

Acknowledgements

Our overwhelming debt is to Cathy Pharoah, the Head of Research at the Charities Aid Foundation, and Michael Brophy, Chief Executive of the Charities Aid Foundation. It was an idea of Michael Brophy's that sparked off the partnership between CSERGE, EFTEC and the CAF. Michael was convinced that there had to be a better way of determining the social value of the voluntary sector. Over a London lunch several of us rashly agreed that what we had been doing for years in the sphere of environmental economics could be applied to the voluntary sector. We would have an answer in months. Several years later this book has emerged, much of it containing the results of the work that was funded by the CAF. We are grateful to the CAF for that sponsorship, but more grateful still for the trust Cathy and Michael had in us to do the work. We are aware that what we had done is partly controversial, but science makes no forward moves without controversy.

A major part of the work has been contributed by Vivien Foster and Part II is adapted from Vivien's doctoral thesis for the Department of Economics at University College London.

Finally, we wish to thank Steve Dobson, who was involved in the initial stages of the CAF work when he was at EFTEC. He helped shape the ideas and 'models' that we subsequently applied.

VF, SM, DWP, EÖ
London, August 1999