

## **Come down to Manchester's Arndale to find out how you can make a difference to local families**

The 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June sees the return of Volunteers Week. A huge event across the UK that celebrates the role volunteers make in their local communities.

As part of these celebrations, Home-Start Greater Manchester will be holding two volunteer recruitment events in Manchester's Arndale Shopping Centre on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. We will be in the Lower Mall across both days, with activities for children also planned.

You'll to meet some of our staff and existing volunteers and find out more about our work in communities right across Greater Manchester. You'll also get a chance to view a photographic exhibition of some of our existing volunteers and the families they support, and the journeys that they have been on together.

Our volunteers help families with a huge range of issues, from post- natal depression and isolation through to support a child with a disability or multiple births. Support is offered in a family's own home, for however long they need it.

Importantly, when we ask our volunteers, they also say that volunteering for Home-Start is fun, increases their friendship circles, and potential employers are asking, more than ever, about what volunteering activities they have taken part in.

If you have parenting experience, and could spare just a couple of hours a week to support a family living near you, why not come down to our event in June to find out more.

One of our volunteers said: "I'd urge anyone to give Home-Start a try. I'd never thought of volunteering before, but then when my son moved away to go to university, I felt like I had too much time on my hands, as the months went on, I felt lost as a parent! I heard of Home-Start through an ad in the local paper, I rang them to find out more, and from that day to this, I have never looked back. I've supported three families, from twins and a mum who was feeling unable to cope with her toddler, through to a single dad of three children. Each family is individual and special, as is the support you, as a volunteer offer them. Home-Start increased my confidence, and made me feel like I was making a difference, it's the best decision I ever made, picking up the phone that day.

Please come down to Manchester's Arndale Shopping Centre in June to have a chat and find out the different ways in which you can support us.

To find out more about our work visit [www.gmhomestarts.org.uk](http://www.gmhomestarts.org.uk)