

# Brochure



## Spirit of Manchester 2024

Thursday 3rd October  
The Sheridan





# Spirit of Manchester Fund

Macc is raising money for Manchester's voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to help support those that struggle the most during the cost of living crisis.

Please help us raise as much money as we can to help people in Manchester who need vital support in the cost of living crisis. We are asking you to take action to help those in need. Those on the lowest incomes and so many other people affected by social inequalities remain vulnerable and depend on the VCSE sector's support.

## To donate by text message:

To make a one-off donation of £5 text SPIRITOFMCR 5 to 70450 or scan the QR code.

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about Donr's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text SPIRITOFMCRNOINFO 5 to 70450. Alternatively, you can text any whole-pound amount between £1 and £20, e.g. text SPIRITOFMCR 20 to donate £20.



Donate via text



Donate online

## Or to donate online:

Follow this link: <https://localgiving.org/charity/macc/project/spiritofmcr>

*Macc's Spirit of Manchester Fund uses the donr text giving and Localgiving online fundraising platforms.*



For further information or to discuss other ways you can support the Spirit of Manchester Fund as a donor, fundraiser or supporter, please contact Oliver Cranfield on 0161 834 9823 or email: [oliver@macc.org.uk](mailto:oliver@macc.org.uk).

# A few words from Mike Wild, Chief Executive of Macc

On behalf of everyone at Macc, I would like to welcome you to the Spirit of Manchester Awards.

This is a book of stories. These are the stories of people and organisations working with fierce hope and defiant kindness to make life in Manchester better for everyone.

Macc's role in Manchester is to support and encourage the good, useful and amazing work of almost four thousand local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and faith groups in the city.

There are, quite literally, thousands of people (paid and voluntary) who work in these organisations across all of our diverse communities. Tonight, we're taking a moment to celebrate all of that because it is a beautiful part of life in Manchester.

But in reading these stories, and seeing the awards being given out, please remember that the reason we do this, why all of this happens is because what we really want is to create change. We want our work to be no longer needed. We want to solve problems, not just address their effects.

We must always recognise that – in a relatively wealthy country like the UK – the fact the VCSE sector is having to work ever harder is a concern. After years of damaging impacts on our sector from cuts to public services, a global pandemic and a cost of living crisis, we are more concerned than ever about the sustainability of the work done by all these organisations – and the toll it takes on the people who make all of this happen. The VCSE sector is a massive ecosystem of human support organisations of which, it seems, more and more is expected. This is not because there aren't enough resources, support and opportunities for everyone but because they are not equally accessible to everyone for reasons of personal circumstances, deep rooted structural injustices (some of which go back centuries) and, it must be said, political choices.

That is why we run the Spirit of Manchester programme: to show everyone real examples of how things could and should be better and the amazing local people and organisations who are doing something about it.

With love from all of us x

Mike Wild, Chief Executive, Macc



# Lord Mayor

## COUNCILLOR PAUL ANDREWS



Councillor Paul Andrews was born in Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester in 1955. He lived in the Bradford area of the city until he moved to Wythenshawe in 1959. He went through the Poundswick School system: Infants, Juniors, then Poundswick Grammar, which he left in 1970. Paul then completed an apprenticeship in the print industry, before starting work in 1978 as a baggage handler at Manchester Airport, where he was elected shop steward in 1985. Paul's last eight years at the Airport, where he worked until 2003, were spent as full-time Union Convenor for the Transport and General Workers Union.

Paul was first elected to Manchester City Council in 1996, representing Woodhouse Park ward, and since 2002 he has represented Baguley ward. He served on several committees, including Planning, Licensing Standards and most of the scrutiny committees during that time. Paul completed two terms on the Executive Committee between 2008 and 2017, first as Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, and then for Adults Health and Wellbeing.

Paul has also represented the Council on outside bodies, including Parkway Green Housing Trust/Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, the Flood Risk Defence Committee, Greater Manchester Pension Fund, and the Airport Consultative Committee, as well as serving on several governing bodies. More recently, he served on the Manchester Airport Trust Fund and the Port Health Authority.

Paul has been married to Karen since 1996. In his spare time, he enjoys annual trips to Scotland and Ireland, where he likes to indulge in his favourite pastime, fishing.

For his year as Lord Mayor, Paul has chosen the theme of Celebrating Carers. Through his work with both Adults and Children's Social Care, Paul understands the importance of the care given to vulnerable individuals by family, friends, volunteers, and professional organisations. He acknowledges that carers enhance the quality-of-life experience for both the present and the future. This recognition is shared by the Lady Mayoress, as a result of her long career working with Children's Services.

# Judges

The shortlist was determined by independent judges (below). Films of the shortlist will be shown at the awards evening for the audience to vote on and determine the winner.

**Thank you to our Spirit of Manchester Judges who kindly volunteered to read through all the nominations and select the shortlist**

**Jeremy (Jez) Myers** – Chair of the panel  
Keisha Thompson  
Samuel Remi-Akinwale  
Nakib Narat  
Alexandra King-Byatt

## Jeremy Myers, Chair



Jeremy 'Jez' Myers is, by his own admission, not a writer. A recipient of Manchester City Council's 'Pride of Manchester' Award and the Chairperson for the Spirit of Manchester Awards, the passionate Mancunian has often found himself championing the people of his beloved city and its surrounding areas. Whether writing in local papers or shouting about things online, Jez has a knack for rallying support around his community and doing what he can for others.

After meeting partner Maria Romanenko, a Ukrainian journalist, in 2020, Jez was set to leave Manchester for Kyiv. However, after fleeing Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine, Jez has thrown his full support behind the people of Ukraine through a variety of volunteering projects. The story of the escape has been featured, in part, in over one hundred major media outlets around the world and has gathered tens of millions of views.

Jez has been Chairperson of the Awards for the last decade, an honour which he doesn't take lightly. Jez considers it to be an absolute privilege to sit with the other judges and read over the many nominations, often from the absolute unsung heroes of the community, which frequently leave him awe struck. Despite his protestations, Jez continues to write and should have a book published in 2024.

# Samuel Remi-Akinwale



Samuel is a young Nigerian-Manxunian eager to learn and support others. Samuel has a strong interest in politics and economics and a passion for basketball, anime and empowering young people. Samuel is currently CEO of Young Manchester, a membership organisation and intermediary funder that works to strengthen, connect, and champion organisations that support young people in Manchester.

Beyond this, Samuel co-leads a small creative collective called Creation Foundation, dedicated to hosting honest conversations and authentic content for and by young people; whilst also curating an anthology of stories of young migrants and their challenges accessing higher education.

# Keisha Thompson

Keisha Thompson FRSA is a Manchester based writer, performance artist and producer. She is Co-Chair of the Independent Theatre Council, a trustee of Olympias Music Foundation and recipient of the DARE Art Prize 2024 from Opera North and the University of Leeds in association with National Science and Media Museum and The Tetley.

Formerly, she has been Artistic Director and CEO of Contact, Manchester, Chair of radical arts funding body, Future's Venture Foundation and was the first recipient of The Arts Foundation Theatre Makers Award in 2021.

