



Wednesday 3rd. November 2021

The Main Hall
King Georges Hall
Northgate
Blackburn
BB2 1AA



Order of the evening

Host for the evening

Graham Liver

5.30pm Doors Open

6.00 pm Entertainment from Blackburn Youth Zone

6.30 pm Welcome for Councillor Mohammed Khan OBE – Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

6.35pm to 7.30 pm Awards presented to nominees

7.40pm to 8pm Entertainment from Blackburn and Darwen Junior Band

Food served

8.00 pm to 9.00pm Awards presented to finalists

9.00pm Closing thanks – Paul Mason Chair Community CVS

9.15pm – 9:30pm

Band



Blackburn Youth Zone



Blackburn & Darwen Junior Band

Garth



'The Wheat Biscuits'

The 2021 Community Volunteering Awards is the first time we have managed to come together to celebrate the achievement of volunteers across the Borough, since the COVID 19 Pandemic has had such a devastating impact within our communities and communities across the globe. If we are to learn anything from these events, there are three points I would like to make.

The value of community volunteering

Firstly, the value of and necessity for community volunteering has been clearly demonstrated. The response of volunteers within our community has been truly remarkable. Reading the stories of everyone nominated is inspirational and we know these stories are the tip of an iceberg. The contribution of volunteers impacts on every aspect of our daily lives and we would all be the poorer without the work they do. As a Borough and as a country, we need to invest in volunteering in every walk of life and invest in our communities.



The value of local community partnerships

Secondly, the value of local community partnerships and relationships between our communities, charities, the local authority, NHS and our private sector has been critical in being able to respond quickly and in a way that has had a positive impact within our communities. Everything from the help hub, to befriending, helping people with food, shopping or collecting medication, to local testing, to local production of PPE and the local roll out of the vaccination programme – the close partnership working across the Borough has been exemplary. This is in stark contrast to some of the national efforts, where responses have been slow, un-co-ordinated and where the efficacy of the investment is questionable. The value of local co-ordinated responses is something that needs to be recognised at a regional and national level.

The spotlight on inequalities within our communities

Lastly, on a more challenging note for all of us, the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic has not been felt equally across our community or society in general. However, you analyse the impact of the Pandemic, through no fault of their own, the impact has been disproportionately felt by our frail elderly populations, disabled people and those with health conditions, our ethnic minority communities and our populations living in our more deprived neighbourhoods. The COVID 19 Pandemic has shone a spotlight on the inequalities which exist within our communities and across the nation. Many people have unnecessarily lost their lives because of the circumstances they found themselves in rather than anything they could have done.

As a community and as a society, we need to reflect on this and as we recover from this pandemic and prepare for future challenges, we need to place a greater emphasis on equity, ensuring that socially, economically and environmentally we make the right investments to tackle the inequalities that exist within our community and our economy.

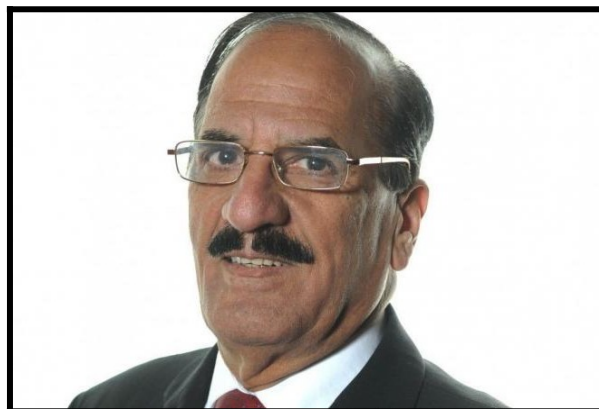
Let's celebrate the remarkable achievements of our volunteers, but also let's look at what we need to focus on going forward. We need to work together to campaign for and to lead the changes that need to be made to make our community, our economy and our neighbourhoods fairer where everyone can prosper and lead fulfilling healthy productive lives.

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council:

“These have been unprecedented and strange times and it has shown that we need our local heroes and helpers more than ever before. Over the past year and a half we have seen so many people going above and beyond for others and making a huge difference to people’s lives - and it is more important than ever that we celebrate them.

“These wonderful volunteers are a real lifeline to so many, keeping them going, helping them in their day to day lives and showing the absolute best of Blackburn with Darwen.

“There has been a huge amount of nominations this year as we celebrate the very best of our borough and the amazing spirit so many people have shown. These finalists are the very best of us and I am so glad we were able to celebrate them all this year. I am really looking forward to seeing the return of the Community Volunteer Awards and watching all our community heroes honoured for all their hard work and dedication.”



“Volunteering and community involvement is at the heart of sport and is a crucial ingredient of grassroots sport. Even at a professional level we have volunteers that add huge value to what we deliver. Almost every organisation



started with somebody who would do something for free because they were passionate about it. Volunteers add many benefits and values to an organisation or community group. Firstly, they tend to be passionate people who genuinely care and as a result improve the impact of whatever activity they take part in (sometimes raising funds). We support these awards as we have seen first-hand the commendable work carried out



across the Community and these groups/individuals deserve to be recognised. We will look to support them in any way we can. We often support staff to support causes close to their hearts, which often improve their skillsets in the process. Volunteering is most valuable when completed in a field where you are passionate, whether that be grassroots coaching, supporting a local charity or helping a member



of your family or a close friend. We welcome anybody to support the club and/or trust and are happy to try to facilitate volunteering support where possible to do so. Our award-winning Community Trust always have a huge variety of projects and initiatives that support a wide range of interests which always benefit from volunteer support.” **Steve Waggot –**



Health & Wellbeing Award

Individual Finalist



Adam Gardner "I've been involved in football all my life, playing, coaching and watching. LADS United is something very special and was formed by accident during the Covid 19 pandemic in the summer of 2020, the primary objective was to offer an opportunity for guys of any age, fitness level or ability to continue playing the game they love!

What we didn't anticipate was the positive impact not only on the physical fitness but perhaps more importantly the mental wellbeing of the participants.

In the blink of an eye, it became much more than a game of footy, it's now a community of friends from far and wide; playing the beautiful game and using the hook of football to form bonds and connections that will last a lifetime.

Get involved, it's a wonderful feeling helping and being involved in community

projects."

Dorothy Greenwood "When I retired I missed going to work because I love being around people so I decided to volunteer in the local Cancer research shop, unfortunately my husband became ill and I suddenly became a Carer. BwD carers supported me, they did a marvellous job and after my husband passed away I decided to volunteer at the Carers to give something back, I have always enjoyed doing things for people, I help run the Life after Caring group, we have a weekly group. I love volunteering, I love to make people smile and have a lot of laughs, we get involved in lots of activities and being part of that makes me feel 80 years young!!! I'm quite surprised about being nominated but I don't do it to be nominated and I just want to do it because it makes me feel good"



Joanne Bates "Years ago, my mum was quite poorly at Queen's Park hospital, and me and my husband did fundraise for the hospital. I started volunteering at the carer's service as my son had ADHD and was struggling at St Wilfred's

"Volunteering is indistinguishable from the rest of my life. It's one of my main values. At the moment I'm organising and gathering items for a car boot sale. I'd say I volunteer about 25 hours per week."

"Everything. I struggle with depression and low self-esteem, and keeping busy, volunteering helps with that. I love a challenge, I love seeing the

results and the joy in peoples' faces. I love raising money for a project that benefits carers.

"Don't hesitate to volunteer even if it's just two hours out of your life you get so, so much back – not just the love and gratitude. It's unbelievable what I've got back, it's amazing. I don't think I'll ever stop, it wouldn't be the same without it."



Health & Wellbeing Award

Group Finalist

Si Donnelly – Talk Ourselves Well “I created Talk Ourselves Well after the death of 2 of my friends to suicide. I wrote a status on Facebook about what we can do to raise awareness, educate and empower other men to start talking and stop dying. The status gained a lot of attention from local men and the day after I started a Talk Ourselves Well page on social media.

I continue to volunteer so that we can raise awareness, educate and empower other males to speak up, give them a voice and a listening platform to assist them to experience Mental Wealth and to continue to build upon their Mental Health needs.

