

Heart of Salford 2023

Awards Brochure



Salford CVS
Making a difference in Salford



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Welcome to the Heart of Salford awards 2023

The Heart of Salford awards are Salford CVS and Volunteer Centre's prestigious annual ceremony to celebrate volunteering and voluntary action. Welcome to this, our 20th Heart of Salford awards!

The awards provide an opportunity to:

- ♥ Thank individual volunteers
- ♥ Celebrate the work of volunteering teams
- ♥ Recognise the difference voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations make to the people of Salford

Categories this year

- VCSE Organisation (small)
- VCSE Organisation (large)
- Volunteering Team of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution to the Sector - special awards
- Young Volunteer of the Year (under 25)
- Volunteer of the Year

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Shortlist

This shortlist was selected by a panel of judges from all the great nominations we received this year. It is now up to you to decide the winners! We will be showing short films for each nominee and then will ask you to cast your vote to determine the winner in each category.

Shortlisted for



Thank you to our Judging Panel:

- Alison Page – Chief Executive, Salford CVS
- Paaniz Afrang – Youth Mayor of Salford
- Jon Monk – Development Manager, The Business Group Salford
- Kay Fairhurst – Trustee, Salford Disability Forum
- Shairi Bowes – Principal Policy Officer (Poverty and Inequality), Salford City Council

Thank you to Councillor Gina Reynolds, the Ceremonial Mayor of the City of Salford for 2023 to 2024, who will be presenting the Volunteer of the Year award. Thank you also to our volunteer photographers, Bill Cooney and Daisie Harbottle.

Running order of the awards

- **12pm – Arrival**
- **12.30pm – Lunch and performance by Music And Performing Arts Salford (MAPAS)**
- **1.15pm – Opening speech from Alison Page, Chief Executive, Salford CVS**
- **1.30pm – Films of the shortlist and voting**
- **2.30pm – Tea break**
- **2.45pm – More films of the shortlist and voting**
- **4pm – Raffle for Salford4Good (make sure you get your tickets)**
- **4.30pm – End**

All nominees will receive a certificate. As your name is called please join us at the front to receive your certificate.



VCSE Organisation of the Year (small)



Shortlisted nominees

- ♥ Sovereign House GH
- ♥ Salford d/Deaf Community Gathering
- ♥ Headway Salford
- ♥ Buile Hill Mansion Association
- ♥ Irlam & Cadishead Drivers

Sovereign House GH

Sovereign House GH provides a Computer Learning Programme (CLP) to children who may otherwise not have access to a computer at home. The Programme teaches digital and computer skills at all levels of ability, empowering students to develop knowledge that puts them at an advantage for both education and future employment.

The Programme allows debates on life and social issues, inviting visits from local 'heroes', who share their experiences. This boosts the children's confidence, changing their mindsets to overcome and find solutions to challenges. The students gain not only practical abilities but also life skills that help, regardless of whether they pursue digital professions in the future.

"By participating in the Computer Learning Programme, young people learn valuable skills they would otherwise not have the opportunity to. These skills provide opportunities for work and education that has the potential to lift children and their families out of poverty, while allowing them to develop new aspirations and hope for the future. Students on the programme have excelled academically, achieving some of the highest scores in computer science in their year group." -

Their nominator



Salford d/Deaf Community Gathering



Salford d/Deaf
Community
Gathering

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f @salforddeaf

Broughton - Eccles & Irlam - Ordsall & Claremont
Swinton - Walkden & Little Hulton

Salford d/Deaf Gathering is an inclusive network for d/Deaf people. The network is run by volunteers who work hard to raise awareness of the needs of d/Deaf people, in particular British Sign Language Users. They engage with partners such as the Police, Salford Council, Housing Providers and many more to advocate and help ensure the inclusion of d/Deaf people in all aspects of community life. The network voices their needs and shares their experiences to help ensure that services, initiatives and systems are improved for other d/Deaf people across the city. The gathering runs a drop in support service and also organises social activities which enhance wellbeing and encourage peer support.