Recent works include *The Bell Curves*. Commissioned by Lancaster University and Manchester DNA. An all-female show that clashes science and culture by looking at the medical ethics linked to CRISPR-Cas9 technology; Children's show, *Issy, BOSS & Fractal*. Commissioned by Fuel Theatre. Directed by Alan Lane (*Slung Low*); and *14%* supported by Talawa Firsts, an immersive theatre piece looking DNA tests and structural racism particularly within the context British football culture.

In May 2022, she completed a residency with Esplanade Theatre in Singapore. Her focus was on her on-going project, *DeCipher*. The expansive educational project, looks at mathematical pedagogy and how it can be taught in a creative way in non-educational spaces. She is working to find out how it can be decolonised, democratised and dismantled. The goal is to create interactions that allow for agency, joy and discovery. A maths lesson that feels like a poetry workshop, a dance class or an interaction installation.



# Alexandra King-Byatt



I joined CityCo 14 years ago and am a part of the senior team who deliver a number of partnerships across Manchester city centre. CityCo is a not for profit partnership dedicated to supporting the Manchester city centre business community. CityCo's membership ranges from small independent venues such as Bar POP, to major investors and operators such as M&G, Aviva, Schroders and Bruntwood.

We deliver the Manchester Business Crime Reduction Partnership, Manchester Business Improvement District and are partners in the Manchester Accommodation Business Improvement District. As Managing Director, I bring the public and private sectors together on a range of urban challenges and opportunities. These challenges can range from place-

based issues such as anti-social behaviour and poor environmental management to footfall driving events and markets.

I am a member of The Manchester Homelessness Partnership Board, the Manchester Water Safety Partnership Board and The Manchester Food Board. I volunteer for Real Change MCR, which is a small grant giving fund that helps people off the streets and into their own tenancies.

Originally from Winchester, I studied in Manchester and Salford, after graduating I stayed in the city and worked in live music venues, retail. contemporary arts and visitor attractions. I am married and have two beautiful dogs.

# Nakib Narat

Nakib is an Actor, Theatre Maker and former broadcast journalist. He values the social and health benefits of Arts activity and equality of access for older people. Formerly "Roving Provocateur" for Age UK Arts Conference. He originated Manchester Passion 2017 (also playing Pontius Pilate!) for 5000 people in Cathedral Gardens and filmed for "Songs of Praise". He started Chorlton Good Neighbours Drama for over 50s: writing and producing films and plays with them for Home, Manchester Festival and Chorlton Arts Festival (CAF). He's on CAF's Committee and was with Factory International as a Community producer.



Originally from Blackburn, Lancashire, he's loved Manchester since childhood. Accompanying his Dad to Northern Quarter and Strangeways wholesalers for their market stall to working for Granada as a Reporter/Producer and later playing a Priest in "Coronation Street". As Co-Chair of the Mayor's GM Older People's Equality Channel he wants Older People's lives to be healthier and fully valued.

*What do the Spirit of Manchester Awards mean to you?* Manchester and "Mancunianity" - Greater Manchester's people - all have kindness in their DNA. Honouring those that truly go above and beyond in the Spirit of our city and region is a great privilege.

# Volunteer Centre Manchester



Volunteering in Manchester is a cause for celebration and appreciation. It's a testament to the incredible generosity of spirit and community that runs through the fabric of our city. Volunteering is also an essential support during times of turmoil: it helped provide vaccines during COVID and pulled communities together after racist riots. Thousands upon thousands give their time, skills, passion and enthusiasm to bring this city to life.

Volunteering can be many things; you are likely volunteering without knowing it. Have you ever been neighbourly, done your bit for a community or faith group, supported a cause, or undertook social action? That is all volunteering. Whether with a formal, defined group or independently, most of us volunteer. Below is a graphic showing a narrow slice of all the activities that can be called 'volunteering':



At the Volunteer Centre Manchester, our role is to encourage and promote volunteering in the city as best we can. This year, we have been continuing our usual work maintaining:

- The Vision for Volunteering
- VCQA Accreditations
- Supporting individuals into volunteering through one-to-one appointments, phone calls and adding opportunities onto the website. This year we have supported more than 2,500 people into volunteering.

We also continue to support volunteer-involving organisations through our:

- Quarterly Volunteer Coordinator Forums
- Regular trainings on best practice involving volunteers
- Coordinating the GM Volunteering Network.

However this year we are also trying lots of new and exciting things too! For Volunteers' Week we did something a bit different and curated an exhibition in Manchester Craft and Design Centre on Manchester's history of volunteering, to celebrate 40 years of Volunteers' Weeks.

We also began weekly in-person drop-ins to help people find volunteering, for the first time since COVID! As well as these new weekly drop-ins, we are restructuring our website for ease of use and adding pages for refugee, youth and student volunteering. We also hope to work more with referral partners such as Job Centres, Adult Education and Refugee Hubs to make sure that everyone, from all walks of life, is able to access volunteering.

We are only as effective as the people who get involved.

Please follow us on:

Instagram: @volunteercentremanchester

Facebook: Volunteer Centre Manchester - Official

Website: [www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](http://www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk)

Email: [info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk)

Overall, we know that working for free to support others is a vital and liberating way of helping communities become independent, self-sufficiently creating their own support networks and solutions to problems. Every year we find ourselves at a loss for words amid such a force for good. We are truly grateful, humbled and inspired by you all.



# Volunteer of the Year

## Nominations must show:

- How they go above and beyond their role
- How they inspire and motivate others to volunteer
- The impact they have made

## Holly Taberner



Holly is our longest-standing regular volunteer at MASH (since 2017), offering non-judgemental support to women who sex work. Holly makes such an effort to prioritise MASH and fit it into her life that some days she is volunteering until past midnight on the outreach van and others she gives up her full afternoon for our Drop-in service. As of March 2024 Holly has already given over 30 hours of volunteering time this year.

Not only has Holly donated her energy to deliver MASH's services, she is a huge advocate. She has: raised hundreds of pounds for MASH via her own fundraisers, connected MASH to people in her network who've gone on to support, represented MASH at external events, and gave up her time on International Women's

Day for our Arndale fundraiser, raising awareness and cementing an important partnership.

Our Drop-in Worker, Chanti, had this to say: "Her compassion and dedication to helping other women is just incredible. Her warm personality and calm nature make such a difference to everyone who walks through the door, she has made some great connections with the women we support and brings lots of laughter to the session. MASH is lucky to have Holly."

# Volunteer of the Year

## Sammy Minshull

Sammy has spent over 20 years supporting the Fallowfield community by running Anson House - a support hub for the local community. Sammy has a team of volunteers who she has recruited, upskilled and supports, and collectively they have adapted the centre to support the communities needs.

The main activity of Anson House is the food support run weekly for the community. Sammy spends a huge amount of time sourcing food, aiming to meet the dietary requirements of a diverse community, building up reserves of food to meet the every growing demand locally.

