



# news release

February 2014

## **Spalding Street Pastors receive Funding Boost**

Spalding Street Pastors, part of an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, have been awarded £1,000 to help engage with people and help them stay safe despite being vulnerable due to the effects of alcohol. The grant was awarded as part of the eighth round of donations from The Bernard Matthews Fund.

The Street Pastors walk the streets of Spalding between 10.00pm and 4.00am helping individuals to get home safely, find their friends or help if they are hurt or unwell. The Spalding group was set up in 2013 following an approach from local councillors, the police and people involved in the Spalding night economy.

The Bernard Matthews Fund has helped with the cost of equipping the Street Pastor team with uniforms enabling them to be easily identified and recognised when patrolling the streets.

Marion Sandhu, Team Coordinator of Spalding Street Pastors said:

“The night time economy of Spalding is enjoyed by large numbers of people who may become vulnerable after an excess consumption of alcohol. The Street Pastors are an invaluable support to these, mainly young people, by supporting, helping, listening and creating a calming influence, working in partnership with others who work in the night time economy. The response to the Street Pastors in Spalding has been very positive.”

-more follows –

Launched in October 2009 to help a wide range of rural charities and voluntary initiatives across Norfolk, north Suffolk and Lincolnshire, the fund has already provided over £55,000 in grants. It is administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation.

Andrew Sherwood, Human Resources Director at Bernard Matthews, commented: "Supporting groups located in the heart of our communities has always been important to Bernard Matthews and the fund is just one aspect of our commitment to corporate responsibility.

"The fund aims to give at a truly local level and make a real difference to community support projects such as Spalding Street Pastors. This is a worthy project fulfilling a vital role within Spalding and its surrounding area."

The Bernard Matthews Fund awards grants of up to £2,000 to support community groups working in Norfolk, north Suffolk, and Lincolnshire. To find out more information about the fund or how to apply for grants, visit [www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm).

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**Notes for editors**

- Details of the Bernard Matthews Fund can be found on The Norfolk Community Foundation website at: [www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm)