

The Procter & Gamble Employees Charity Fund (ECF) was established in Newcastle in 1909. Employees of the Thomas Hedley Newcastle factory were encouraged to donate money from their pay packets to local charity and the Company would then match the donation. Originally the fund was managed by the Plant Manager and was called the Employees Benevolent Fund.

Today the ECF is managed by a national group consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Employees and associate donations are matched £ for £ by the Company. The London Site ECF meet regularly to make decisions on donations.

Around £6000 was donated to local charities or local groups last year by London site alone ! It's easy to join, just fill out a form, hand in to HR and the money will be deducted from your wages.

The size of grant awarded varies being between £50 and £1,500, with the majority of the grants being £150.

Grants are biased towards employee/associate recommendation or employee / associate involvement. Before a decision is made the local ECF group makes background enquiries on the charity's financial soundness. Applications are made by letter or email. Some local ECF groups have specific application forms in place for this already.

Successful applicants receive a cheque and details of how to acknowledge the award. This acknowledgement is used for audit purposes. Local ECF groups gain positive PR in the local newspapers which helps build stakeholder relations.



ESSEX

air ambulance service

In February this year £1500 from the Employees Charity Fund was donated to the Essex Air Ambulance Charity Fund. The donation allowed the Air Ambulance service to purchase a new flying helmet. The Essex air ambulance costs £250,000/month to stay in the air providing an excellent emergency support service for the community covering the whole of Essex, all of this service is funded via donations.

Paul Wilson and Michelle Felton presented the cheque on behalf of the ECF and were shown around the Helicopter site and given a brief talk on how the helicopter service operates.



Key facts:

- The helicopter is powered by 2 Pratt and Whitney 206E engines.
- It also has full single engine capacity allowing it to fly and land with one engine if necessary.
- Operating 7 days a week during daylight hours the MD 902 Explorer takes off within 2 minutes of the emergency call being received at the airbase and is deployed on average 2-4 times each day.
- Based at Boreham near Chelmsford, the helicopter is never more than eight minutes flying time from any one of the major hospitals in Essex and flies at a speed of 150 miles per hour.
- To date the aircraft has flown over **10,000** missions.