Sammy has worked with the community to ensure there are local offers available - drop ins for health checks, local councillor surgeries and money support teams all are delivered from the House, enabling isolated local people to access support locally.

Sammy has dedicated her life to voluntary work - and juggles this alongside caring for her partner who is sadly facing a terminal illness. Sammy is the lifeline of the community - the go to person for all the locals who turn to her for support. She is full of passion for the work she does and the ways in which she can support the community.

## Maria Romanenko



Fleeing a war-torn country for a new one is traumatic and difficult. When Maria fled Russia's invasion in early 2022, she realised she could use her English skills to help fellow displaced Ukrainians in Manchester. Since then, she has dedicated over 3,000 volunteer hours to helping thousands of Ukrainians. Her most popular project has been running free historical and cultural walking tours of Manchester for 1,500 Ukrainians. Maria has also volunteered to provide advice, support, and interpreting for Ukrainians in housing, education, health, employment, and social environments. She has advised Local Authorities, MPs, the Government, and the Cabinet Office and, as the best-known Ukrainian

refugee in the country, has appeared in every major national media outlet highlighting the problems faced by Ukrainian refugees, leading to changes in the Government's approach.

Maria became the first Ukrainian to win the Prime Minister's Points of Light award and was featured by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for her "exemplary volunteering" during Volunteer Week 2023. Maria inspires me and other Brits, such as the Free Manchester Walking Tours group, to join her in helping Ukrainian refugees overcome mental health struggles and social isolation and flourish in their temporary new homes.

# Volunteering Team

## Nominations must show:

- How the team has made an impact to the organisation and the wider community
- Give a demonstration of how a team has worked together on a specific project/challenge
- Where the team have remained organised and shown innovation

## Caritas Salford



"Things are so hard, I'm grateful for everything. My boys don't know where the food comes from, but know they'll be fed." Our charity supports thousands of people and couldn't without our amazing volunteers.

In Manchester we have 39 volunteers at our Cornerstone Centre supporting people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and our Lalley Centre, Community Pantry and Allotment assisting those experiencing poverty and isolation.

In addition, our 67 community volunteers at Cornerstone - people who previously accessed the service and now volunteer to help others who are homeless or at risk of homelessness also help develop our services and processes, giving an invaluable insight into both coming for support and working as a volunteer. The quotes included are just a few examples of their impact. They support people in a huge range of ways, dedicating hundreds of hours preparing food, sorting donations, food parcels, staffing the community shop, pantry and allotment and more. They also, importantly, talk to visitors, helping them feel at ease at time of acute crisis. We can't thank them enough.

"It makes me feel good just to walk through the doors. I'm always welcomed with a smile. You feel like a different person."

# Volunteering Team

## Manchester Central Foodbank



Our 25 volunteers at Manchester Central Foodbank are the lifeblood of the foodbank, helping struggling families across Manchester with a three-day emergency food parcel. In the last two financial years we have seen the number of people in crisis soar, from giving out 3,819 food parcels in 2022/2023, helping 10,358 people including 4,465 children to providing 5,483 parcels in 2023/2024, helping 15,548 people including 6,714 children.

Our caring volunteers at Openshaw, Harpurhey and Ardwick have stepped up to this enormous challenge with a kind word and vital food parcels for our clients. Behind every statistic lies a heartrending story and our volunteers listen with empathy, offer

signposting advice as well as packing food. They work extra to cope with the growing number of clients and remain calm and organised in the face of huge queues of people needing help. In the summer they put in extra time for our Holiday Help scheme aimed at helping families with food and advice during the school holidays. And as the cost of living crisis bites our volunteers give their time to raise funds and food donations at donation drives. Our wonderful volunteers are truly amazing!

## SHINE

SHINE impact service users accessing CGL across Manchester and are a strong force in the recovery community. SHINE work alongside CGL to support peers into social activities, volunteering & creative events while offering a 24hour peer support via WhatsApp.

Every activity is run and coordinated by SHINE volunteers - the ideas, innovation, determination, and commitment from this group is outstanding and CGL are grateful for input to improve service users experience. CGL & SHINE collaborate to provide breakfast mornings, CGL provide funding to SHINE so that they can organise & facilitate breakfast drop ins.



SHINE is a welcoming team, who champion and support peers & their passions. The team have a wide range of skills in project management, event coordinators, musicians, footballers, accounting & marketing. Their event 'Saints & Sinners' showcases talented musicians, singers & spoken word performances. It gives space for creativity and celebrates the community, bringing people together and sharing positivity.

# Volunteer Involving Organisation

**Nominations must show how the organisation:**

- **Promotes, retains and rewards volunteers/volunteering**
- **Makes volunteers feel part of the team**
- **Promotes volunteering through their vision and values**

## MASH



In MASH's latest annual survey, volunteers scored 9.7/10 for role satisfaction and 8.9/10 for feeling part of MASH's team. We are always working on how we can improve the experience for our dedicated MASH volunteers so they feel valued, can develop in their roles and understand the amazing impact they make with women each day.

In December, volunteers were invited to attend our full team away day at Castlefield Viaduct where they helped to shape MASH's People Strategy. Following volunteer feedback, we introduced a monthly newsletter sent from the Volunteer Coordinator, Solomon, sharing volunteer highlights, key MASH news, fundraising opportunities and training opportunities.

One volunteer said: "it's really informative and makes me feel more included in what's going on at MASH."

We now have a dedicated volunteer area on the website that is password protected, giving the team direct access to the Volunteer Handbook, Volunteer Policy, other key info, volunteer shout outs and more. Our new certificate scheme also awards volunteers for their length of service at MASH. 19 of the volunteers have been with us over a year, some from 2017! Many of our volunteers have also gone on to become current paid staff with us.

# Volunteer Involving Organisation

## Home-Start Manchester



Volunteers, staff and trustees are involved in developing a volunteering improving practice plan, including vision for volunteering, planning for volunteers, volunteer inclusion, recruiting and welcoming volunteers, supporting volunteers, valuing and developing volunteers.

Volunteer Voice Panel - panel of volunteers building links between operational and strategic discussion,

decision-making and to co-produce with volunteers. The panel is led by CEO and Chair with support from lead staff member for volunteering. Feedback from the panel is fed into trustee meetings, decisions/discussions at trustee level that are informed by the panel feedback are fed back to volunteers in newsletters and panel meetings.

There are social events for volunteers, trustees and staff to recognise and celebrate achievements, including regular volunteer meet ups, Xmas meal, coffee morning/evenings, reward during Xmas and volunteers' week with Costa vouchers and thank you certificates. We also have a talent Plan to identify further education, training, employment. Ongoing training - Safeguarding, Mental health awareness, DVA awareness, Oral health, Parent and Infant relationship.

## LGBT Foundation

LGBT Foundation started as a group of volunteers and volunteers are still at the heart of everything we do today. We have 240 volunteers across over 20 teams. We celebrate our volunteers with our annual Volunteer Awards where we recognise their achievements. Furthermore, we have a monthly calendar of socials and offer training to support volunteers to flourish.