I am a firm believer in what you put in, you get back out and there have been many times that I have felt like an Emotionally Healthy Millionaire, it is a selfless thing to volunteer and the impact and change that we can have on people's lives is immense!

I feel extremely proud to be nominated for these awards. Just being nominated shows that Talk Ourselves Well is making a difference to people's lives and is being recognised even though we are a reasonably new and small community group.”



BwD Carers - Asian Carers Group, Asian Carers was set up to raise awareness and break barriers surrounding Asian carers. We help Asian carers with English, so they can express their needs and concerns and we provide information regarding what's available to help locally. We also organise events and outings. Kulsum, Isma, Salma and Saleha run the group. Kulsum works at BwD Carers but also volunteers she mentors the other ladies. Isma got involved with the Asian Carers group from the beginning, “I got involved to help build confidence in carers and help reduce hate I have been volunteering for around 10 years, I Love meeting new people and hearing how they are doing.

Finding out how they are coping and how she can help.” Kulsum “although I have responsibility for this group my volunteering time stretches far beyond this, by seeking out resources for the group in my own time, spending time providing a listening ear to participants and spending a great deal of time with the volunteer lead to ensure that they are empowered to deliver the sessions. I continue to volunteer as it gives me so much, from the love I get from the group to seeing them achieve the things they want in life, to burden the load of caring. I love seeing them have a little time out. volunteering gives you skills and confidence, it gives you a sense of purpose and giving, which is good for your own wellbeing.”

AGE UK Joyce, Barry, Naila, Joyce and Jenni all volunteer for the Age UK Befriending service, calling and visiting people on a weekly basis. Barry “the experience is so uplifting, it is lovely to encourage people in different situation and smile and laugh with them” Naila “I just love volunteering, I enjoy it and I don't want it to end, I will carry on as long as I can” Joyce “I have made lots of friends, there is one lady I have been chatting with for over 21 years, Helping others helps me it's good for both parties, volunteering helps me to keep going” Jenni “I get loads of job satisfaction, keeps me active its wonderful to have helped People”



"Volunteering is a basic human need, it's a fantastic opportunity and it shows that you are passionate as you are giving your time. It all adds to giving you a "feel good factor" after knowing you are going out there and helping people and helping the organisation that you are volunteering for. There are vast benefits as there are many options that you can do within volunteering, as it all depends on who or what you volunteer for. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to work but also spread goodness, and positivity.

"Get out there and do it, make a difference!"

Ian Brown – Chairman, The Hive



communities. Every action – no matter how big or small it may be – helps make our communities better places to live



"I think it's so important that we give back what we can to our local and work. Alongside creating a more vibrant and successful community, volunteering is a great way to meet likeminded people and expand your network of friends. Not only that, but the act of doing something positive and proactive within your community can be so rewarding. It can also be a great opportunity to learn new skills and build confidence. It can even help those who are looking to get back into the workplace. SUEZ has supported so many great local projects in that time, including community litter picks, river clean ups and community garden projects. Being a part of these projects has put us in touch with a network of incredible local volunteers who work tirelessly to make our community as vibrant and successful as it can possibly be – they really are the backbone of our community. Supporting the Community Volunteer Awards felt like a very natural thing for us to want to be a part."

**John Wilkinson – Regional Director
SUEZ**

"Volunteering is a powerful tool to demonstrate to the local community. Volunteering gives you the opportunities to improve life chances, it is very self-satisfying contributing to the community because you will continuously see benefits as well as personal development.

It lets volunteers know their community better, and a cohesive community which pulls people together. Volunteers support communities and organisations. Volunteering also gives lots of opportunities for all ages, all genders, all ethnicities etc there is no restrictions when it comes to volunteering.

Having an opportunity to work with the community allows people to explore opportunities without over committing and having a community to work together creates bigger goals to society and helps people delve in more, especially to find out whether they'd really enjoy it.

Blackburn college is an anchor to the community, and providing support to the community awards is a fantastic opportunity to get the word out for support for the volunteers".

**Fazal Dad – Principle Blackburn
College**



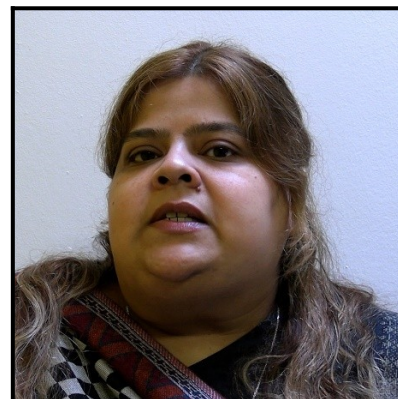
Prosperity, Learning & Employment Award

Individual Finalists

Saima Zeb "I got in to volunteering a very long time ago I did a lot of volunteering and went everywhere, anywhere there was an opportunity I would be there to ensure I could help. I feel like im here today because of all the volunteering I have done. I volunteer for the BwD Carers Service on the befriending project and the lasting power of attorneys, my volunteer work involves working on a one-one basis with service users.

Volunteering for me is a part of my life I need this to continue being the person am, this is my way of giving back to a community where I have got so much from. Volunteering is my passion I have done a degree in volunteering and I believe volunteering is the making of me. To be able to support and help someone or a project is my motivation volunteering upsills you, it gives you confidence, it's a way of getting back in to work.

I feel very overwhelmed to be nominated, I am honoured that someone thought I was good enough to be nominated.



Sarah Kirkham "I was made redundant and I had nothing to do, I had linked in with BwD Carers previously, discovered they were an amazing organisation and I wanted to be part of something wonderful. I volunteer 3 days a week and I meet & greet, admin, help out in the dementia café, I love volunteering because I like helping people and I have made lots of friends. Volunteering gives you lots of experience and new skills and a great sense of satisfaction, I was overwhelmed, shocked and happy when I found out I had been nominated"

Janet Ross "Unfortunately I had to give up my career because of my illness, when I wanted to make plans for when I die I wasn't sure how to go about it and I really couldn't find anyone who would discuss death and the plans that need to be in place when someone does pass away. So I decided to go back to University and study, I went to Lancaster University and when I graduated I went onto volunteer at Age UK BwD.

I wanted to raise the issue of Lasting power of attorney and how important it is to have things in place. At Age UK BwD we saw the benefits of raising the awareness and how it gave people peace of mind, knowing that their families would be able to sort out everything easily in very difficult circumstances. I now volunteer at the BwD Carers where I now train a whole team of volunteers who assess many needs and help with referrals. Volunteering gives me great satisfaction, it's great when you can help others and sort out their worries, it's also great working with other volunteers and see them grow."



Prosperity, Learning & Employment Award – Group Finalists

Rummage Rescuers services originated and have been developed by groups of individuals in the local community, starting in the Mill Hill area and expanding within other Blackburn neighbourhoods. Unlike other providers the core workforce of Rummage Rescuers are volunteers from the local community, so that:- The local shops and warehouse are embedded in the community, run and steered by local volunteers. All volunteers are highly involved in business development and decision making, so are the community, our volunteers can use the work experience as a basis for accessing training and employment. The services are accessible to local people in need via social and community networks. Referrals are made by any community member so they feel they are contributing to the well-being of individuals/community members. Rummage Rescuers has created a “trusted” brand within the communities and this is highly valuable in these difficult times. Community services and statutory services all sign post people to Rummage Rescuers for help.



Shamina Faiz & Sarah Hussain as final year undergraduate Psychology students at Blackburn College, Sarah & Shamina volunteered in the lottery funded Friendship Feast project working with refugee women, delivered by the College. The project took place 1 afternoon per week at ARC in Blackburn, we supported them to shop for the ingredients, asking for products in English on the day of the Friendship Feasts, Shamina and Sarah met the women early to attend the cooking session, to help wherever needed, and sat to eat and chat with the women, and cleaned up at the end. We swapped regular text messages with the women, improving their social integration and written English.



“I enjoyed all aspects of volunteering on the project, the most fruitful impact was seen in the increased confidence in the

women in speaking and writing in English and developing a sense of pride about their country of origin”

“I continue to volunteer as I am passionate about helping people, in doing so, this in itself provides me a sense of a satisfying reward.”

