

January Newsletter 2025



Message from The CEO, Pat Naylor

I want to start by recognising some vital members of the team - our fabulous Volunteers. The skills they bring to the team are phenomenal, and they are valued beyond imagination.

**Trustees Home-Visitors Retail Ambassadors Fundraisers
Group Volunteers Administration Supporters Social Media Promoters
Little Bundles Volunteers Dad Matters Volunteers Holiday Club Support-
ers**

Wow, what a list – Thank You for Everything you do for local parents and children.

Looking back over 2024 we have seen families being more involved in their children's development, parents feeling less isolated and an improvement in parents' mental health. Parents have helped their children to do better in school, have fewer behavioural problems, have stronger mental health, and helped their children develop emotional balance. Congratulations.

2025 will be my last year with Home-Start as I retire at the end of The year, this brings so many amazing memories as I look back on where we started in 2008, the staff and volunteers who have left us for pastures new, and the families we have supported along the way. There will be some staff changes, but I can absolutely say without any doubt that the service we deliver will continue with the same enthusiasm and professionalism as it has for the last 16 years.

In addition to our main reason for being – our vital family support services, we will be focussing on funding to progress, through fundraising in our shop, bid writing, corporate donations, regular giving, and looking at some 'fun' fundraising activities. If anyone would like to join us in generating the income we need, please do contact us and get involved. I hope you have had a Merry Christmas and happy New Year from the team.

So, that's the year ahead, we are looking forward to working with you.

Volunteer headlines

Over the course of this year we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our 79 volunteers that have supported us with families. In groups, home visiting, little bundles, at our Fundraising shop and at other events.



This Christmas, we welcomed 4 new, lovely volunteers to our team. They have completed the preparation course with flying colours, and are now ready to support families.

Without our volunteers, what we do wouldn't be possible, So thank you for your continued support.

Family Headlines

Over Christmas, we supported hundreds of family's.

Thanks to the generous donations we received, we were able to provide families with Christmas toys, games, books, and more to use over the festive period.

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year

Little bundles



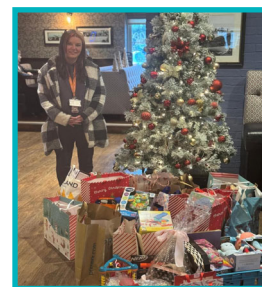
We have recently taken over "Little Bundles" and are committed to supporting families in Blackpool by providing clothing for babies and children up to the age of 5 in times of need. For further information please call 01253 728615



Christmas Headlines

We Would Like to say a massive **Thank You** to these wonderful people/companies for their thoughtful and welcome donations of toys and gifts for local families. This Christmas will bring lots of smiles on Christmas Day because of you.

- Blackpool Sunrise Rotary Club
- Cash For Kids (RFM)
- Alan and the Team at BAE Systems
- North West 64 Branch
- Debbie Holden and Spencer Clark Group
- Zara Harris and The Team at Beaverbrook's
- Gavin, Claudia and Customers at the Waters Edge Pub
- Nina Langley, Staff and Clients at Yourgymfitness
- Lytham St Anne's High School Artemis House
- Julie Webb and The team at Fylde Trade Steering Group
- Don Ashworth and Congregation at St Andrews Church
- Fran Gardner
- Margaret and Paul
- Locals Helping Locals at Christmas at The Sandcastle Waterpark
- Be Inspired and The clients at the Business First Business Centre



Group Christmas Trees



Our Blackpool and Fleetwood group, both entered a Christmas tree competition with other churches in the area. The children, parents and volunteers all took part in helping to create our group trees. Fleetwood group's theme was "Under the Sea" and everyone at group helped to make arts and crafts to put the tree together. Our Blackpool Group's theme was Nature. They used natural products to design the tree and artwork. Thanks to our lovely mum Serena at the group who led the project (with help from the volunteers and children). Blackpool group was placed second in the tree completion.

BT Tower

These Fabulous drawings were made by the children at the Blackpool and Fleetwood Groups. The children made these festive paintings and were chosen to feature on the BT Tower 24 day Advent Calendar. Well done and thank you for your hard work on this project.



Group parties and a visit from Santa

We had four fabulous parties at our groups this year, the children had a wonderful surprise visit from Santa. Santa also went along with our Dad Matters coordinator to the Neonatal Unit.

Take a look at the photos we got!

Blackpool



Weeton



St Anne's



Neonatal unit



Fleetwood



**Thank
You
Santa!**