In 2023, 95% of volunteers surveyed felt supported by the volunteer team, connected to LGBT Foundation, listened to and that their voice can change volunteering at LGBT Foundation. 100% of surveyed volunteers reported enjoying volunteering!

LGBT Foundation's commitment to its volunteers is demonstrated through the development of our Volunteer Vision which was created by volunteers and staff to outline what we want volunteering to look like in 5 years. This is underpinned by three main aims: Recruit, Recognise, Retain. Furthermore, LGBT Foundation's 5-year strategy also incorporates volunteers across our goals.

One of our volunteers shared: "being with the LGBT foundation you're now part of a very special community, not only are you giving your time and skills to do something so worthwhile, but you are also being surrounded by such a wonderful acceptance of all people."

# Young Volunteer of the Year - Winner

Supported by Clyde & Co **CLYDE&CO**

## Nominations must show:

- How they go above and beyond their role
- How they inspire and motivate others to volunteer
- The impact they have made
- How they are improving the life opportunities of children and young people across the city of Manchester

The overall winner of this category was chosen by our panel of judges as part of Volunteers Week.

## Amelia McCallum



Amelia McCallum (19) joined Manchester Youth Zone (MYZ) ten years ago, and has since become a regular volunteer at our big yellow building where she regularly goes above and beyond to make a positive impact on young people from some of the most disadvantaged areas in England.

In 2021, Amelia graduated as a Young Leader to help young people like staff helped her, and she has been thriving as a force for good at MYZ ever since. She enjoys volunteering with young people who have additional needs, and can often be found on Junior sessions in our Maker Space helping neurodiverse young people develop their passion for STEM, and has also acquired Makaton .

skills to support young people with communication difficulties.

Amelia has also performed at the Manchester Ball and HATCH alongside our partner Bruntwood to raise awareness for MYZ, and has also volunteered with SICK! Festival to shed light on physical and mental health issues in North Manchester. She has helped shape youth policy at the North Manchester Youth Forum and the Youth Matters Conference, and she has also volunteered on the recent MYZ interview panel where she successfully helped staff appoint our brand new CEO.

# Tackling Inequalities

Supported by Manchester City Council – Making Manchester Fairer



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

## Nominations must show:

- **How they addressed issues of equality issues and challenged discrimination during the last year. This could include inequality on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity or poverty.**

## Europia



Europia has addressed inequality and challenged discrimination through their support of the Roma community who face many challenges in the post-Brexit UK. This includes negative and misleading stereotypes of Roma communities and an increasing anti-migrant rhetoric.

Europia's team has provided services to address basic needs and longer term support, providing culturally appropriate, 1:1 welfare, housing, and employment advice at Roma community drop-ins. Europia also provided free EU Settlement Scheme support to help eligible Roma community members receive settled status in the UK.

In 2023 launched the Roma Mentor program, a peer-to-peer mentorship service. Roma Mentors undertook a 10 week training program, co-produced and led by a community member, to provide support services to the wider community.

In Autumn 2023, Europia worked with a female Roma client who had been unemployed for 3 months. They supported her EUSS application and worked with her to create her CV and cover letter. She and her partner had separated recently and she no longer could stay with him. Europia provided an assisted referral to another charity to secure accommodation, and continued to support her in looking for employment. She now has successfully applied for and entered employment, working full-time.



# Tackling Inequalities

## Nurturing Foundations



Nurturing Foundations is based in Harpurhey (North Manchester) which is the 2nd worst ward in England for the effect of long-term deprivation on children and families. Most families live in poverty, have a poor quality of life, suffering health and other inequalities. Their situations are worsening due to the cost-of-living crisis.

The organisation supports mostly deprived communities and currently partnering with the NHS and Manchester

Local Care Organisation to tackle inequalities and support a Healthy Hearts programme within these communities. The organisation runs a weekly foodbank and also cultural foodbanks where culturally appropriate food items are provided to marginalised communities.

Some of their positive youth programmes include workshop sessions where skills, confidence and aspirations are developed and improved, peer to peer support groups, Radequal-tackling prejudice and division, holiday activities, Youth School of Leadership with over 200 participants supported to see their potential and fulfil it, Youth Bank to develop grant making skills and leading the African and Caribbean Alliance (ACA). Nurturing Foundations is resilient and continues to evolve and make outstanding contributions to the lives of young people and communities by listening to their voices, punching way above its weight to ensure they continue to make a positive impact.

## Across Ummah CIC



Across Ummah had been delivering sessions on bridging the gaps in mental health of black and minority ethnic groups across Longsight, Gorton, and surrounding communities which has engaged with women, children, families and men from minority ethnicity, languages and social economic status which voice wouldn't have been heard in our society today. In service to the community, Across Ummah also runs workshop training, food bank services, and health workshop. Celebrating the

organisation's efforts could bring light into the organization's work and improve collaboration with partners.

Across Ummah charity consistently supports vulnerable members of the community in a way that tackles different challenges facing these vulnerable individuals. The organisation embark on varied activities throughout the year and bring together people struggling with mental health issues, domestic violence, poverty and other health issues empowering these individuals through their different health talks, signposts and one to one support. The across Ummah food hub is a lifesaver for a lot of families struggling under the current economic climate. The across Ummah charity Eid get together promote people's social and emotional wellbeing, tackles loneliness and promote community cohesion.

# Inspiring Campaign

## Nominations must show:

- How the organisation saw a need for change or action, what they did and how that has made a difference.

## Lifeshare



The Lifeshare A/W 23 Collection capitalised on Manchester being the centre of the fashion world for a day as the Chanel Metiers d'art Show took place in Northern Quarter in December. With the stars in town to talk about the highest of fashion on Manchester's Streets, this campaign focused on streetwear of a different kind. For those sleeping rough on Manchester's streets, clothing is not a luxury item, it's a survival essential. Lifeshare's clothing bank receives no funding so the project is entirely run on donations. This campaign aimed to raise awareness of the rapidly rising need (7,500+ items distributed in 2023).

The Campaign brought together people from creative agencies, outdoor media installations, print media, and radio. Every partner put their work in for no cost. Highlights of the coverage included a wrap of the Manchester Metro News with 74,000 copies printed and Lifeshare's patron, Maxine Peak sitting on the BBC Breakfast sofa to highlight the cause. The campaign had over 18 million impressions in earned media and the entire campaign was turned around in just three weeks! The fantastic results included a 60% uptick in clothing donations and a 90% increase in cash donations.

The Campaign brought together people from creative agencies, outdoor media installations, print media, and radio. Every partner

# Inspiring Campaign

## SNUG

Longsight is one of the most nature deprived wards in Manchester. This fact led to a group of residents in the Northmoor area of Longsight coming together with Longsight Art Space to form Sustainable Northmoor Urban Greening (SNUG) and in 2023 they successfully applied for funding via the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund.