BwD Carers - Asian Carers Group, Asian Carers was set up to raise awareness and break barriers

surrounding Asian carers. We help Asian carers with English, so they can express their needs and concerns and we provide information regarding what's available to help locally. We also organise events and outings. Kulsum, Isma, Salma and Saleha run the group. Kulsum works at BwD Carers but also volunteers she mentors the other ladies. “spending time providing a listening ear to participants and spending a great deal of time with the volunteer lead to ensure that they are empowered to deliver the sessions. I continue to volunteer as it gives me so much, from the love I get from the group to seeing them achieve the things they want in life, to burden the load of caring. I love seeing them have a little time out. volunteering gives you skills and confidence, it gives you a sense of purpose and giving, which is good for your own wellbeing.”





Volunteering is an amazing opportunity for people to give back to their community and feel like they're making a difference to people's lives no matter how small. Volunteering doesn't just help others but helps the individual connect with other people from various walks of life whilst also having amazing health benefits for the mind and body.

Each individual volunteer brings their own unique skill set which organisations can utilise to achieve communal goals whether that's fundraising, helping the less fortunate, taking over a charity's social media account, coaching or maybe just being present and supporting other volunteers.

As a family run company one of our core values is helping in the community. We actively participate in local community events such as sports tournaments and are active supporters of our local food bank where we donate an average of 35kg worth of paper products a month. We're always looking for new opportunities to help our local community in Blackburn and being able to witness all the hardwork individuals have done over the past year is a great honour. I believe this year the community awards are going to be unique because of the pandemic. Covid-19 has been very painful but has also showed the brilliance of individuals who have volunteered and gone above and beyond for their local community.



Our employees are actively encouraged to participate in civic duties, and many are involved in their local community Centre football club, foodbank, charity and school. The impact volunteering can have, is hugely instrumental in creating a community that supports everyone. Volunteering can bring fulfilment in your life, build your character, and can also help your career.

Some people have the perception that volunteering only involves charity work e.g., going around collecting money but people can volunteer in pretty much any field. Some people might find it daunting volunteering in an area which they are not comfortable in and will just avoid volunteering completely. However, if an individual has certain passions or hobbies, I'm certain there's an area they can thrive in. For example, if an individual has a passion for football they can volunteer to coach young children with the help of the local community centre, mosque, school or team. Volunteering is so diverse and not just focused on one area.

Abid Datta – Star Tissue

Grass Roots Award

Individual Finalist

Cally Kershaw-Calvert “I’m a 59-year-old bloke who is a husband, father and granddad, I got into volunteering through our housing association, they helped us to form our Resident group Romney walk, Shadsworth and surrounding area.



I do a bit of voluntary work most days whether it’s actual physical work or doing administration .I organise events. Liaison with other groups and organisation that help us do the things we do.

I love helping my community because I want to make our community and the wider area a better place to live in. Everyone can make a difference in their community, volunteering can have lasting positive benefits for us all. It’s wonderful to See the positive effects our activities have on people’s lives”.

Hannah Goldthorpe

“I got involved in volunteering through reporting fly tipping in my area 12 years ago and then became involved with cleaning up my area and also starting up a coffee group for older people to help reduce loneliness and isolation.

During the Covid Pandemic,I continued helping my community by shopping for 35 people on a weekly basis for up to a year, delivering food parcels, I also delivered urgent prescriptions and medicines, took people to urgent doctors’ appointments and even checked peoples blood pressure. I carried out wellbeing phone-calls to my older people and assisted a number of people via Facebook who needed help and support.

I naturally enjoy helping people and love to see the difference it can make to my community and to a person’s life I have experienced many occasions where I have seen a real change to somebody’s life, Volunteering is a very rewarding experience and gives a person a purpose in life. The joy that they can get from helping others and their communities is immeasurable. By volunteering you meet other likeminded people and make new friends.”



Melissa McFarlane “I have always been interested in working with the community and enjoy working with



people. I decided to create the Bees and Birds Project to support vulnerable families with issues that aren’t normally discussed, such as sexual health, poverty, loneliness and stigmatisation. The project utilises social media to request for items for people in need, I pick the up and deliver them. I created an online group with other local services so that we can share information and quickly get the help that we need, the community are fantastic in that they are always really helpful I absolutely love to do it. I think I get a lot more from doing this work than the families do. I think it's nice to be able to give something back. There are lots of benefits to volunteering, it helps to combat loneliness and gives great opportunities to meet new people. You learn new things about your neighbours, friends and strangers when you volunteer and pick up lots of transferrable skills that can be taken into employment. More importantly, it gives something back to the community.”

Grass Roots Award Group Finalist

Radio Hospitals Blackburn This radio station has been non-stop running since the late 1950s and they never stop running the music to the east Lancashire hospital Trust

The volunteers here do different hours and make sure the radio never stops to provide free music to patients and make sure they have something to listen to

They have made people smile and their families grateful for the entertainment they have had



Romney Voices “ We fell into volunteering helping my dad, he is the driving force behind Romney Voices and SEBS, Romney Voices was set up to organise events and activities for local residents – Christmas parties etc, SEBS is part of the Fare Share and we support over 35 local families with food etc. We have busy lives with our families but we all get involved even the grandchildren, dad is so motivated to help others it rubbed off on us!! We love being part of something that makes other peoples lives better, when we all had to isolate it was heart-breaking knowing that the families we support would have nothing for at least 2 weeks. We also love the social side, we have met some wonderful people. It’s good to know that the families we support have someone there to take a bit of pressure off when money is tight and they are struggling with kids etc , my dad has created a legacy of caring”



Si Donnelly – Talk Ourselves Well “I created Talk Ourselves Well after the death of 2 of my friends to suicide. I wrote a status on Facebook about what we can do to raise awareness, educate and empower other men to start talking and stop dying. The status gained a lot of attention from local men and the day after I started a Talk Ourselves Well page on social media.

I continue to volunteer so that we can raise awareness, educate and empower other males to speak up, give them a voice and a listening platform to assist them to experience Mental Wealth and to continue to build upon their Mental Health needs.

I am a firm believer in what you put in, you get back out and there have been many times that I have felt like an Emotionally Healthy Millionaire, it is a selfless thing to volunteer and the impact and change that we can have on people’s lives is immense!

I feel extremely proud to be nominated for these awards. Just being nominated shows that Talk Ourselves Well is making a difference to people's lives and is being recognised even though we are a reasonably new and small community group.”





Volunteering is a great way for people to connect with their community, forge new relationships and learn new skills. As a business, we work a lot with local government, so we often get to see first-hand what a difference the voluntary and community sector make. Volunteers bring huge benefits to communities. They often provide a lifeline to people in the community that need help and support, but it's not all one way, having volunteered myself I know that it brings new connections and relationships, a sense of meaning and often new challenges and skills for volunteers themselves: it's a win win!

We were thrilled to have the opportunity to support the awards. As a local, Blackburn based business, it's great for us to hear about the excellent work

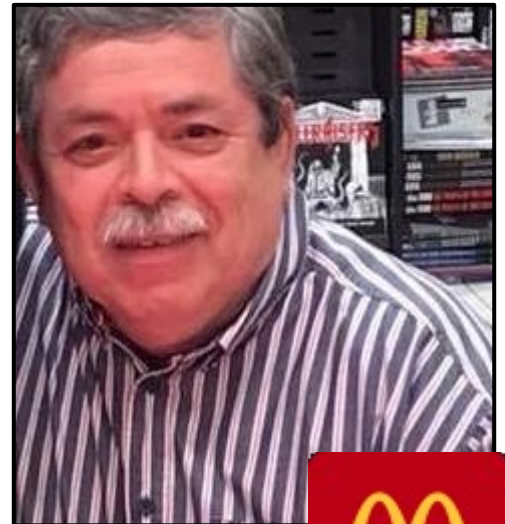
going on locally, and we felt this year of all years we knew it was so important to celebrate volunteers, after seeing such a huge impact made during lock down.