“Salford d/Deaf Gathering have positively contributed to ensure services focus on the needs of the d/Deaf Community in Salford. They encourage services to think, to be challenged and therefore to develop their services to become accessible in the same way as their hearing peers” - **Their nominator**

Buile Hill Mansion Association

Buile Hill Mansion Association is a group of volunteers who have worked to save and restore Buile Hill Mansion for community use. The work to restore the Mansion starts soon with an estimated opening date of the end of 2024. The group also organises a range of free community events throughout the year such as an Easter egg hunt, family picnics and a visit from Santa, with presents for the children.



The events and the improvements to the park mean that more people are connecting with their local green space. The organisation supports other local not for profit groups by inviting them to have a stall at their events, giving them an opportunity to raise funds and awareness.

“Buile Hill Mansion Association have invested over £30,000 into the park through a range of projects and events. As well as free regular events, over 800 children receive gifts at Easter and Christmas, helping struggling families at expensive holiday times. They have also worked with Salford Council for years to save a piece of the city’s heritage and bring a beautiful building back to life that will go on to be used by the community.” - **Their nominator**

Headway Salford

Headway Salford help local people affected by acquired brain injury. They provide support on a weekly basis, assisting people with their rehabilitation and offering social activities as well as being a source of support to carers, friends and family.



They help people to navigate their way through social services and the benefit system. Headway Salford walk the path with the families to ensure that they are able to get the support they need at a very difficult time. They also liaise with employers which enables some people return to employment.

“Brain injury can challenge every aspect of your life - walking, talking, thinking, feeling, and especially the relationship that you have with your family and friends. At Headway, we tackle isolation and rehabilitation to try and get the injured person back to towards their baseline. We are one big family and we support carers of extended family as well, inviting them all in to the headway home.” - **Their nominator**

Irlam & Cadishead Drivers

Irlam & Cadishead Drivers is a community group that supports cancer patients in the Irlam and Cadishead area. They are a group of local people who live around the Irlam and Cadishead area, who volunteer their time to take patients with a cancer diagnosis to hospital for outpatient appointments, investigations and treatment.



Transport and parking costs to and from hospital can mount up considerably during a course of treatment. With friends and family not always able to provide support, this service can help to take away the additional worry at what is already a stressful and worrying time.

“This community group makes a difference to cancer patients in the Irlam and Cadishead area. Since the scheme was set up, the drivers have clocked up an impressive 35,000 miles! I want to thank the drivers for their enthusiastic support of the scheme and we have so much lovely feedback from people they have helped, their efforts are much appreciated!” - **Their nominator**

VCSE Organisation of the Year (Large)

Shortlisted nominees

- ♥ Mustard Tree
- ♥ Yemeni Community Association
- ♥ Humans MCR
- ♥ Jewish Action for Mental Health



Mustard Tree

Mustard Tree's mission is to combat poverty and prevent homelessness in Greater Manchester. From its hubs across Salford and Manchester, it provides multiple avenues of support to people who are marginalised in our city.



The hubs see a combined footfall of over 10,000 monthly visits. This can be people facing crisis and in need of emergency support, those seeking vocational training or creative classes, to those using the food club, or browsing the Community Shops. Mustard Tree want the hubs to be accessible to all. The Community Shops provide very low-cost furniture, clothing and food. As an organisation working to tackle poverty, funds raised go directly to improving the wellbeing of its clients. Mustard Tree's core offer - the Freedom Project - exists to help people build their confidence, learn new skills and in many cases – find work. Over the past decade it has helped thousands of people across Salford and Manchester lead a better life away from poverty and homelessness.

“I have worked at Mustard Tree for almost five years, having volunteered for the previous two. Our team, work tirelessly to uphold our values of Belief, Opportunity, Partnership, Dignity and Diversity – towards every person who walks into our hubs. I have seen the change in someone who joins the Freedom Project with a

cap pulled low over their eyes, go on to run their own station in a hotel kitchen six months later. I have seen how our support team have turned people's lives around. Clients have told us the Mustard Tree gave them a sense of belonging. We want to ensure that our charity plays a role in improving the quality of life for thousands of Salford residents for years to come." - **Their nominator**

Yemeni Community Association

The Yemeni Community Association supports the local Yemeni and Black, Asian and ethnic minority community, providing a range of services and support and acting as a crucial link between communities and statutory bodies. They work to tackle the challenges facing the local community by providing a range of educational and recreational services. They also work continuously to promote cohesion in the local area.