Over the past 8 months the group have worked tirelessly to transform a disused bowling green in Crowcroft Park into a flourishing community orchard garden. With guidance from Sow the City, the group have created winding paths, a pond, trees, flowers and places to sit down to enjoy the greenery. The council supported SNUG and their plans to activate this derelict greenspace, giving the old, fenced off area a new purpose.



In October the first of the orchard's new trees were planted by the City's Lord Mayor and working with City of Trees, Orchard Project and local community volunteers, a further 36 trees have since been planted (plus hundreds of shrubs and flowers).

The transformation made by SNUG's volunteers are astounding and can only be fully appreciated by visiting the community orchard and taking in the wonderful tranquil environment.

## Future Directions Green Superheroes



The Green Superheroes inspire action against climate change amongst people with learning disabilities. The campaign idea came from Eric Logan, who is passionate about saving the planet. Eric recognised that many of his peers with learning disabilities did not understand why recycling is important or how to recycle. Over the past three years the Green Superheroes have held training sessions, arts and crafts workshops and litter picks to teach people how to reduce the impact of climate change in fun and creative ways. The ideas, enthusiasm and energy of our Green Superheroes have driven their campaign forward. As they hate the impact of litter on the environment they held a litter pick challenge to encourage people to litter pick. They now hold regular

litter picks, demonstrating that people with learning disabilities make positive contributions to local communities. This year the Green Superheroes campaign has focused on Manchester, holding litter picks in Heaton Park and Wythenshawe Park, arts and crafts sessions at Wythenshawe Forum, and workshops for groups of adults with learning disabilities in North Manchester. They have started a project supporting people living in Manchester to reduce carbon emissions at home, so their impact continues to grow.

# Creative Community Spirit

## Nominations must show:

- How they have developed a creative outlet or project to inspire hope and unity during the last year.

## Segment Arts, Moss Side Powerhouse and Crossing Footprints



*Powerhouse Portraits.*

*A community portrait of Moss Side, Manchester using photography, writing and magazine making.*

*A project by Segment Arts, Crossing Footprints and Moss Side Powerhouse, directed by Leo Macdonald Oulds, with contributions from First Cut Media and Young Identity.*

45 local people used 100 film cameras through 18 workshops to create a vibrant exhibition and publication of photography, creative writing and art. A diverse, inter-generational project involving people

of ages from 8 to 87 years. There were three sets of community workshops - juniors, teenagers, and seniors plus inter-generational cross sharing with each other through the exhibition, event and publication.

There was a special launch event with guest speakers including Erinma Bell, and poetry by Nasima Begum. Thousands of local people have seen the exhibition. The exhibition also showcased rarely seen work by local photographer Ian Johns who has been documenting the local community for decades. We produced and distributed 300 copies of a 100-page publication, given out free to project members and local community. The project transformed a community centre into an art gallery, supported the cultural identity and everyday lives of local people to share and unite with each other, good for mental health, wellbeing, connecting with history.

# Creative Community Spirit

## Rain Dance Colour Festival

Rain Dance Colour Festival raises awareness for mental health and wellbeing through the arts and embodies the essence of creative community spirit in Manchester, using art as a powerful tool to inspire hope and unity. Through vibrant artistic expressions like music, dance, and immersive experiences, RDCfestival creates a sense of togetherness and belonging among diverse communities.



Through transformative experiences such as Raise the Roof, an immersive wellbeing concert displaying visuals of mental health and wellbeing tips on screen, and Elements, a celebration of music, nature and wellbeing through the festival of colours also known as Holi, RDCfestival creates a safe space where individuals can freely express themselves and creates an escape from everyday challenges.

Moreover, RDCfestival's commitment to mental health awareness is evident across not only RDCFestival events, but also through their sustainable fashion which pushes positive mental health and wellbeing quotes such as "Live in the Moment" and "Good Vibes". RDCfestival has become a beacon of hope and positivity in Manchester, igniting imaginations, and uplifting spirits during challenging times. Their innovative approach to community engagement exemplifies the true spirit of Manchester, making them deserving recipients of the Creative Community Spirit award.

## Edge Theatre



The Buzz is the Edge's programme of work with people who are affected by homelessness. 48 weeks a year, we run drop-in drama sessions in partnership with The Booth Centre, for people experiencing homelessness and with profound complex needs.

The Buzz also has a resident theatre company of actors affected by homelessness and produces two shows a year, working alongside professional actors and musicians. The productions provide opportunities for friends, family, others with experience of homelessness and staff that support them to see participants

achieve. The Buzz profiles the impact of making theatre with people who are affected by homelessness and challenges the public's perceptions. It proves that there is so much more to people than their current situation.

In July 2023 the company presented 3 sold-out performances of Ernie's Incredible Illucinations by Alan Ayckbourn.

"The show made me feel like I was worth something. I loved people's reactions. The laughing and the clapping - it was my highlight." "I loved performing in the show because I got to be someone else. I wasn't me, I was my character! It's escapism!" "I feel accepted now. It feels like a family."

# Partnership and Collaboration

Supported by Wythenshawe Community Housing Group



## Nominations must show:

- How they have worked in partnership or collaborated to make a difference and fulfil a need in the community
- How working in partnership meant their task was successful/more effective

## Street engagement Hub Manchester



The Street Engagement Hub is a partnership of both statutory and voluntary organisations that act as the catalyst for change for people in the city of Manchester that are rough sleeping or causing ASB.

The organisations come together twice a week to provide a one stop shop so they can access services all in one place.

The organisations are Police, ASBT, rough sleeper team, Big Issue, Mustard Tree, DWP, Mash, St Johns Ambulance, Coffee 4 Craig, NHS, GMMH, probation, Change Grow Live (CGL) and Riverside.

Together we have worked with 734 people with 1542 interventions from the organisations April 23 to March 24. This includes getting on a methadone script on the same day. Encouraging people to sign up to sell Big Issue instead of begging. Helping people to set up bank accounts and their benefits. There is also a specialist women's service (MASH) that can link in with their day services.

Research has shown that people have felt safe at the hub with the police being part of the team. For the first time people are also reporting crimes against them, which never happened before.

188 people have been offered accommodation from the hub ending their rough sleeping.

# Partnership and Collaboration

## GLL / Better



GLL and The Prince's Trust have worked in partnership on the "Get into Leisure" employability programme since 2022. Focused predominantly on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds facing the greatest adversity.

The programme aims to support personal growth and upskill with work experience, qualifications and

employability skills on the pathway to employment, giving people skills to live, learn and earn. June 2024 is the 3rd year of the programme which started as a pilot as the first of its kind in leisure in 2022, 100% of the young people were offered employment at the conclusion of the 2023 programme.

The programme reflects commitment to the VCSE sector and demonstrates ongoing dedication to investment in local communities and overcoming barriers to employment. GLL reinvest profits and provides opportunities for Mancunians, in partnership with The Princes Trust whose core belief is that every young person should have the chance to succeed.

The collaboration fosters social inclusion and economic growth by providing personal development, vocational qualifications and employment opportunities for Mancunians. Upon completion of the programme the young people act as role models within local centres, which benefit local communities. GLL benefit from a more diverse workforce, reflective of local communities.