People on our team have volunteered for a wide variety of causes, and we have supported community businesses as a company on a pro bono basis. My team have a strong sense of social value and we have volunteered in schools, for age UK, and by providing work placements for young people

Lucy Trueman – Trueman Change

"Volunteering in the community is a vital part for any Business, we all have to find a channel to ensure that we give something back into communities in which we trade. MacDonald's does volunteer work in communities by sending our staff to help organisations to fundraising projects. Each of our restaurant's complete community litter picks, and have helped in building restorations projects i.e., painting, or clean-up projects. Volunteering can also help you build upon skills you already have and use them to benefit the greater community. For instance, if you hold a successful sales position, you can raise awareness for your favourite cause as a volunteer advocate, while further developing and improving your public speaking, communication, and marketing skills. The Community Volunteer Awards recognise the people often unseen in the background and we are proud that our organisation has been a supporter of these events for many years. We have continued to support financially, but it also, has also allowed the Company to connect with other sectors of the community, that we would normally, not have had access prior to our involvement with the CVS.

Tony Perez – MacDonald's



"Night safe has helped the homeless for around 30 years, Volunteers have been the backbone of our service with many volunteers coming from overseas. There are massive benefits that volunteers bring to our organisation - enthusiasm, creativity, many professional skills and life skills. Nightsafe simply would not work without our volunteers

"We always welcome volunteers"

The Community Volunteer Awards are a great way to support the community, thank our volunteers and all the other wonderful volunteers in Blackburn with Darwen for the amazing work they do.

Many volunteers have worked hard before and throughout covid not only are they a gift for Night safe and they enhance every organisation everywhere.

Volunteering helped me through my degree, giving me so many skills, I volunteered in a residential care home supporting the elderly. I also

volunteered as a Trustee at Brook in 2005 and was on this Board for about 5

years and I started volunteering on the Night safe Board in 2005 and became CEO IN 2014"

Jan Larkin – CEO Nightsafe

Young People's Award

Individual Finalist

Ebrahim & Aaliyah Namaji "When the Covid-19 Pandemic happened, it was a scary time for all of us. We wanted to get the message across to say we are in this together, During the coronavirus outbreak, we heard about the vulnerable and elderly who have to shield, as they will get really poorly if they caught it. We talked to our parents and we decided to make a Food Parcel for them. We knocked on their doors and surprised them, they were so happy. We surprised our Post Lady with a box of chocolates and coloured some pictures and displayed them on our porch window. We find it so rewarding, it puts a smile on people's faces and it makes us happy. Volunteering is so rewarding, it makes you happy to see others happy. It makes a difference to the people in the community. We were absolutely shocked to hear that we were finalists, it makes us feel like we doing a good job, makes us proud and happy."



Aisha Mehboob "I am 27 and was a carer for my mum for a while. The Carers service really helped me and I wanted to give back to the organisation which helped me massively when I didn't know where else to turn. The satisfaction of helping others motivated me. From a place of experience, I knew how difficult being a carer was and how it affected every aspect of my life. If I could help just one person in my position then it would all be worth it. I found my strength with the support of people around me and wanted to support others in the same way. I would say volunteering is such a positive experience and would recommend everyone to try especially in a cause they feel strongly about. Sometimes you don't know how one action can truly have an effect on someone's life. I was shocked to be nominated as I didn't really think I deserve those nominations. There is so much more I want to do and I am hopeful I will do them some day. But the truth is, as much as volunteering was my way of giving back to the community, it actually helped me massively too."



Fiona Dunn "I was a dancer for 30 years but I retired from dancing and decided to form my own troupe to prevent youngsters from hanging around the streets. My role is varied, I do organise the whole troupe and parents, the work I put into the troupe is hard but worthwhile. I get great pleasure from the girls getting placed or winning a competition Some of our dancers are from low income families and the weekend away we attend is often the only chance of a holiday some of them get in a year. I continue to carry on because I simply love what I do. volunteering is the best thing I have done. The sense of feeling fulfilled is amazing. Volunteering is so rewarding knowing you are helping others, I feel so humble at being nominated for this amazing award, for doing what I love to do. I do this because of my love for dancing and the care I hold in my heart for every dancer and their families."



Young People's Award

Group Finalists



Nightsafe "Nightsafe is a local Charity set up in 1990 by a group of local people, with the aim of alleviating the plight of homeless and vulnerably housed young people within the borough of Blackburn with Darwen and surrounding areas. We are very proud of the recognition as the volunteers and Night Safe have been given their time and efforts even through Covid and the challenging times that it brought. demands never reduced but in fact has increased so it is good to get the recognition our volunteers are like our treasures and they are the backbone to the company. The Community Volunteer Event allows us to join up with other organisations and charities, Night Safe is a small charity within the borough it shows that even as a small charity it can achieve very big things, So much hard work really does have good outcomes, and hopefully brings out good news stories along with it, and we cannot thank our volunteers enough.

Secret Santa "My friend, Phil Boulding, was setting up Secret Santa and was looking for volunteers. I had time on my hands between jobs so offered my help with his shop and general activities, I am the Lead Volunteer overseeing several roles between running the shop to organising the toy storage to packing the presents at Christmas. Knowing that it makes a difference to a child's Christmas who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas is a huge motivation. It's not just a Christmas task but needs doing all year round. The feeling that you can make a difference to the community and help out where you can is much better than just sitting back and watching others. And giving my time far more valuable to a community charity than anything else I could think of. While it's great to receive nominations and awards, the charity goal is the motivation. To make someone's Christmas – To give a child a Christmas"



BwD Youth Justice Team Joyce looks after the volunteers, it can be comprehensive and difficult to supervise, the volunteers go through a 5-day training course, and are often reassessed, this allows them to give referral order at the youth justice. The court will give an order and the volunteers will oversee that referral order, the volunteers read through the reports of the crime and decide what happens depending on factors such as what they did, school, home environment, substance abuse and neighbourhood. The volunteers work really hard as

they need the knowledge to read a report and supporting young people especially in such a scenario requires a lot of support as it can be quite emotional so they are also trained on how to handle those sorts of situations. It's a very diverse volunteering opportunity as there is always lots of different backgrounds : "Show the community that they're doing something good, and trying to repair the harm that is done and giving young people a second chance at trying to better themselves" "Volunteering gives you so many skills, different to what most people think volunteering is."



“Volunteering is a good thing to do, you can get a lot of satisfaction out of it and it feels good to achieve things.”



“Volunteering is an integral part of society and of the community. People who volunteer do things with a lot of heart and empathy.”

“People who came forward as volunteers during the pandemic did a lot of good, and helped keep society going. Things would have been much worse without volunteers.”

“Volunteers meet needs and increase the capacity of the community and

are essential to healthy community life. They reach areas that local authorities can’t – they’re a different route into the community, and they have a better understanding of the community and its needs.”

“We put forward volunteers to be recognised and we give enthusiasm. I think it’s a good way to help raise awareness of the organisation and to enhance the work of the Interfaith Forum. We’re sponsoring the award to keep on the legacy of Renee Black.”

“It’s rewarding and you get a lot from it. I can’t imagine not volunteering – it’s a way of committing to your faith. Volunteering opens up other opportunities that you might not have realised existed before. It helps you build up confidence, you meet new people and it gives you experience.”

“We sponsored the Renee Black Award as a way of carrying on her legacy. The Jewish community in Lancashire is very small, and she stood out like a sore thumb living in a mainly South East Asian community in Blackburn, but she still wanted to be part of that community and she continued her voluntary work up until the end. Everyone knew her, she was very straight forward and you always knew where you stood with her. She was one of the founding members of the Interfaith Forum – she saw the benefits to interaction between faiths and we celebrate our different faiths together. Everyone loved her, it was a sense of mutual love. We’re keen for her legacy to continue in volunteering through this award.”



Renee Black Award Finalists

BwD Carers - Asian Carers Group, Asian Carers was set up to raise awareness and break barriers surrounding Asian carers. We help Asian carers with English, so they can express their needs, concerns, and we provide information regarding what's available to help locally. We also organise events and outings. Kulsum, Isma, Salma and Saleha run the group. Kulsum works at BwD Carers but also volunteers; she mentors the other ladies.