They empower people through courses such as English Language and their community wellbeing programme. They encourage social cohesion through cultural programmes, youth clubs and holiday activities in their community building. This creates inclusive spaces where residents from diverse backgrounds can connect with each other. They offer support and advocacy and a voice for those who might otherwise go unheard. They celebrate and preserve Salford's cultural diversity through Arabic language classes and cultural awareness training. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation took proactive and innovative measures to ensure that people had access to COVID-19 vaccinations. Collaborating with Salford Public Health, their dedication and tireless work contributed significantly to achieving higher vaccination rates among the communities in Salford.

"The Yemeni Community Association showed exceptional dedication to the vaccination campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic. This along with their ongoing commitment to community wellbeing, make them an outstanding nominee for the Heart of Salford Awards 2023. Their actions are a shining example of community leadership and resilience in challenging times." - **Their nominator**

Humans MCR

Humans MCR tackle food poverty in Salford and across Greater Manchester. They provide clients with both short and long-term solutions to help them out of food poverty. Their services include a Foodbank and Community Grocers, delivering fresh food to people's doors.



They organise mobile emergency food parcels and run cookery classes as well as seasonal projects and campaigns. Humans MCR aims to address the challenges and break the cycle of food poverty by providing sustainable solutions that empower people. They are supported by a team of volunteers who pack and deliver the food. They also work with a food redistribution network to source good quality food that they pass on. Through the skills development workshops, they rekindle the flame of self-worth and ambition in many. As well as nourishing meals, clients encounter a community that cares, listens, and understands at Humans MCR.

“Humans MCR are a lifeline, a beacon of hope, and a testament to what is possible when a group of committed individuals come together for the betterment of the community. Through their services they have taken significant strides in addressing food insecurity. Their initiatives empower people and offer a pathway out of adversity and into a brighter future.” - **Their nominator**

Jewish Action for Mental Health

Jewish Action for Mental Health (JAMH) provides free counselling and therapy to hundreds of people facing mental health challenges. They have supported people with severe anxiety and depression, those experiencing self-harm, psychological disorders and many more. They work directly with clients both one-to-one and in groups. They also run campaigns and events that have significantly reduced the stigma around mental health in the community.



The organisation have also collaborated with many organisations to improve the quality of support and replicate best practice, including with the Muslim and Sikh communities. Their work linking with foodbanks enabled many to access the support they needed. Their group workshops include art, cookery, yoga, suicide prevention workshops and exam stress workshops. More recently JAMH employed a Community Youth Worker to develop preventative initiatives for young people as 40% of clients are under 19 years old. The service has provided an umbrella of support to entire families and clients have said that the impact that JAMH is having on their mental health is life-changing.

“Jewish Action for Mental Health have provided nearly 4,000 sessions of free counselling to residents of Salford since 2020. JAMH has been an exemplar of how to address mental health in communities and has shared its practice with dozens of organisations across the City. It has also, through its work with other faith and community groups, improved cohesion and helped enable a broader provision of mental health support.” - **Their nominator.**

Volunteering Team of the Year

Shortlisted nominees

- ♥ START - Vigil-antes
- ♥ Wheels for All
- ♥ Cooking for the Homeless
- ♥ Social adVentures
- ♥ Salford Independent Visitors



START - Vigil-antes



START's World Suicide Prevention Day Vigil & Procession of Remembrance honours the memories of those who have tragically lost their lives to suicide. It sends a powerful message that their lives were valued and that their struggles are not forgotten. Volunteers, affectionately known as 'Vigil-antes,' play a crucial role in making this event a success.



The procession itself, featuring 130 flags, each representing a life lost to suicide in the previous five years, is a sombre yet beautiful visual tribute. The event also extends an invitation to add the names of loved ones to a roll of remembrance, ensuring that each individual is acknowledged and remembered during the vigil. The volunteer team reassure and support attendees. Helping to maintain an organised, respectful atmosphere that fosters unity and compassion.



They spread awareness through social media, giving live updates to engage remote participants. The team also fundraise selling awareness ribbons and collecting donations.

