

A huge thanks to our incredible volunteers

Every June we celebrate National Volunteers Week. A chance to thank the incredible volunteers who make such a difference to the lives of parents and children right across Greater Manchester.

Charities could not achieve the outcomes they do if it were not for their volunteers who give up their time to help others. And it's important to have a week in the year where we can highlight the impact volunteering has on local people and local communities.

At Home-Start our volunteers change people's lives, don't take our word for it, this is what our supported families tell us.

"My volunteer was my light at the end of a very dark tunnel. She was the one person who helped me changed the direction I was taking. I can honestly say I am the parent I am today because of her, because of her guidance, her warmth and her 'can do' attitude. Every parent who struggles needs a Home-Start volunteer, but I know there are only so many to go around! I always wanted to give something back to the charity that supported me so much, so when my child went to school I decided to become a volunteer myself. I wanted another family to have what I had had. My child is now 15 years old, and I have supported many families in the last ten years. Each family so different, each with their own story to tell. The journey that you go on with each family is very special and unique. As a volunteer you learn so much about other people's lives but also about your own life as well. Being a Home-Start volunteer has definitely helped me to be a better parent to my child too. I would recommend it to anyone!"

Across Greater Manchester we know that many families are experiencing difficulties; coping with a range of issues from poverty, poor mental health, isolation and much more. We know that if we had more volunteers we could improve the futures of many more children. If you read this and feel inspired by what we do and what our volunteers to, then please do visit our website to find out the various ways in which you can volunteer for us.

www.gmhomestarts.org.uk

And for all those volunteers who currently support us in Greater Manchester, we'd like to thank you once again, we simply could not do it without you.