Shamina Faiz & Sarah Hussain as final year undergraduate Psychology students at Blackburn College, Sarah & Shamina volunteered in the lottery funded Friendship Feast project working with refugee women, delivered by the College. The project took place 1 afternoon per week at ARC in Blackburn. On the day of the Friendship Feasts, Shamina and Sarah met the women early to attend the cooking session, to help wherever needed, and sat to eat and chat with the women, and cleaned up at the end. We swapped regular text messages with the women, improving their social integration and written English.

"I enjoyed all aspects of volunteering on the project, the most fruitful impact was seen in the increased confidence in the women in speaking and writing in English and developing a sense of pride about their country of origin"

"I continue to volunteer as I am passionate about helping people, in doing so, this in itself provides me a sense of a satisfying reward."

Blackburn Central High School Shanaz Hussain is the head teacher at BCHS "I am proud to work in such a richly diverse school, and I am so proud of the staff and students, who work tirelessly throughout the year, to bring our communities together and find ways to support those who need help, in whatever form that may be. Miriam Rathore is the Community Lead "What never ceases to amaze me is the willingness of our school community to roll up their sleeves and help." We believe that working together, regardless of heritage and cultural background, brings ALL communities together, we are inspired always by Renee Black who embodied the beliefs that we also hold dear – leaning about each other, sharing our beliefs and cultures and coming together in unity. Flattered, honoured and delighted to be shortlisted





"Volunteering is very important for not only the individual but also for the community, I have seen a lot of good and

hard work across the borough, volunteers are a huge asset to any organisation and community. Volunteering has also been a huge part of my life throughout the years, I believe that volunteering demonstrates that it is rewarding to give back.

Volunteering also just allows people to be able to be brought closer to the people who live in the community and the borough.

Volunteers bring skills and knowledge as well as different backgrounds, with culture, as well as their different perspectives so you end up learning new things constantly.

The reason why BwD Healthwatch support the Community Volunteer Awards is because I understand the importance of the great work that these people do in the community, they deserve recognition and the Community Volunteer Awards is a good way to say - Thank you"

Sarah Johns – CEO BwD Healthwatch

Volunteering provides an amazing opportunity for people who want to develop their skills and build their CV. Volunteering opportunities can help you understand the sector and organisation that you are volunteering for, allowing you to build on your skills and knowledge and the field of work.

Volunteers bring a real asset to any organisation as they bring a multitude of skills. They are continuously developing their skills meaning there is more help within the company.

The Community Volunteer Awards is a fantastic event so being a sponsor shows that the Wish Centre values and supports all the remarkable volunteers who attend, the event acknowledges the amazing contribution that they make and it also makes Blackburn with Darwen volunteers feel appreciated.

At the Wish centre clients are encouraged to volunteer.

I started out as a volunteer myself, I volunteered for 9 months for Citizens Advice Bureau which gave me valuable experience which then led onto my first job with Blackburn with Darwen Council.



Shigufta Khan – CEO The Wish Centre



"As an organisation, it is evident that volunteering is key! Age UK Blackburn with Darwen are constantly working with volunteers, without the help of volunteers this organisation wouldn't be able to run, so they are very critical.

As well as being the back bone to the organisations, volunteering comes with many benefits so it is a win – win, there is a massive range of benefits that the volunteers bring, this includes a huge range of skills and experience.

The reason why Age UK are supporting the Community Voluntary Awards is because all of the volunteers in Blackburn with Darwen definitely need to be recognised, the awards offer an opportunity to demonstrate that the council, the sponsors and organisations appreciate all the work that they do.

I first volunteered at the Victims Support which was located in Liverpool, I then went onto helping with community development and I volunteer on a number of local organisations boards. I currently volunteer at Lancashire wildlife trust and I love it."

Vicky Shepard CEO – Age UK BwD

Environment Award

Group Finalists



Keep Audley Tidy (KAT) The organisation was originated from Masjid Noorul Islam on Audley Range to help combat the litter issue in the area and educate the local community on the importance of keep the area and borough clean and tidy. On a monthly basis the Keep Audley Tidy (KAT) team arrange a clean-up session involving the local community and creating teams of people that live in the streets. KAT have been involved in helping the needy people during the pandemic by providing services such as food packs, transporting services and much more. "I got into volunteering from a young age and this has helped me boost my self-confidence and gives me great satisfaction by giving back to my

community." "I continue to volunteer as it helps me personally boost my confidence and gives me experience with working with people and helping where I can. It gives me a sense of pride and identity." "The benefits of volunteering help you as an individual and you gain a lot of experience in vast areas, it provides you with a natural sense of accomplishment." As a team we feel ecstatic about being nominated, it's good to see we have been recognised for the hard work we put in for our community and feel this is a great achievement overall

Whitehall Park Supporters Group "there is a real sense of community and friendship in our garden" "The great sense of community, supporting and helping others, being part of a friendly supportive group is very motivating" "I enjoy meeting new people and making new friendships, I find a sense of self-affirmation and positivity within the activities" "I volunteer because it makes a real difference and the group is friendly and inviting" "Volunteering in the community garden and park gives me a feeling of belonging to what has become a family group of really nice helpful people" "There is a huge need out there, you can make a difference, it is great to be part of a group of people, connecting in a meaningful way, getting to know people outside your bubble"



Friends of Sunnyhurst Woods Come together to clean-up the woods this includes litter picking, fixing paths, signs and access points to the wood which helps to improve and maintain the beautiful environment. events put on by the group help bring the community together, but also help to share and showcase the environment. "I got into volunteering when I read an article in the local paper asking for volunteers to maintain Sunnyhurst Wood because funding had been cut. I get great satisfaction from trying to keep the Wood tidy" "People who volunteer are very thin on the ground and we need all the help we can get. Back ache is what I usually get – but I can't let the Wood go to rack and ruin. My motivation is maintaining the beautiful

surroundings" "I enjoy both the practical and administrative side of the volunteering work. " "I continue to volunteer as I feel it is important to give something back to the local community. I like to feel I am making a worthwhile contribution to help preserve the natural woodland, ensuring its continued use for everyone to enjoy. " "The social aspect of volunteering gives you a great opportunity to meet and work with other like- minded people, important for mental health."

Environment Award

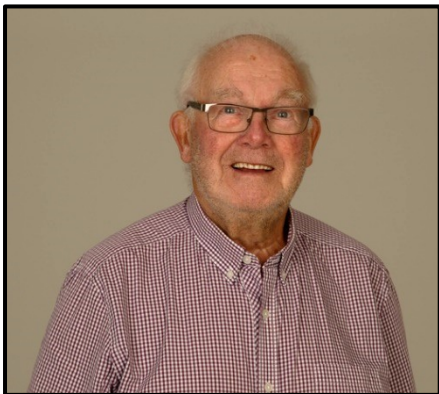
Individual Finalists

Tracey Padia “I started litter picking with my sons in May 2018. After our first outing I created the Facebook group Keep Blackburn Tidy to support litter picking volunteers across the town.

The group has flourished and I now spend a large proportion of my time supporting volunteers in background chats, administrating the group page, working on the weekly bag tally, transforming alleys, sourcing things to upcycle for alleys, running chair painting workshops, creating community edible gardens and some litter picking. I support, nudge, listen, guide, help, give time, empower and motivate people to move beyond talking about what they could do to improve their surroundings, to actually doing it.

I like to see people taking back control, doing things to improve their own lives rather than waiting for someone to come and do it for them.

Creating the Keep Blackburn Tidy group over 3 years ago started a ripple of positivity across the town. Seeing the town transforming and residents uniting to make changes that directly improve their own lives is what motivates me. Kindness and positivity are creating ripples across Blackburn, showing others what we can achieve together.”