“Our ‘Vigil-antes’ are a beacon of hope, a symbol of unity and a powerful catalyst for change. They are the backbone of the World Suicide Prevention Day Vigil & Procession, amplifying its impact and making it a touching and healing experience. Their dedication exemplifies collective action's power in breaking down stigma, promoting empathy, and making a significant difference in the lives affected by suicide.” - **Their nominator**

Wheels for All Salford

The Wheels for All volunteering team give their time, come rain or shine, to facilitate sessions which enable older people, people with disabilities, and people with long-term health conditions to access inclusive cycling.



The volunteers are the life and soul of the sessions, creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for the participants and carers and helping them to enjoy their time at the sessions every Friday. Baz and Jim, who are a core part of the team, initiated organising and preparing refreshments for service users. This has encouraged the social side of the sessions and created a friendly atmosphere for everyone to chat and connect after their cycling.

Owen, a service user at Wheels for All attends the cycling sessions with his dad every week. His dad says “Being active and out and about in the community is very important to Owen but we have struggled finding activities that are inclusive and welcoming. Wheels for All at Salford provides all this and more. The volunteers are very kind and helpful and it is so much fun for Owen. We have made a number of good friends there so it’s a great social too. When Owen was younger, someone once said it’s unlikely he will ever ride a bike and be that independent. At Wheels for All he has that freedom on the adapted trike to enjoy his independent mobility. Without the support of Baz and Jim and our volunteering team, our Salford sessions would not be able to run. It is the fantastic support volunteers providing high quality safe sessions that builds the confidence in partners to work with us. This ensures that people can cycle in their community on a regular basis.” -

Their nominator

Cooking for the Homeless - Salford City Council Youth Service

The young people participating in this project come from a variety of different backgrounds, some facing their own struggles and difficulties. Not so long ago they couldn't be in the same room for long without disagreements ensuing, however, the importance of this project clicked and they have now joined together as a team. The team have fantastic ideas and create nutritious dishes for the homeless people they support. They now operate like official kitchen staff, fulfilling the roles with pride and enthusiasm.



The homeless people the team cook for receive fresh, warm meals and the feedback has been great. People have said the meals are really tasty and think it's great that young people are trying to tackle this crisis. They say it is heartwarming, and love that young people are paying attention to current issues. The impact has been phenomenal, membership has increased because it has sparked interest in other young people who have seen what the group are doing and would like to get involved too.

“At the Youth Centre we are extremely proud of our young people who have selflessly taken on this huge responsibility, they enjoy every aspect of the project and always put in their best effort as a working team. The level of teamwork and support they show for each other has been amazing to witness. They are learning important skills in the process and the growth we have witnessed in these young people in such a short period has been inspiring.” - **Their nominator**



Social adVentures



The Welcome Hub volunteers are committed to supporting the delivery of free community meals and the food club at Social adVentures. They put a huge amount of effort into the lunch service, ensuring around 40 meals are served every lunchtime! Everyone is served quickly and with a smile.

The team help with planning the weekly menu, taking orders, preparing food, cooking, serving visitors, and keeping the space clean and organised to a high standard. The food club volunteers keep the club running smoothly, ensuring everyone is welcomed without judgement. This service benefits around 80 people every week.

The Welcome Hub is a lifeline to many people. It's an informal place where they can receive free hot drinks and a meal daily, as well as providing somewhere to relax and socialise. The volunteers take an active role in getting to know the visitors, chatting with them, and building connections. Some of the people who attend the hub live alone and would not see anyone otherwise. Volunteers run activities such as the friendship circle, bingo and quizzes. This gives people a place to socialise where they feel comfortable and welcome. Having a space like this with a warm and friendly team that cares makes an important difference to people's lives and happiness. The visitors regularly say that they adore the volunteers, and appreciate what they do.

“We simply could not provide this high quality of service to our visitors without our team of volunteers. The hub is now a diverse space with people from all different backgrounds and ages using the space together. Our volunteers have been a key part in making this happen.” - **Their nominator**



Salford Independent Visitors - advocacyfocus

Independent Visitors are volunteers who spend time and give friendship and support to a child in the care system. The volunteers create fun visits that are tailored around what the young person likes to do, as well as inspiring new hobbies and interests. The volunteers provide a source of comfort and give a sense of stability when quite often there is a lot of change in many other aspects of the young person's life.



