Grant Stories

St Cecelia Chaplaincy Group’s Well Being Garden
Students from St Cecilia’s RC High School Chaplaincy Group received a grant from Million Minutes to create a school and community wellbeing garden. They have used the funds to purchase tools and furniture for the garden, fruit trees and a number of vegetable seeds including Cauliflower and sweet peas! They have also set about making a bug hotel and butterfly garden. The idea of the garden is not only to help the school and community environments, but to provide a place that students, staff and the community can go to, to reflect, discuss their worries or just chat in a peaceful and beautiful setting. Having somewhere to go like this will help to promote well-being and good mental health amongst all of those who have a need to feel calmness in a tranquil setting. The project is well under way and the group are thoroughly enjoying the responsibility, independence and creative freedom that comes from working on the garden.

Field of Dreams, Basildon
Million Minutes grants have supported ‘Field of Dreams’ in Basildon. Field of Dreams is a holiday programme run by young volunteers from the local Catholic Parish. Its aim is to enable children from the area to have fun over the school holidays. Some of the 100 children who attend the project will not leave Basildon over the holiday period, so Field of Dreams provides them with activities, new experiences and a chance to meet new people, it is an opportunity above all to have fun! One of the young volunteers explained: “We know that for some of these children, coming here really is the safest place for them to be during their holiday.”

St John Vianney School
Pupils from St John Vianney are working together to create allotments to grow fruit and vegetables for REVIVE, a charity that works with asylum seekers and refugees in their local area. The aim of their project is simple: to help those who are experiencing poverty to feel empowered by growing their own food and helping the school children tend to it. Through this project, more people will be aware of why we need to care for the earth, and how small spaces in the community can be a hub of growing activity!

Mind the Gap
Mind the Gap is a youth led project that supports young people to explore issues that affect them in their everyday lives. By working with young people in schools and parish communities in safe spaces, the young people aim to help other youths who are scared to speak out, build bridges and create links in their communities. Enforcing the need for positive relationships between young people and the community, individuals will learn by doing, enlarging their knowledge of the world, and enhancing their life skills in order to be able to positively participate, and be included in their communities both locally and globally.