Roy Parker I am 83 Yrs. Old I moved into a lovely flat 4 years ago, unfortunately the surrounding area wasn't so nice so I decided to do something about it, I filled 10 sand bags with rubbish and it took me 6 hours, within 2 weeks the rubbish was back, I eventually managed to get on top of it and now collect rubbish every 2 weeks, I have started to go further afield and now clear Bolton Road, including trimming the bushes and grass areas, it looks a lot better. I volunteer because it gets me out and about and it is so rewarding seeing it all tidy after a litter pick, I hope I will be able to continue to carry on but for how long I do

not know”

Peter Grogan “ I started volunteering in Mill Hill 4 years ago just with a carrier bag and my hands, the rubbish wasn't being picked up by the council because of cuts and they couldn't afford to do it, So I decided to do it myself. I then joined Keep Blackburn Tidy and they gave me all the equipment, I clean Mill Hill 7 days a week between 6am and 2:30pm. I love it gives me a sense of pride when its all nice and clean and all the local shop keepers thank me for my efforts. People who are visiting Mill Hill have commented on how they wish I lived near them. I am shocked to be nominated but the award is for the Mill Hill community because without their support, I wouldn't have the motivation to go out everyday”





Care Station NW

“Volunteering is an amazing opportunity for anyone. It helps people prepare for work, upskill and even just to give something back to the community.

Volunteers are truly amazing people who have special hearts. They are the strength of their local communities.

There are so many benefits of volunteering Friendship, workforce support, business support, caring approach, community experiences, non-red tape approach!

This is our second year supporting the awards, we do this to ensure a platform is there for all services to nominate their amazing volunteers. To celebrate the wonderful work, they all do. All winners in our eyes.

Currently I am the owner of 4 local businesses. I left school without qualifications and my first voluntary work was in 1992. To this day I am still thankful for the support and opportunity I was given. This placed me on the right journey and after working 2 years as a volunteer, I was interviewed and got my first paid role. At the time a single parent aged 23. I felt valued and treated fairly as a volunteer. Without my journey and volunteering I would never be where I am today. If I can start as a volunteer and accomplish many things ... I am very sure others can. Flexible approach and hard work and making friends along the way, is a great opportunity”.

Liz Crook – Care Station



“Volunteering is a huge part of John Lewis Partnership’s policy to give back to the community.

It’s a great way to support those in need locally whether it be your time or a donation. Volunteering is the perfect way to share skills that will bring benefit to others.

Volunteers can fill skills gaps where needed, Herbert Parkinson support the Community Volunteer Awards by judging on the panel, attending the event and providing donations, when needed. The John Lewis Partnership has a great scheme to encourage partners (employees) to partake in the Golden Jubilee Trust, which funds a 6-month secondment to spend time



volunteering for a local charity. Our Partners (employees) have always been great at fundraising and we are never short of people wanting to volunteer their time to help others.”

Culture, Leisure & Sporting Life Award Group Finalists



Re:refresh volunteers are extremely passionate about being able to support the wider community. Here is some feedback from some of our volunteers on their journey of volunteering:

"Where to start? ... my whole involvement has been positive and uplifting. I, particularly enjoy the social interaction, which I believe is key, irrespective of the class being undertaken. Ensuring that attendees are welcomed and 'feel comfortable' is essential. I love seeing people progressively engage more with the activities of the sessions and generally gaining confidence. I have also enjoyed learning what is involved in the sessions and what part I will play. I also like the variety." "I enjoy learning new things, meeting people and the new skill set I have gained. I enjoy keeping fit and am very

interested in health and wellbeing having previously worked in the NHS and being keen to maintain and improve my own health and wellbeing as I age."

"I have really enjoyed my volunteer role as it's great for getting out and about, giving something back into the community and meeting new people, the health benefits are great too."

BWD Bowling Partnership coordinates and supports Crown Green Bowling in the Community. This consists of introducing and coaching people in their local bowling clubs, teaching local schoolchildren to bowl, running an annual bowling competition for schools, and our Bowls for Fun initiative using bowling to enhance the quality of life for the elderly and vulnerable people, particularly those with dementia, and the Stroke Association. "Our group really enjoy seeing the smiles on their faces when we go in; it also gives them confidence." "I do it because I enjoy bowling myself, and to see the children outside on the green, learning to bowl, was a joy. Of course, some children enjoy the bowling more than others." "When the children behave and enjoy themselves, the volunteers really enjoy it too." "I do this because bowling brings so much pleasure to me and I want others to experience this pleasure, no matter what age or ability. In summary, these activities which we provided to bring experience and pleasure to others ended up giving the volunteers just as much pleasure as we watched the joy of the participants.



Bwd Carers Walking Group The group offers an opportunity to access walks in a safe environment, the majority of our volunteers are carers themselves. Kevin and Alison organise lovely weekly walks in and around Blackburn. They ensure they keep in regular contact with everyone, encouraging the carers to take time for themselves and making walks interesting. "It's a good way of gaining new skills and meeting new people, it gives you a sense of purpose" "I enjoy meeting different people and having a laugh with them, I love seeing people form connections with each other"

Culture, Leisure & Sporting Life Award

Individual Finalists

Fiona Dunn "I was a dancer for 30 years but I retired from dancing and decided to form my own troupe to prevent youngsters from hanging around the streets. My role is varied, I do organise the whole troupe and parents, the work I put into the troupe is hard but worthwhile. I get great pleasure from the girls getting placed or winning a competition. Some of our dancers are from low income families and the weekend away we attend is often the only chance of a holiday some of them get in a year. I continue to carry on because I simply love what I do.



I feel a sense of achievement when watching the girls dance, I'm so proud of each one of them. I watch these girls go from being shy anxious girls to confident positive young women. Volunteering is the best thing I have done. The sense of feeling fulfilled is amazing. Volunteering is so rewarding knowing you are helping others, I feel so humble at being nominated for this amazing award, for doing what I love to do. I do this because of my love for dancing and the care I hold in my heart for every dancer and their families."

Uzair Patel "I first visited the making rooms soon after it opened, and was amazed to see the potential it had for helping me and others, I mostly volunteer at The Making Rooms, a place where creativity, technology and advanced manufacturing come together in a community facility for everyone. While I have volunteered at The Making Rooms, I have been able to learn many skills thanks to the community and staff there. I've had the privilege of introducing members of the public to the making community and passing on my skills to them. Sometimes people who have a dream or an idea have no way of bringing it to fruition, so through my volunteering I'm able to teach them skills and knowledge to help. I also get to meet new people and learn about new processes and skills so there is always a continuous flow of learning. Volunteering brings great satisfaction when you help others. It's also one of the best ways to learn, as it's a hands-on experience where you can work with likeminded people. You also get plenty of opportunities to help people and gain more experience."



Craig Walsh I first got involved with St Peters FC when I was a small boy playing for the youth teams and progressing onto the senior sides. I started volunteering at the club when I was 7 have been a volunteer for over 40 years

I am secretary of the club but still involved in the day to day running of the club, working on the ground, the bar and the pavilion. I love football but the biggest thing is the people you meet over the years I have made lots of friends. I love being involved not just the football but the everyday work which is involved, there are a number of dedicated volunteers and they are all good friends. The people I am involved with, committee, players, youth teams, spectators everyone who supports the club are my motivation.

The benefits of volunteer I would say to someone is seeing others getting pleasure from what you do. Also the people you meet and the friends you make far outweigh the time you give up. I have never volunteered for gain but it is nice to know what I do is appreciated



"The most precious commodity any of us have is our time and the fact our volunteers give their time for free always inspires me. I think volunteering is a great way for people to invest in themselves. That might be to enrich themselves in terms of experiencing supporting people and the satisfaction that brings, but also to invest in their continued professional development and develop the knowledge, skills and experience required to secure employment.

Often volunteers come with lived experience which can be so powerful for people who use services – this can often give people hope and the confidence to progress and make whatever changes they want to make. It is also an opportunity for people with lived experience to give back and smash any stigma that they and others may face due to their own personal adversity. "

Danielle Hickey – Services Manager – CGL

"We love volunteers at the Carers Service! As a Charity, funding is limited yet the demand for Services is high, we couldn't carry out the different services without volunteers.

Volunteers bring so much with them, a wealth of knowledge, experience, ideas, experience, enthusiasm, commitment, dedication, energy and drive.

When volunteers offer to volunteer they are doing this free of charge, they are giving up their valuable time to support us. Volunteers increase the number of people working with carers, we can do so much more when we have an extra pair of hands.

The Community Volunteer Awards is a fantastic way of recognising the work of volunteers, it acknowledges the roles they have undertaken by celebrating them. The Awards offer the opportunity to get dressed up and feel pampered and looked after.