Here is what a volunteer had to say about their experience as an Independent Visitor, “I was matched with a young person who had just turned 13 at the time and was living in a foster home... fast forward six years and I am still an Independent Visitor to them, now they are nearly 19. The young person was quite shy in the beginning but after the regular monthly visits, we were able to have some lovely chats. They are the most wonderful, kind and thoughtful person despite having a rocky start to life. I feel lucky to have seen them grow into an amazing young woman. My proudest moment was when she phoned me to tell me she had been promoted at work and just wanted to let me know. You are potentially offering a young person stability and support, providing them with new experiences and helping them find a little bit of joy in life.” - **Their nominator**

Young Volunteer of the Year

Shortlisted nominees

♥ Max Gill Williams

♥ Josh Houghton

♥ Sami Habib

♥ Rhia Morrison



Max Gill Williams - St Johns Ambulance

Max started at St Johns Ambulance seven years ago. Since then he has attended and progressed to become a Cadet Corporal, showing a huge amount of hard work and dedication. Max has become an integral part of the Salford group where he is now teaching, attending events and participating in so many different aspects of the work of the organisation.



Max recently spent two, 12 hour days attending Pride with his unit as well as various other events over the summer including open days at fire stations.

Through his volunteering, Max's communication skills and confidence have flourished and he has found a purpose that may be the career path that he wants to explore. "Max gives his holiday time, weekends and evenings to his volunteering. He promotes his passion not only to his colleagues but also the general public. He gives his time with enthusiasm and commitment and never wants to let anyone down." **Their nominator**

Josh Houghton - George House Trust

Josh is a Meet and Greet volunteer and makes a significant difference to the support received by people living with HIV in Salford. Josh is the first point of contact for everybody coming into George House Trust and every call the organisation receives on a Wednesday afternoon. Josh's interactions with people living with HIV ensure they receive support or information required.



He provides reassurance to people calling who are newly diagnosed and offers people a drink in reception whilst they wait to receive counselling or advice.

“Josh is very reliable and balances being friendly and professional which makes him a perfect Meet and Greet volunteer. People living with HIV still experience stigma and discrimination. Recognising this Josh greets people with warmth and sensitivity to put people at ease. When Josh answers the phone to people who are distressed or in crisis, he provides reassurance and ensures they get the support they need. His warm welcome and ready smile contributes to people of Salford getting the support they need to live well with HIV.” - **Their nominator**

Sami Habib - Destination Florida

Sami loves helping charities and raising money to support them. He has helped homelessness charities with food and cakes that he made. He recently helped to raise £4,000 for the children's charity, Destination Florida. He supported the charity by collecting prizes, distributing posters and helping with raffles and tombolas.



The money Sami helped to raise has gone towards giving seriously ill children the trip of a lifetime to Florida. He wants to continue volunteering and raising funds for them and to help other charities too.

“Sami brings happiness and joy to everyone he meets. His disabilities do not stop him and he gives what he can to others. Sami is a superstar and truly a blessing.”

- **Their nominator**

Rhia Morrison - Steppingstones Creative

Rhia has been a member of Steppingstones Creative for four years. During this time she has progressed from being a member who was supported in the session to assisting as a volunteer on group sessions for young people with learning difficulties.



Rhia is developing in her volunteer role and is recognised as an equal facilitator who can deliver parts of the workshop to the groups. As part of this development Rhia will be completing her Bronze Arts Award. This award emphasises leadership whilst also supporting knowledge and understanding in the arts. This will help Rhia to further advance her abilities and skills to deliver and lead activities.

“Rhia is a role model for others, openly discussing her current and past difficulties, with the group and setting an example. She is increasingly becoming a dependable member of the team, who is developing her skills and qualities. Rhia is dependable, honest and shares her suggestions for how we can improve.”

