

## **Home-Start, a charity supporting families in need, explains the importance of donations...**

At a time when the voluntary sector faces cuts from statutory funding, there has never been a more vital time for businesses and individual fundraisers to support their local charities.

Across Greater Manchester, Home-Start has been very fortunate- we have great local support that comes in many forms.

Many of the Home-Starts organise Christmas parties for their supported families and volunteers, (those that do not hold a Christmas party simply do not have the funds).

With statutory funding targeted on training volunteers to offer front line support to families, sometimes there is very little left over for extra activities such as a Christmas party or a day trip in the summer for parents and children.

Although Home-Start supports families for many reasons- isolation, disability and multiple births to name but a few- lots of families here in Greater Manchester are living in poverty.

The Christmases that many Home-Start children have are not the same as Christmases of other children.

We just want to do our bit to make this festive period special for these youngsters, to give them an experience to enjoy and to remember.

Corporate and individual donations help make that happen for us.

Local businesses sometimes donate shop vouchers, toys and cakes to their local Home-Start for Christmas parties and we appreciate this immensely.

Some Home-Starts have also recently had great support from the Halifax Bank, which provided volunteers to help make over a family's home with a day of DIY.

The difference this has made is incredible and one mum said: "This makeover has made my life worth living again."

When you hear comments like that, it confirms the fact that so much of what Home-Start achieves could not be realised without funding, donations and gifts.

To find out more about the ways to support Home-Start, visit the national website [www.home-start.org.uk](http://www.home-start.org.uk) or call 0800 068n 63 68.