The Carers Service not only nominates volunteers but it has supported the awards financially, in order to help create an event that says **thank you** to all volunteers"

Sam Morris – CEO BwD Carers



Supporting you so you can help those you care for



"Initially I wasn't a fan of volunteering, as I didn't understand the benefits, I didn't understand why people would want to work for free...

Since gaining more knowledge and volunteering experiences this has totally changed my mindset... I think volunteering is crucial part of personal development and learning and it's a great way to give back to your community whilst learning new skills.

Volunteering brings lots of benefits, for the volunteer, a chance to try something different, meeting new people, building up social networks, learning new skills, healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. Helps improve individual's mental health and increases self-worth.

Voice support the Community Volunteer Awards because by recognising the great work that volunteers do is very important, we support the

community awards by gifting money to help fund the event.

Volunteering for me has changed my life as I would not be where I am without the benefit of volunteering, and gaining the knowledge needed for me to move to different job roles. There is a great sense of pride and personal satisfaction you gain from volunteering. To this day I continue to volunteer for couple of different organisations when I can, and I'll always encourage other to do so." **Beverly Marsden – Vice Chair Voice**



Lindsay Dunn Award

Group Finalists



BwD Carers - Asian Carers Group, Asian Carers was set up to raise awareness and break barriers surrounding Asian carers. We help Asian carers with English, so they can express their needs concerns and we provide information regarding what's available to help locally. We also organise events and outings. Kulsum, Isma, Salma and Saleha run the group. Kulsum works at BwD Carers but also volunteers she mentors the other ladies

Neighbourhood Community Action volunteers are incredibly passionate, committed and warm-hearted people, opening community centres in Blackburn with Darwen every day, for the benefit of local people. The volunteers manage six community hubs and have a powerful impact on people's lives who are living in significantly deprived areas, helping with wide-ranging challenges: social isolation, vulnerability, loneliness, mental health, health, poverty and learning. The volunteers work hard to provide opportunities for people from all walks of lives both as customers of the centres to the volunteers themselves. A number of volunteers have physical, mental and learning difficulties but this is never a barrier, the volunteers rally round to ensure each person is given support to allow them to contribute through utilising their strengths, they focus on the ability and not the disability. "volunteering helps me with my mental health" "I cannot put my feelings into words as to why I get a lot of pleasure out of doing what I do" "Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make new friends" "I love volunteering it's just wonderful"



Shamina Faiz & Sarah Hussain as final year undergraduate Psychology students at Blackburn College, Sarah & Shamina volunteered in the lottery funded Friendship Feast project working with refugee women, delivered by the College. The project took place 1 afternoon per week at ARC in Blackburn, so that women felt safe Sarah and Shamina met with the individual woman leading the cooking session and helped them to create a shopping list for the ingredients to make the group meal. We supported them to shop for the ingredients, asking for products in English. We then took them for a coffee and chat, often giving them a lift home, or helping them to collect children

from school. This supported their social integration. On the day of the Friendship Feasts, Shamina and Sarah met the women early to attend the cooking session, to help wherever needed, and sat to eat and chat with the women, and cleaned up at the end. We swapped regular text messages with the women, improving their social integration and written English.

"I enjoyed all aspects of volunteering on the project, the most fruitful impact was seen in the increased confidence in the women in speaking and writing in English and developing a sense of pride about their country of origin"

"I continue to volunteer as I am passionate about helping people, in doing so, this in itself provides me a sense of a satisfying reward."

Lindsay Dunn Award

Individual Finalists

Aisha Mehboob “I am 27 and was a carer for my mum for a while. The Carers service really helped me and I wanted to give back to the organisation which helped me massively when I didn’t know where else to turn. The satisfaction of helping others motivated me, from a place of experience, I knew how difficult being a carer was and how it affected every aspect of my life. If I could help just one person in my position then it would all be worth it. I found my strength with the support of people around me and wanted to support others in the same way. I would say volunteering is such a positive experience and would recommend everyone to try especially in a cause they feel strongly about. Sometimes you don’t know how one action can truly have an effect on someone’s life.”



Susan Guest “I had struggled with Alcohol dependency, depression and suicide attempts for years, after completing the program at CGL I became a peer mentor and I haven’t looked back since. I love volunteering, I work with clients and do a bit of everything.

I feel I am worthwhile and a valued member of society and the community, I’m grateful I was given a second chance in my life so I can be proud and so can my family. Volunteering is a vocation not a job – go with your heart, every little thing you do for someone can make so much difference to their life “



Scott Anderton “I am a recovering alcoholic, addict and 18 months ago I was homeless living in the Salvation Army, 14 months on I am clean and sober I have received so much help from CGL, Inspire, Thomas, Creative football At Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) I wanted to give something back to thank them for all their help. I volunteered 6 days per week at different places and as a result I have got a job at BRCT, knowing you have helped someone is a wonderful feeling and as a result I now have my dream job working for my boyhood football team which I have supported for 35 years. I volunteer because there were people and services there for me in my darkest time and I want to be there for others, to show them that there is no need to suffer alone and also to show that it is possible to come back from addiction. I feel so proud to be nominated, it was such a nice surprise, I don’t volunteer for anything in return”



“Volunteering brings great value to the community and what volunteers give back is huge, they do so much for people’s well-being, so much noise and air time is focused on the negative in our community and not enough is done to celebrate the positives out there and the volunteers should be recognised.

In the health sector I see the many benefits that volunteers can bring not only to their immediate clients but the wider community, they are there to improve the wellbeing of so many people and I believe it is important to encourage others to participate in volunteering



The reason why the NHS encourages people to volunteers is because it will allow people to recognise the importance that volunteering brings, and all the benefits that volunteers gain but also puts out to the community.

Volunteers play a very critical role especially throughout the lockdown, our community more than ever needed the good will of volunteers to talk to them, to deliver essentials to keep the community going. Volunteers are constantly needed to meet the needs of people and their wellbeing.

The impact volunteers have on the lives of Blackburn with Darwen residents are huge, especially in the health sector.

The NHS are always promoting volunteering and promoting to their staff. a lot of volunteers help with Christmas where there’s usually a shortage of staff”.

“I have got a lot of satisfaction from volunteering and working with over the years, Recognising and celebrating volunteers is very important, it is important to recognise those who have taken their time and put their efforts into the community.” **Roger Parr – Chief Finance Officer ELHT**



Volunteering is an amazing opportunity to contribute for the benefit of others, to learn new skills and make new friends.

There are many opportunities to volunteer with the police and other public sector partners through the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership.

Here at the office of the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner we operate the Independent Custody Visitors scheme - Here people visit the cell complexes across the County and check on the detention conditions of people that have been arrested. It's an important piece of work that allows the public direct access to the police stations and the police and provide scrutiny of their work.

Andy Pratt MBE – Deputy Police Crime Commissioner

Community Involvement Award



Nightsafe “Nightsafe is a local Charity set up in 1990 by a group of local people, with the aim of alleviating the plight of homeless and vulnerably housed young people within the borough of Blackburn with Darwen and surrounding areas. We are very proud of the recognition as the volunteers and Night Safe have been given their time and efforts even through Covid and the challenging times that it brought. demands never reduced but in fact has increased so it is good to get the recognition our volunteers are like our treasures and they are the backbone to the company. The Community Volunteer Event allows us to join up with other organisations and charities, Night Safe is a small charity within the borough it shows that even as a small charity it can achieve very big things, so much hard work really does have good outcomes, and hopefully brings out good news stories along with it, and we cannot thank our volunteers enough.

The Clifton Pub “I have been working at the Clifton Arms for 16 years, so I have been involved with my local community for that long.

While volunteering over the years we have helped with giving out foods as well as fundraising, sponsored walks, getting local people involved and preventing loneliness, raffles, free veg, Community drops, Mental health team, colouring and activities .

The way the world is today , there is always going to be someone worse off than you, more alone than you, struggling more than you and helping those people is very rewarding.

Volunteering is good for the soul, both your own and that of others, Caring and making people feel they are wanted and important – there isn’t anything better.”



