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Director's Intro

New year, new year and already it's February. There is something a little special when you see snowdrops popping their heads up reminding you that spring is on its way. Hooray!

Christmas was a great experience for us this year as our wonderful team of elves had everything under control. Hundreds and hundreds of children woke on Christmas morning to beautiful, thoughtful gifts donated through the amazing Glasgow's Spirit of Christmas Programme and from other kind donations.

We were proud that a family we work alongside was the face of the Home-Start UK Christmas campaign.



What a brave, courageous mum, and thank you for raising awareness of the work of Home-Start. We know our hard work and the work of all our volunteers can be life changing but this story

highlights the real difference we all make.

Read the family story here

The start of the year has been busy as we plan for the year ahead. Our staff planning day in January gave us a chance to come together and reflect on 2024 and think about 2025. We agreed that relationships and communication are key in all that we do. We are pleased of the many partnerships we have in communities and are delighted that our long-term relationship with Scullion Family Law has been recognised with them being shortlisted in the Corporate Category at the HSUK Volunteer Awards. The Awards take place at the end of March in The Royal Automobile Club in London. Fingers crossed!

Our most recent partner is Glasgow Golf Club, and we are delighted to have been chosen as the Captain's Charity. The Club have already held various events, including a jazz night and a Burns supper where raffles and an auction were held to raise funds for the charity. Located near our Home-Start Hub in Maryhill, they have committed to supporting the development of the Hub and are passionate about seeing it thrive and develop, supporting parents/expectant parents and their wee ones.



The appetite for our core work continues and we welcome volunteers from all walks of life, bringing skills in abundance. Home-visiting volunteers are our USP but we know that every family is unique and our offer, resources and services need to reflect this. Groups have become increasingly more popular with families

keen to connect in their own neighbourhoods. We would love to add more volunteers to our group work team so please don't be shy in stepping forward or enticing a friend to join us. Give a little, gain a lot!

Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Staff News



We welcome Fiona to the Glasgow team as a Family Support Coordinator. Fiona previously worked as a Development and Engagement Worker for the Boys' Brigade. she supported volunteer-led groups across Scotland to enhance their programme of activities for children and young people, engaged with local communities to grow the group's profile, supported with volunteer recruitment, and also set up new groups too.



We said farewell to wonderful Abi, who is off on a new exciting journey, she will be missed by all. We were lucky to have someone on the team who is kind, caring and inspirational. We wish her well in her new chapter.

Volunteer News



Volunteer Spotlight

I am Ashleigh, 2nd year Masters Social Work Student.

My role [as a Social Work student with Home-Start] was to hold a small caseload of families, undertake initial visits, and attend the Heart of Scotstoun group every Tuesday. During my time on placement I have supported 6 families and undertaken several initial visits. The length of time I supported the families varied from a few weeks to the entirety of my placement; this was dependant on the support that the families required.

The support I provided was both emotional and practical support for families, for instance if visiting a family with several children I would play with the younger children to allow mum/dad to carry out an activity with the older child or to allow mum/dad to carry out some household tasks. I would signpost mum/dad to other organisations where their needs would be met, such as mental health support or support with an upcoming birth. I would often spend time having a cup of coffee with mum/dad and allow them to offload how their week had been and then make a plan on how we could improve this for the following week.

What is your best memory of your placement?

My best memory of being a student is at Christmas and handing out the presents for Glasgow's Spirit of Christmas. One family I visited were so emotional and highlighted that they were really struggling with purchasing presents for their kids, and with the gifts provided it would make a huge

difference and that they would not feel like their children had lost out.

What has been the biggest challenge?

I think for me the biggest challenge has been during the winter months when there were several visits cancelled due to winter bugs etc. This is unavoidable, however I found this challenging as I knew some of my families were struggling and although you wanted to help you couldn't visit.

What is an achievement or contribution you are most proud of during your time as a Home-Start Volunteer?

I think an achievement during my time on placement was when I was working with a family who had moved to a new area and were struggling with integrating into the community. When the time came to finish with the family they had been extremely thankful for the support I had provided and I could see the difference my support had been to this family.

What are you taking away from your student placement experience?

What I've taken from my student placement experience is that there are so many families in the Glasgow area who would benefit from the support that Home-Start provide. I found myself gaining experience and learning more about the Asylum and Refugee process that I wasn't anticipating in gaining. This has really opened my eyes to the needs this group of individuals have and how beneficial appropriate support is to them. Another thing I took from my placement is how Home-Start are a fantastic advocate for self-care and ensuring that students are well supported throughout their time on placement. There were several events organised for staff/volunteers/students, and I feel this was crucial in supporting the team and boosting morale.

Why should others choose to do their student placement with Home-Start?

Others should choose to do their student placement at Home-Start as being a student you are fully supported and the staff ensure that your learning outcomes are being met. The work environment is relaxed, and everyone is so friendly. Working with families gives you insight into daily struggles that families face and how the support they receive is having a huge impact on their health and well-being.

What is next for you once you complete your placement?

My next step for when I finish work is that I hope to be in a Social Work post, I have no idea what discipline this will be however my preference would be Justice or Children and Families.

Our next volunteer training courses start at the end of February:

Glasgow

Thursdays

27 February until 27 March

North Lanarkshire

Tuesdays

25 February until 25 March

Each session runs from 10 am - 12.30 pm

If you are interested in learning more about our training course or volunteering we would love to hear from you. Please share this information with anyone looking for any volunteering opportunities.