## Smart Works & AJ Bell



On 26 April 2023, Smart Works opened in Manchester city centre to satisfy the growing demand for our services post -Covid and through the cost of living crisis. Having supported 156 unemployed Manchester women looking for work in 2021/22, it became urgent to reach many more clients living in some of the UK's most socially deprived communities across Manchester, enabling easy access to our highly effective and impactful pre-employment services.

Thanks to long-term advocate Rose Marley, we found the perfect space in Co-Operatives UK HQ, and needed £40k development funding. We were introduced to the AJ Bell Futures Foundation, established in 2023

to help people who have faced significant life challenges, providing them with opportunities to build a better future through self-advancement.

The Foundation donated both the development funding and part-funded year one running costs, totalling £75k+, and AJ Bell has delivered 80+ volunteering sessions, believing in our purpose to support unemployed women across Manchester gain financial independence.

We opened 3 months ahead of schedule with Bev Craig, Leader of Manchester Council, officiating the celebration, Smart Works has since supported, inspired, and empowered 289 unemployed Manchester women looking for a job through 2023/24.

# Trustee/Committee Member of the Year

## Nominations must show:

- What positive difference the trustee/committee member has made in the organization
- What qualities, knowledge and skills they bring to the Board or Committee
- How they support other trustees/committee members and develop good governance
- How they are a champion for the organisation

## Jane Carroll



Jane volunteered with Lifeshare for several years before stepping up to the role of trustee. Jane has been a breath of fresh air to the board bringing new ideas, goals, energy, and determination to every meeting. Jane has decades of experience in PR and her stewardship has led to coverage from national publications, including an appearance on BBC Breakfast in December 2023. Jane has utilised her industry contacts as well as her professional expertise to foster corporate partnerships and allow Lifeshare to be selected as the beneficiary of larger fundraising dinners. Jane is not just a face at trustee meetings but also comes to our weekly projects and volunteers in person serving hot meals to rough sleepers. She is out on the floor, chatting to guests, offering support, and doing it all at 7am before a busy workday!

Jane has helped to bring in unrestricted funding to keep services running during the cost of living crisis, particularly as demand rises! Jane also took on some interim staff responsibilities when we lost our full-time Digital & Marketing Manager.

Basically, she does anything and everything she can to help our work and our guests!



# Trustee/Committee Member of the Year

## Colette Cronshaw

Colette is an indispensable member of our Board of Trustees. She brings incredible passion and a wealth of lived experience - her unique insights are essential for MASH to meet our commitment to ensuring our work is truly led by women's voices and experiences.

Colette absolutely understands MASH's purpose - she tells it like it is. Her candid approach cuts through complexity, facilitating swift decision-making. Colette collaborates across our board functions - her people skills and keen insights bring trustees together to understand what we are trying to achieve and how to get there.

On top of her tireless work as a vital board member, Colette is an integral part of MASH's lived experience committee, Sue's Space. Last year, Colette attended an incredible 22 meetings and events with Sue's Space.

As a gifted speaker, Colette is an incredible ambassador for MASH. Colette has courageously shared her story on several platforms: on stage, in an audio exhibition, in a podcast. Her interview with BBC Radio 5Live was nominated for an international award! Colette's work has expanded MASH's support base and cultivated partnerships. Colette's ability to connect authentically makes her a powerful advocate for the marginalised and unheard women MASH supports.



## Kotieba Ramadan

As a Syrian migrant himself has brought a wealth of experience to the group, he has knowledge and experience of moving to the UK, navigating national systems which is so valuable to the group. His background in charities and human rights work shows through, he is professional, kind, passionate and knowledgeable about world events. He has been incredibly dedicated, whilst working and studying, Kotieba has given a considerable amount of time to his role. The group showed great resilience in the face of adversity, when the CIO application was rejected, but Kotieba, with his positive and calm approach, took Macc's advice to re-write the application, communicating everything to the wider trustee team. The CIO registration returned successful in October 2022.

Kotieba worked tirelessly to get a bank account and some seed funding. Applying for funding was a challenge (English second language) Kotieba (and a previous trustee Amin) secured funding, enabling them to start loads of activities. They are achieving amazing things, they have grown quickly and support a huge amount of the Syrian community as well as others. The group is thriving. All of this could not have happened without the commitment and hard work of Kotieba (and Amin).

# Service User Involving Organisation

## Nominations must show:

- How they involve the people who benefit from the service in delivery and shaping the service

## Future Directions CIC

We support people with learning disabilities and complex needs. We think that by involving people we support we can improve what we do and make things better. We offer paid employment and recruit people we support to get involved in different ways:



"Confirm & Challenge", the group find out what we do well/ what needs to change, and feedback to Board of Directors; make Policies & Procedures easy-read; send out questionnaires and action plan result to people we support / staff / family members; interview staff; deliver monthly training session on staff induction, talking about what it's like to have a learning disability and how they want staff to treat them.

In addition to these paid opportunities, we also hold informal events to involve people we support: Lunch with the Board (Quarterly); regular engagements sessions in each of the areas where we provide support; regular visits from Senior Management Team to houses to meet people we support.

## Coffee4Craig



Right from the beginning of Coffee4Craig they have spoken to, listened to and taken advice from the experts, the individuals experiencing homelessness, the substance users and the survivors of abuse. They actively encourage applications to volunteer from their previous guests and have a full program to support their current guests into volunteering once they are stable enough to navigate the lines between guest and service support. Each evening there are feedback forms available on the dining

room tables, at the reception desk and on the notice board. They have been able to adapt their process of taking feedback when the individual has limited communication, English as a 2nd language or feels unable to put pen to paper but is happier to give verbal feedback. This feedback supports them to form the way they approach the service and the services they have on offer.

At Coffee4Craig they have a diverse team made up of 10 employees, 6 full-time and 4 part-time. Of which 90% have lived experience alongside formal qualifications.

# Service User Involving Organisation

## Gaddum Engagement Team

Gaddum stepped in to support a coproduction GM ICB funded programme. From 01/08/2023 Laura's first step was facilitating safe spaces with people to explore and plan how to make a difference in Manchester. They've been instrumental in Manchester's Living Well service and bringing lived experience to the table, ensuring user voice in decision making.

# Gaddum



So far, 97 people have been directly involved in events, workshops, forums, groups. Below are just some achievements:

- Mancunian hues: Named, codesigned and supported by experts by experience of black, Asian and minority ethnic and under-represented groups
- Increased confidence, "feeling heard" and professional skills for participants
- Development of LE involvement structure and framework fully coproduced including role profiles, TOR, induction presentation and training
- Facilitation of GM Police workshops focused on mental health involvement with carers and service users
- Focus groups in relation to how ICB services communicate with "patients"

This team deserves this award because they are literally coproducing and involving people with lived experience as equal partners. They recognise that people who use services have skills, experiences and awareness that make services better for those who need them, WHEN they need them.

# Social Economy Champion

This award is for those organisations who trade and seek to make a surplus, but unlike traditional businesses, they reinvest all their profits to fight for positive social change.