- **Their nominator**

Volunteer of the Year

Shortlisted nominees

- ♥ Julie Larkinson
- ♥ George Tapp
- ♥ Janet Charlesworth
- ♥ Doreen Burns



Julie Larkinson - Salford Families in need Meals Project



Julie set up Salford Families in need Meals Project (SFinMP) in 2021. After the pandemic, Julie responded to local families' needs and got fully behind establishing a weekly food distribution hub. Julie is a retired teacher who has helped generations of families especially on the Brookhouse Estate.



Today, Julie's leadership means SFinMP helps 400+ families. Julie is an instrumental fundraiser for the project utilising her contacts from local businesses as well as TV personalities (whom she has previously taught). She successfully persuaded a contestant (a former pupil) to donate his appearance fee from Pointless Celebrities. Julie's fundraising and the generous donations from her contacts has raised over £40,000 for the organisation! "Without Julie offering a safe place, many youngsters may have failed, she makes everyone feel valued."

- SFinMP client

“SFinMP service users often share their needs and Julie connects them with relevant services such as housing. Recently, Julie helped a young adult released from prison to access food and support. Each week, this person gives Julie a big hug because every Wednesday she helps her take another step further away from HMP Styal. Julie’s dedication is infectious and lifts peoples’ mood. She helps prevent food poverty for many families and ensures the avoidance of hardship for others. Julie has created something special that boosts the wellbeing of so many people.” - **Their nominator**

George Tapp - Ordsall Community Arts

Whilst overcoming his own health difficulties, George started a woodworking group in Ordsall. This has now developed and he has started many more groups. George accepts referrals for social prescribing and provides one-to-one support in a patient, encouraging manner that really helps people to grow in confidence. Ordsall Community Arts is open six days a week, including after school, and George is always there with a welcoming smile. The organisation has gone from strength to strength and is a valued asset not only in Ordsall but also for the wider Salford community.



One client has gone from attending the Centre one day per week, to calling in almost every day, such is the welcome and support they receive. George is dedicated to helping others through his volunteering. He helps and inspires many people. In addition to his volunteering at Ordsall Community Arts, George has been crafting artistic features for a community garden at Ordsall library.

“George makes such a difference to others. The organisation is George! Without him, there would be no Ordsall Community Arts. Since George re-opened the Centre their visitors are increasing all the time, the garden area outside looks amazing and the Centre itself and the facilities look fantastic.” - **Their nominator**

Janet Charlesworth - Proud and Loud Arts



Janet is a founder member of Proud and Loud Arts. She served as a Trustee and is actively involved in managing the day-to-day finances of the charity. In addition to this Janet is engaged in a significant research project that aims to highlight gaps in disability provision in Salford.

Janet is committed to improving the support available for people with disabilities in the community. In 2019, Janet created her own work, Article 19, which was influenced by the United Nations Convention on Rights for Persons Living with a Disability and was a multimedia performance designed to provoke conversation around modern day attitudes to disability.

Janet strives to create a broader conversation, raise awareness about disability rights and work towards positive change at local level and beyond. Her work in understanding the gaps for people with disabilities in Salford shines a light on social inequalities and promotes positive change.

“The role Janet does at board level, and the commitment Janet has made to the charity and members, has been instrumental in the growth of the organisation. Janet actively represents members at board level, creating opportunities for members to influence the direction of the charity. Janet creates space to explore challenging issues in a creative way.”

- **Their nominator**

Doreen Burns - Langworthy Cornerstone

Doreen has been a member of the Board of Trustees for many years at Langworthy Cornerstone. She is a force of character who energises people to get things done. Doreen has now taken on a new role as the lead on the organisations community engagement sub group. This role involves working closely with team members and the community, and informs the future community activity at the Cornerstone.



Doreen recognises the needs of many people in the area and quietly forges forwards to make sure everyone gets what they need, as far as resources will allow. Doreen also coordinates and delivers a number of groups at the Cornerstone, the most recent being 'Chat the Past'. This group reduces isolation, helps friendships to develop and enables people to share personal histories and the history of our area.

“Doreen is caring, respectful and considerate to all of the staff and volunteers who are connected with the work we do - we never see Doreen without a smile. She is a lovely person who has the drive and tenacity to assist the most vulnerable people we support here at Langworthy Cornerstone.” - **Their nominator**





Salford CVS
Making a difference in Salford

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