[Click here for our Volunteer Leaflet](#)

[Click here for the Volunteer Application Form](#)

Donors/Supporters



Glasgow Golf Club

We are absolutely delighted to have been selected by the Captain of Glasgow Golf Club to be the Club's chosen charity of the year. Founded in 1787, the Club is one of the oldest golf clubs in the world boasting two stunning golf courses, Killermont Course and Gailes Links.

Located half a mile from the Home-Start Hub in Maryhill, the Killermont Course is known for its scenic beauty and stunning club house, a Georgian Mansion. Speaking to the Captain, he said it was important to support a small local charity where any funds raised would make a lasting difference.

To date the Club and members have raised funds through raffles and auctions and are supporting the charity further by hosting a Burns Supper towards the end of January.

We are working with the Club on other activities and events and look forward to sharing further information in the coming months.

We are extremely grateful for their support.

Fundraising

Carol Singing:

Thank you to Dr V at Westbourne Medical Studios and her supporters for hosting a carol singing session in aid of HSGNNL. Much merriment was had! We know the joy that singing, music and community can bring to us all. Well done and thanks to everyone involved in this lovely event.



Kelvinside Handball Charity Games

Kelvinside Handball Team supported Home-Start Glasgow North and North Lanarkshire over the month of December by encouraging donations at their weekly games. In total the team managed to raise £297.50. We can't thank Kelvinside enough for choosing us to support!

Upcoming Fundraising

Kiltwalk 2025 is open for registration!

We are looking to recruit volunteers to walk the Glasgow Kiltwalk in support of Home-Start families. The Kiltwalk is a fantastic day out with distances to suit everyone, so bring along the kids or your four-legged friends.



It costs £20 to enter, and we will provide you with a colorful Home-Start Glasgow North and North Lanarkshire T-shirt. We have no fundraising targets, rather a focus on team spirit and an enjoyable day out.

Get involved and choose your distance:

3, 14 or 23 miles

We would love if you got behind our mission “to be there when families need us most.”

Kiltwalk’ s not for you, but you're still eager to fundraise? We welcome all ideas 😊

Community

WinterFest:

In collaboration with Netherton Community Centre, High Knightswood Community Council and Glasgow Life, we organised a Christmas Fayre at our new premises in Glasgow.

There were stalls, food, children’s activities, tombola, arts & crafts, and a wonderful Santa’s Grotto. It was a very successful event bringing the community together.



LGBT Charter - Silver Award

We are delighted to share that we have been awarded the LGBT Silver Charter Award from LGBT Youth Scotland. This is the culmination of a year's work focusing on this area of inclusion, and involved us taking part in staff and volunteer training, ensuring our policies, leaflets and publicity are all LGBT inclusive, joining in the Glasgow Pride March, making-over our Maryhill garden with an LGBT and diversity theme, buying new LGBT inclusive resources for our groups, and many other activities.



We hope that this work will ensure that LGBT families feel confident in the welcoming support they will receive from us, as well as LGBT people feeling confident to apply for our volunteering and staff opportunities. Going forward we will continue to work to ensure inclusion for LGBT people as well as those in all other minoritised groups.

Feedback

We would like to share some feedback with you from the families we support to show the difference our support makes. Here are two quotes from parents on how they benefited from volunteer support and group support.

"You really have been there with me through everything that has happened and you are always steering me to a more positive path. Plus out of everyone I have been supported by, you are one of the few people who has

"This Christmas and what we got to experience melts my heart and brings so many positive emotions. Thank you. For years Christmas has been a time of bad memories, this Christmas is the first year in

actually shown that you care and my child and I are not just a family to visit. I really appreciate it, so thank you."

many that I have experienced positive memories and it's down to you (Home-Start) and all that the community does for me, I am so grateful."

Groups & Events



We hosted not one but two incredible family Breakfast with Santa events!

The talented Folksy Theatre brought festive cheer with engaging entertainment, children had fun making memories and playing with friends whilst parents and caregivers soaked up the magic of this special time of year.

Sharing a delicious warm breakfast in the company of family and friends was a wonderful way to come together as a community and celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

A huge thank you to all the families that joined us, staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to

make these events so special, as well as to our wonderful venues and caterers for their support.
We couldn't have done it without you!

Our Groups run term-time from 10 - 11.30 am. They are always fun, with activities such as arts and crafts, sensory play and much more, and healthy snacks are provided.

Family Group Easterhouse	Family Group Shotts
Tuesdays	Mondays
0-5 years	0-5 years
Heart of Scotstoun	Cafe Stork Cumbernald
Tuesdays	Thursdays
0-3 years	0-12 months
Family Group Maryhill	Family Group Airdrie
Thursdays	Thursdays
0-5 years	0-5 years
PEEP Springburn Group	Family Group Bellshill
Fridays	Fridays
0-12 months	0-5 years

If you would like more information on any of our groups you can email us at:
info@homestartgnnl.org.uk

Did you know that Home-Start UK have a fabulous magazine - Family Matters! If you would like to keep up to date on all Home-Start UK news, click the button below to subscribe.

Subscribe to our Family Matters magazine here!

We would love your feedback on our newsletter, please get in touch if there's any further information you would like, or if there's anything you'd like to see included.

You can email us at: info@homestartgnnl.org.uk

**We are always grateful for donations to help us continue to support families,
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Info@homestartgnnl.org.uk

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