Nominations must show:

- How the organisation creates positive change, and puts positive change at the centre of its work.

## Beth Powell



Creative City England CIC is a social enterprise reinvesting its profits to fund its youth and community work in Gorton, Levenshulme and Longsight. Examples of its reinvested projects are Gorton Youth Sketchbook Club and Longsight Women's Art and Wellbeing Group. I volunteered at one of the Longsight women's sessions and was so impressed to see how much they valued Beth, her pastoral support as well as the art teaching. Everyone really felt able to express themselves. It was so diverse and inclusive.

Beth/CCity also runs start up/pre-start up social enterprise support. Building wellbeing and community power. Part of that is supporting people facing complex experiences and in underrepresented areas to feel great and feel able to

influence and effect change. One of the ways of supporting that empowerment is to support women's new community initiatives, in a variety of ways, including facilitation training, mentoring, coaching, support with fundraising, and practical support.

Beth Powell who founded CCity is a long term champion of Social Entrepreneurs and community start ups. She's previously delivered start up support and scale-up support projects, been a long term collaborator of Flourish Together CIC, and she joined the Manchester Social Economy Alliance steering group board this April.

# Social Economy Champion

## The Old Abbey Tap House



The Old Abbey Taphouse is the flagship community hub in a pub located in the heart of Hulme, but also serving the local community, wider Manchester Science Park, Oxford Road corridor and universities and supporting creatives, musicians and performers alike. They have grown from an investment of £2k by the founding directors just over 10 years ago, to now turning over £500k after working through and surviving the pandemic and now combatting operating challenges of the cost of living crisis when many small leisure/retail/tourism ventures have gone by the wayside.

They are a powerhouse and hive of activity as well as an employer of several staff across their pub/restaurant, catering kitchen, live music venue, TV dinners meals on wheels service, rehearsal rooms, Community Radio station and range of wider community development activities addressing local challenges, inequalities and creating a safe space and affordable food, support and entertainment. They're in a minority of innovative independent live music venues where anything goes and everyone is welcome. Plus create a multitude of opportunities for young people through kickstarter and apprenticeship schemes which have led to sustained roles in some cases.

They actively encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to unlock their talents, challenge stereotypes and give a space for freedom of speech and expression. Plus they encourage creatives, changemakers and anyone who wants to create events to raise funds for the community.

## She Leads for Legacy.



A new collaboration formed this year to co-design a different kind of leadership programme, which has enabled over 30 established and emerging leaders from culturally diverse/racially minoritised backgrounds access high level leadership thinking, support and skills. This is a mixed gender programme which involved participants from each borough of Greater Manchester, with around 50% of the cohort living/working/creating impact in Manchester. The programme was designed to address the challenge of ensuring more people from minoritised backgrounds get a seat at strategic tables, are able to influence and so that more take up

appointments in public life and civic leadership roles. She Leads for Legacy, Flourish Together and Reform Radio have brought unique skill sets and networks together to reach out and secure over 90 applications, plus create a dynamic programme with contributors from across the leadership spectrum spanning public, private, VCSE and wider media and sports to bring enlightening stories, motivation, technical skills and new opportunities to the fore.

From feedback so far 90% feel they have increased their leadership skills, 80% have increased awareness and interest in taking up a public appointment, 95% feel more able to influence change and 65% have increased connection with their Local Authority to make connections and influence change.

# Community Cohesion

Supported by One Manchester



## Nominations must show:

- How they have organised activities which have brought together people from across more than one community. These can be communities which are about a shared place, a shared identity or shared interests.
- How they promote growing together in harmony rather than conflict and celebrate the diverse nature of the people who live, work and study in this city.

## North Manchester Community Partnership



North Manchester  
Community Partnership

North Manchester Community Partnership works closely with grassroots community groups in North Manchester. They were involved in Diverse-City events and helped to apply for funding so that they could be held in Moston, Clayton, Cheetham Hill, Charlestown and Harpurhey. The events celebrated the different cultures in North Manchester ranging from Cameroonian, Nigerian, Pakistani, Jewish and Iranian; through music, dance, food and cultural traditions and theatre.

NMCP has a prominent role in the North Manchester Inclusion Partnership which support North Manchester VCSE groups to discuss issues which are important to them, such as, cost of living, barriers to applying to funding, signposting information and organising an Africa Day event to celebrate African culture and heritage.

They deliver digital drop-ins across North Manchester to reduce digital exclusion. They've funded Warm hubs in Cheetham and Crumpsall and Healthy Me Healthy Communities in Harpurhey to provide weekly free hot meals at No.93 during the winter. This enables people to socialise, without worrying about the costs.

They hosted a community dialogue session in Moston, to encourage the community to talk about the issues that are important to them and what changes they want. They are committed to supporting communities with their wants and needs.

# Community Cohesion

## Tree of Life Centre



We are extremely proud of our rich and diverse culture and backgrounds of our staff, volunteers, and service users.

In the last 12 months alone, we have welcomed 85 volunteers into the centre, bringing together a variety of people from different communities and backgrounds. Including people from over 15 different countries, such as Nigeria, Hong Kong, Iran, India, Syria, Egypt, and Morocco, with ages ranging between 16 – 80 years old working and supporting not only the charity, the residents and service users but also each other.

We have around 8 wellbeing activities, ranging from Tai Chi, Crafts, friendship groups to day trips. The groups are diverse and well attended and provide a shared space where community members can come together to engage with each other over similar interests creating friendships that reduce social isolation. We love seeing residents from all backgrounds, such as listed above, come together to enjoy and experience creating a more supportive and harmonious community.

We have seen firsthand how this positively affects not only the individual but the wider community. We don't take this unique and rare achievement for granted, which goes a long way to fulfil the Our Manchester vision for the city.

## Happy Somedays



Happy Somedays exists to provide opportunities to improve physical and mental wellbeing to members of the community through collaboration and cohesion, providing an environment where members from diverse demographics feel safe, included, involved and welcome. Founded just before the pandemic hit, they've grown to serve 3,000 participants from across Manchester in 2023. Activities offered include men's and women's football sessions, badminton, free fitness classes, and organised walks. Happy Somedays prioritise inclusivity, accommodating disabilities and welcoming all no matter their gender, age, skill, fitness or ability level. They are also able to navigate the cost of living crisis amongst participants by offering a "Take Part on Us"

scheme for those who may be struggling financially. The incentive was born Wythenshawe, one of Manchester's poorest areas where obesity levels are also at their highest. However, they are continually providing wellbeing opportunities right on the doorstep to overcome this that people otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to partake in. Happy Somedays welcoming atmosphere attracts people from across the city, and by actively participating in community events, raising money for charities and collaborating with other health initiatives, it is clear that Happy Somedays embodies a community-driven approach to improving physical and mental wellbeing.

