

As life gets tougher for Greater Manchester families we need new volunteers, now more than ever.

By volunteering for us, you will make a difference to a family that could last a lifetime.

All seven Home-Starts across Greater Manchester will be recruiting and training new volunteers in 2017. If your New Year's resolution is to make a difference in your local community, or to become a volunteer, then why not consider Home-Start?

In an ideal world a charity like Home-Start wouldn't be needed. But for many families life can be tough which can make parenting a challenge. We support local families coping with a range of issues from post-natal illness and multiple births through to physical disability and isolation- the list is endless. But as life gets tougher for many local families we are seeing an increase in the need for Home-Start support.

Home-Start sees daily the difference our parent volunteers make to local families. They help to prevent problems from spiralling out of control, and often prevent crisis.

Volunteering for Home-Start is not rocket science, but it really works. Once a week, for just a couple of hours you visit a local family in their own home, offering a mix of emotional and practical support. A listening ear for a mum or dad to confide in, a practical pair of hands to get a mum and her baby out to the park, helping with routines or managing a house hold budget.

One mum supported by Home-Start said: "If it were not for Home-Start and my volunteer, I would not be getting out of bed in the morning, I was at the brink of despair, and I could not see light at the end of the tunnel. The Julie, my Home-Start volunteer came into my life. She turned my world upside down, and I mean that in a good way! Saying she's my guardian angel doesn't even come close to explaining what my volunteer means to me."

Across 2017 Home-Starts in Greater Manchester will be recruiting for new volunteers, so that we can reach out to even more parents and children that need our help. If you think you could support Home-Start, have parenting experience and would like to help a local family we would love to hear from you.

Volunteering for Home-Start is a rewarding experience and all our volunteers complete an extensive training course before they are matched to their first family.

Home-Start also offers ongoing training & support to its volunteers. Our ethos is helping parents build better lives and better futures for their children. If you think that's something for you- why not get involved?

To find out more about Home-Start and volunteering, and how to find the Home-Start nearest to you, please visit www.gmhomestarts.org.uk