

We are thrilled to announce that Manchester Arndale shopping centre has chosen Home-Start Greater Manchester as its Charity Star 2015/16, with a year of activity-packed fundraising to start in November.

The money raised by Manchester Arndale will make a real difference to our work because it will fund training for more volunteers, to grow our charity and help more families in need across Greater Manchester.

Fundraising will begin at the launch of Manchester Arndale's annual Christmas charity gift wrap service in Halle Square, on Thursday 26 November to 24 December. The gift-wrap team will expertly tie up customer's presents beautifully for a donation of between £1.50 to £5 per present, depending on size. Last Christmas the team wrapped nearly 8,000 presents, raising nearly £11,500 in total and they are hoping to go above and beyond that figure this year.

Following the Christmas charity gift wrap fundraising, the Manchester Arndale team has planned a year of fundraising until November 2016, including bake-offs, sponsored sports events, dressing up days and pampering evenings.

David Allinson, Centre Director at Manchester Arndale said: "We want to have fun whilst raising money that will make a real difference to the work of Home-Start Greater Manchester. Most importantly, we want to raise awareness for the work of Home-Start, and encourage our shoppers to give generously and/or volunteer for a charity whose work impacts so many families and individuals in the region."

Rob Harwood, Vice Chair of Home-Start Greater Manchester, added: "We are absolutely delighted to be chosen as Manchester Arndale's Charity Star. Home-Start is a charity that is firmly rooted in communities right across Greater Manchester, and at a time when life is getting tougher for many local families, there has never been a greater need for Home-Start support. To be the recipient of these fundraising and profile raising opportunities over the coming year means that with Manchester Arndale's help, we will be able to recruit and train even more local volunteers to stop families in Greater Manchester from reaching breaking point."