



What a year!

It doesn't seem that long since we were in the process (or do I mean chaos?) of moving into our new office space, setting up the Volunteer Centre and working out the opening and closing times for Macc during Christmas 2011. It's been a year of major change for us at Macc but you can read about that in the report on our Macc to the Future event. The focus of this newsletter is what we can do to help and support local voluntary and community groups over the coming year – how we can prove the size and reach of the sector to funders, how we can help you manage through these times when money is short and how people can get involved with volunteering.

After a tough year in 2011, this year has been even more difficult for many of us in the voluntary and community sector and for the people we work with. I wish I could write that things will get easier in 2013 but for me the present is summed up by the simple fact that local groups have had to set up food banks in Manchester. It's hard not to see something very wrong in a country as relatively wealthy as Britain that such things should be needed and yet it reminds me that there's incredible effort in our sector to fight poverty and inequality and the ability to respond to what's going on in the real world is perhaps the most fantastic thing about our sector. The holiday season can be a busy time for some groups and people with carer responsibilities but all of us at Macc would like to wish you a very happy Christmas.

Macc's services will be closed between Christmas and New Year. This means all the services available through Manchester Community Central including Volunteer Centre Manchester, our capacity building and policy functions will be closed during the holiday period.

Closing on Friday 21 December 2012 at 5pm
Reopen on Wednesday 2 January 2013 at 9am

During that time you can email us on info@mcrcommunitycentral.org or leave a short message on our answer phone on 0333 321 3021. We will respond to messages in the New Year.

With best wishes from all of us

Mike Wild
Chief Executive