Herbert Parkinson Herbert Parkinson is the John Lewis Partnership’s textile manufacturing factory. We have over 250 Partners working here, from General Operatives and Sewing Machinists to IT specialists and maintenance workers.



The Golden Jubilee Trust (GJT) is a volunteering programme set up by the John Lewis Partnership and funds its workers to spend up to six months working for local charities to share their skills and knowledge in providing meaningful help and support to those who need it. In the past, the GJT has funded our Partners to support many local Blackburn and Darwen charitable organisations including Rummage Rescuers, BwD Healthy Living Project and the East Lancs Hospice. Last year, during the Covid pandemic, our Partners made face coverings and NHS gowns and a smaller group spent time at Fare share in Preston to help in the distribution of food parcels. All of the Partners who spent a day at Fare share in Preston commented on how worthwhile their time and effort was to support in the redistribution of surplus food. Volunteering your time to help others in need not only helps them - the feel-good factor has tremendous mental health benefits for yourself. We are thrilled to be nominated for an award. It is always great to receive recognition for going over and above to help others in the local community.

Good Neighbour Award



Brian Tull “is a retired pensioner of 75 years of age, who regularly keeps himself busy running the streets of Darwen to keep fit. When moving onto our new estate, he help set up and organised our neighbourhood watch scheme, organised the estate to come together to hold xmas parties for the young children, improvement and maintenance of the estate. Brian keeps everybody updated with regular emails to notify of any problems that have arisen, he has organised gardening maintenance of the green areas we have. All through lock down he has volunteered to help man the vaccine centres within Darwen and Blackburn 2-3 times a week, for full days. All with a smile on his face and the patience, and kindness needed. Brian has always shown people a welcoming smile, kindness, calming way and helpful where ever possible. Especially when some of the elderly, who I might add are younger than he! Are frightened and scared in these uncertain times. Brian will

always help out wherever and whenever he can. A true hero!” – *Jaqueline Dearn*

Peter Craine “I Worked until covid for 16 years at Bootstrap Enterprises then got made redundant, current health issues resulted in me being advised not to go back into work straight away I currently volunteer and do a number of different things -litter Picking, Grit Squad, Back alley Transformation Squad, Library, Police, Youth Awareness Project, Forestry Warden, Run Leader, bike ride leader, Swim Host, covid marshal, covid community champion, community ambassador, community emergency response volunteer, food waste hero, redistribute surplus food and few other little things as and when they come along .

The best thing is actually seeing over time people’s lives change for the better, as much as it helps others it also helps me as I suffer with mental health and during covid all my assistance was taken away or stopped. All these activities I volunteer at have helped me bridge that gap that was left and once you see the difference you can make that really does motivate you. Don’t hesitate to volunteer you meet some great characters along the way”



Carole Davies “I have been working at the Clifton Arms for 16 years, so I have been involved with my local community for that long. While volunteering over the years I have helped with giving out foods as well as fundraising, sponsored walks, getting local people involved and preventing loneliness, raffles, free veg, Community drops, Mental health team, colouring and activities . I have just wanted to Help everyone the best way I possibly can and “just to make someone’s day better”

Once a month I get involved with the young at heart organisation where this helps “bridge the gap between the young and old” I volunteer because of what I get out of it I just aim to make a person smile. The way the world is today , there is always going to be someone worse off than you, more alone than you, struggling more than you and helping those people is very rewarding. Volunteering is good for the soul, both your own and that of others, Caring and making people feel they are wanted

and important – there isn’t anything better.”

Volunteer of The Year Award

Isma Sajid "I got involved with the Asian cares group through carers first and I have been running the group from the very start. I got involved to help build my confidence and help reduce stigma, discrimination and hate. I have been volunteering with BwD Carers for around 10 years, they are a wonderful organisation and I wanted to give something back, I have been supporting the Asian carers group mostly full time.

I do a number of things, I help with providing information to carers and providing support. I love meeting new people and hearing how they are doing. Finding out how they are coping and how I can help. S

I just love how much you get to know people and what you can learn about them and from them, people are wonderful and many experience problems, I love being there to help people in their time of need. Volunteering is easy you can volunteer in your own time and do something you are passionate about you get such a buzz when you get involved."



Jason Walker "I am in my 28th year of volunteering, I have been volunteering and working in the community since I was a child, after seeing a lack of activities and engagement in the community I decided to take it upon myself and create them.

I suffer from Depression, Anxiety and PTSD and volunteer work and helping others is very much a way of coping. I volunteer for a number of groups and I love all of them equally, I have also volunteered with the Festival of Making and I have completed many athletic feats for Charity such as the 3 peaks, multiple runs as well as cycling. Volunteering is all about being around people and breaking down barriers between people to promote a better community. I really enjoy learning new things and I really do live for my community. It is important that there is a sustainable community and future for my daughter and other children. Volunteering allows you to meet new people, gain new skills, and open many doors. It's all about mutual growth for both you and the people you help. I feel greatly honoured and every one of the volunteers in BwD deserves



recognition for the work they do."

Yaqoob Hussain "In my early days I always felt that because I was in pretty good health I should help other people who needed real help. when I started helping people from all ages it really felt good also I was helping the mankind. Once an amateur boxer when I hung my gloves up I decided to volunteer at local amateur boxing clubs.

Over 18 months ago the Corona virus knocked on every bodies door and it has since destroyed people's lives, my mother died of it, I started volunteering with ROYAL VOLUNTRY SERVICE part of the NHS as a NHS Responder, This has given me pleasure in helping people by doing their shopping for them, picking up their medication and do the Check and Chat making calls to them to have a chat I have enjoyed every minute of my 48 years of volunteering, As I don't look towards any financial rewards it gives me great pleasure in helping others.

The satisfaction of volunteering motivates me as well as seeing other people happy.

I am really feeling over the moon about being nominated because when you get recognised you get that feeling that it was all worth it and it motivates you even more."



Lifetime Achievement



Rita Billington I first got involved with Newrad Fisheries club all those years ago as my husband was on the committee and I offered to help out when the secretary at the time had work commitments. I have been secretary ever since. I was also on the committee of other local community groups involved in various events and projects within our area. I am also secretary for Whitehall Park Supporters group who I have been involved with for the last 6 yrs. As secretary I take care of the paperwork, funding applications, I also help run the tackle and bait shop on site for members and day tickets, which is everything from serving people to cleaning maggots! I am motivated by wanting to do more and to ensure that facilities remain in the area.

I get a great deal of satisfaction from doing the things I do. I would say that volunteering is a great way to make new friends and to put something back into your community. Communities thrive when they come together. I am pleased and surprised to be nominated.

Fiona Dunn "I was a dancer for 30 years but I retired from dancing and decided to form my own troupe to prevent youngsters from hanging around the streets. My role is varied, I do organise the whole troupe and parents, the work I put into the troupe is hard but worthwhile. I get great pleasure from the girls getting placed or winning a competition Some of our dancers are from low income families and the weekend away we attend is often the only chance of a holiday some of them get in a year. I continue to carry on because I simply love what I do.

I feel a sense of achievement when watching the girls dance, im so proud of each one of them. I watch these girls go from being shy anxious girls to confident positive young women. volunteering is the best thing I have done. The sense of feeling fulfilled is amazing. Volunteering is so rewarding knowing you are helping others, I feel so humble at being nominated for this amazing award, for doing what I love to do. I do this because of my love for dancing and the care I hold in my heart for every dancer and their families."



Christine Connell " I have been volunteering for the past 34 years at Ivy Street Community Centre, I was part of the group who got the centre built and I have never looked back. I do a bit of everything paper work, book keeping, banking, fire drills but I also help out with the parties, groups because all of the volunteers all muck in, that's what makes the centre a family

What I love most is meeting people, the wonderful characters but also, it's a privilege to be part of their journey helping them in anyway we can. I love having a natter and when anyone new comes in the centre e make them feel welcome part of the community.

The thing that keeps me motivated as a volunteer is that you can help improve someone's life just by believing in them, helping and supporting them to build their confidence and believe in themselves. Watching people

go from no confidence to finding full time employment is wonderful. I feel honoured that someone has take the time to nominate me

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