

A brilliant start to being Manchester Arndale's Charity Star

As we mentioned several months ago, Home-Start Greater Manchester was lucky to be chosen as Manchester Arndale's Charity of the year for 2016, beating off over twenty other local organisations.

Staff and shoppers kick-started the year of fundraising back in December when Manchester Arndale launched its Christmas gift wrap stand, with Home-Start families being treated as VIP guests to the opening of the centre's Grotto.

We are delighted to announce that in their first month of fundraising, Manchester Arndale have raised a staggering £10,900 for us. Thanks to the support and generosity of local people, this means that Home-Start Greater Manchester will be able to provide over 360 more volunteer visits to families who need us this year.

And there's another 11 months to go! Over the coming months Manchester Arndale will also be holding volunteer recruitment events for us, and more fundraising activities.

Hearing first-hand accounts from some of our families has really spurred retailers on to do even more for us, and we cannot thank them enough. Last week they heard an account from one of our mums who had recently been widowed, she said: "The day my boys and I met Joy our volunteer, our lives changed forever. Nothing will ever come close to the lives that we had before my husband died, but Home-Start made those darkest days a little bit brighter. This amazing charity can do so much in putting a broken family back together again."

A huge thank you to all of the shoppers, and to the staff of Manchester Arndale, we are looking forward to another 11 months of being their chosen charity for 2016.

If you would like to volunteer for one of our seven local Home-Starts, or would just like to find out more about what we do, and who we support, please visit www.gmhomestarts.org.uk