



PRESS RELEASE

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One of Greater Manchester's leading family support charities celebrates its 21st anniversary of helping parents and children.

The charity will be hosting a party and is asking for previous Home-Start volunteers to get in contact with them to help mark this milestone.

Home-Start Oldham, Stockport & Tameside (HOST) works with local families offering a range of support services from home-visiting, working with dads, speech and language projects, infant feeding peer support and parent infant mental health support.

Its core work is to offer a range of practical and emotional support to parents in their own homes who are experiencing a range of difficulties, from poor mental health and poverty through to domestic abuse, illness and disability and parents who have a lack of family support networks around them. It does this by recruiting and training local people (who are parents themselves) and matching them to a family in the community.

Set up in 1998, the charity first began supporting families in Tameside before joining with neighbouring Home-Starts to cover the three boroughs in an effort to become more efficient and more sustainable. It is now one of the largest Home-Start charities in the UK.

On the 22nd June, HOST will be hosting a party at the Village Hotel in Ashton- Under-Lyne, from 7pm until 11pm for all volunteers, past and present who have supported families over the last 21 years. It's an evening of celebration where they can dress up and enjoy some fizz and canapes and be thanked for the part they have played in Home-Start's journey so far.

Sarah Cook, Chief Executive of HOST said: "Twenty- one years of supporting local families really is something to celebrate and we could not have done it without our volunteers. They give up their time for free each week and help empower families to move on from difficult life circumstances; we could not provide this crucial front-line service if it were not for them. Not only is this party to celebrate our anniversary, it's also to give thanks to all of the hundreds of people over the years who have been part of the Home-Start story."

Mary, a Home-Start volunteer said: "I would like to thank Home Start for building me up to who I am today. I am an immigrant lady who came to this country without knowing the basics of the English culture or tradition but with your help I am now a lady who has attended a university and now I have a job at the NHS. I'm highly grateful for what you've helped me accomplish. Home- Start is an organisation that has took the veil of my face and let me pursue my dreams."

If you have been a volunteer for Home-Start in Oldham, Stockport and Tameside over the last 21 years and would like help celebrate and be part of their anniversary event, please contact Home-Start HOST 0161 344 0669 or email info@homestarthost.org.uk



Home-Start HOST volunteer Carla, with a child supported by the charity

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Home-Start is the UK's leading family support charity. It recruits and train volunteers to support parents with at least one child under the age of five. Their home visiting work is unique in the UK. The charity was set up in 1973 and now supports over 28,000 families and 60,000 children each year. Over 13,500 volunteers visit families in their own homes – parents supporting other parents in a variety of situations including isolation, bereavement, multiple births, poverty, illness or disability.

There are six Home-Starts working across Greater Manchester. They are: Home-Start Bury, Home-Start Bolton, Home-Start Manchester, Home-Start Oldham, Stockport & Tameside, Home-Start Rochdale, Home-Start Trafford & Salford.