# Community and Business Collaboration

Supported by CityCo



## Nominations must show:

- **What positive benefit and difference the business has made to the organisation's work. This might be from investment, sharing knowledge & skills, or time the business has given to the organisation.**
- **How the business has been a champion for the VCSE organisation and the community or cause it supports.**
- **How collaboration creates benefit for the people of Manchester.**

## Peninsula



Over a rewarding four-year collaboration, Peninsula Group has generously contributed £3 million to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, facilitated through Manchester Foundation Trust Charity. Initially committing £1 million in 2019, Peninsula Group, under the leadership of CEO Peter Done, doubled their pledge to £2 million during the pandemic and committed an additional £1 million for 2023. This funding supports crucial projects benefiting the entire hospital and the 280,000 patients who are cared for by our hospital each year.

Peninsula Group has not only supported financially and championed the cause with their own colleagues but with our wider supporter base and the general public, fostering a strong relationship and collaborating on bespoke impactful events and campaigns. One such initiative, "Making a Difference Together," inspired by patient Ava, matched donations raised by other corporate supporters, resulting in over £140,000 raised collectively.

The £3 million raised will enable the purchase of advanced diagnostic and treatment equipment, support medical research, and enhance patient-friendly environments. This partnership exemplifies the transformative impact of collaboration in advancing healthcare.



# Community and Business Collaboration

## Cracking Good Food & Microsoft NW Social Impact team



The Microsoft North West Social Impact team are working with Cracking Good Food to ensure more people across Greater Manchester have access to nutritious food.

Microsoft initially got involved with constructing CGF's Growing Corner to grow food for use in cooking projects. This led to a partnership on CGF's Kitchen Kit Call Out campaign, which collects and redistributes donated kit into the community.

The main benefits are: access to Microsoft's business network, securing UA92 as a venue for the December 2023 and next redistribution events; and substantial volunteer support from Microsoft and their partners to prepare 1.6 tonnes of kitchen kit and deliver the event. Equipment is distributed to those who need it the most, including organisations such as women's refuges and homeless charities.

Microsoft also use CGF's catering service and provide a platform for CGF to promote their work to clients/partners at events and via their communication channels. Two redistribution events were held in 2023, 40 businesses hosted donation bins. This has enabled the Kitchen Kit Campaign to grow from assisting 9 community organisations in July 2022 to 41 in December 2023, including 23 Manchester organisations. An estimated 12000 people have benefitted saving 6.9 tonnes of kit from landfill.

## Greater Manchester Law Centre

### & Clyde & Co

CLYDE & CO



Both organisations sit on the Manchester Law Society Pro Bono Committee and are keen to promote increased collaboration to better serve the community. Through collaboration, we believe participating stakeholders can leverage their unique experiences, skills and resources to address local need and drive positive change.

Together we developed a pilot project to boost GMCL's capacity and enable them to run a new litigation advice clinic for the community. Every week, GMCL triages and processes queries so

volunteer Clyde & Co lawyers can respond and provide advice. The business' involvement has increased GMCL's capacity to provide free advice to Manchester residents and enabled GMCL to develop a template for collaboration that can be used to further boost capacity.

Additionally, Clyde & Co has referred cases to GMCL and has recently sponsored and attended GMCL's exhibition "Ten Years InJustice" at Manchester Museum, highlighting the importance of free access to justice.

# Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Voluntary Sector - Winner

## Nominations must show:

- How the individual has made a significant contribution to the voluntary and community sector over a number of years.

## Alma Chadfield

Alma Chadfield is a long serving volunteer. She has volunteered with us for 35 years and is now 80 years old. She has been an integral part of our team inspiring other volunteers through her unwavering warm and welcoming nature. Alma's personality is naturally inclusive, kind, and supportive of new volunteers, always making sure everyone feels comfortable, secure, and included. For the last 7 years Alma has also led one of our wellbeing groups called 'Mindful Colouring'. Inspired by her passion to bring people together and using her creativity and knowledge of mindfulness, she set up this popular group with the intention of supporting people who may be struggling with their mental or physical health.

Not only is Alma committed to the Tree of Life Centre, but she has also tirelessly supported people over the last 25 years citywide such as:

- Collecting toys and coats for refugees
- Handing out sleeping bags and warm clothing to homeless people in the city centre
- Provide craft items to local psychiatric wards
- Donate children's books to families in Manchester
- Collecting used stamps for the Nightingale Centre

She has had a positive impact in the community and city wide that has spanned generations.

# Thank you to our Award supporters

## CLYDE&CO



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL



Livestream and tech  
support partner

Drinks  
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# HIP POP

With thanks to

**Keegan & Pennykid.**  
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# Artistic design supporter



# Communication partner



The Meet the Mancunian podcast: social impact stories from Manchester is partnering with the Spirit of Manchester Awards 2024 for a special Season 9 featuring the shortlisted nominees and organisations in a series of dedicated episodes.

The Meet the Mancunian podcast: social impact stories from Manchester ([www.meetthemancunian.co.uk](http://www.meetthemancunian.co.uk)) features unsung heroes across Greater Manchester sharing their own stories and life lessons with listeners. The aim of the podcast is to shine a spotlight on great causes, inspire others to follow their passions and

spreading good news. The podcast is aimed at people working in the social impact sector as well as those who want to enter the sector. Over 8 seasons and 100 guests, Deepa has covered a variety of causes including homelessness, suicide prevention, mental health, youth support and disability inclusion to name a few.

The Meet the Mancunian podcast is in the top 15% most shared podcasts globally and features in the top 30% most followed podcasts in the globe (Source: Spotify Unwrapped 2022). Feedspot ranked the podcast #19 in the 30 best social impact podcasts of 2023 and #5 in the top 10 best UK social work podcasts. Podwatch ranked the podcast #22 in UK's best Non-Profit podcast as of 2 September 2023. Player FM has listed the podcast in the podcasts. The podcast has been shortlisted in the Best Business category in the UK's first Independent Podcast Awards.

# Raffle Supporters



# Table names

Each year, Macc selects a theme for the table names at the awards evening, focusing on Mancunians who have made significant contributions to the Manchester community. This year's theme celebrates inspirational and influential people who have made Manchester their adopted home.



**Scan the QR code to read all of the biographies**

# Thank you

Finally, we want to thank every single one of the staff, volunteers and trustees in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector across Manchester for their work.

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**Postal Address:** Manchester Community Central, Freepost

# BECOME A MACC MEMBER TODAY!



**FREE TO JOIN**

## WHY JOIN US?

-  Relevant and up to date information through our e-bulletin
-  Receive discounts on training and meeting rooms
-  Funding portal (available for Manchester VCSE organisations only)\*
-  Access a range of free web resources
-  Link to Macc services and projects
-  Promote your news, events and job opportunities on our website
-  Members only Facebook group – share information, ask advice and post in the membership community
-  Make new connections and be a part of a network

 [www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/membership](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/membership)

 [membership@macc.org.uk](mailto:membership@macc.org.uk)

## WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?

- ✓ Manchester VCSE organisations
- ✓ Non-Manchester organisations
- ✓ Public sector bodies
- ✓ Businesses
- ✓ Individuals/volunteers/active citizens



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# Spirit of Manchester

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