

Individual Awards

Alex Clyne YMCA Edinburgh

Alex is an inspiring volunteer assistant for the YMCA Women's Group. She is caring, cheerful, very capable, hard working, pleasant and enthusiastic and her enthusiasm motivates the other women to try things they otherwise wouldn't. She has connected with younger more distrustful women, who have readily accepted her help and fed back how much they like having Alex there and how easy it was to be taught by her. She has also connected with the older members too who are impressed by her friendly, helpful, and respectful manner. Alex has increased her volunteering to mentor Young People within the YMCA. She is a real asset.

Allan McNaughton Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust (FCCT)

Allan is a volunteer crew member with FCCT, ensuring that guests have a safe and enjoyable time on boat trips. Allan is a very enthusiastic and dedicated member of our volunteer team who regularly goes above and beyond. He can always be relied upon to ensure a warm welcome and be the friendly face of our organisation to anyone who visits us. Allan has a real passion for the canal and its natural history, regularly sharing this with everyone we welcome on board. Allan's positive 'can do' volunteering has had a massive impact at FCCT and he is an invaluable member of our team.

Allison Aspinall Canine Concern Scotland Trust (Therapet)

Allison, a dedicated volunteer, started by visiting care homes and the Royal Infirmary with her Therapet, Pepper. She expanded their visits to schools, supporting children with reading and social/emotional issues. Allison took on the role of Area Representative, coordinating volunteers and supporting their journey. Despite personal challenges, she remains committed, organized, and supportive. Allison's strategic thinking and positive attitude recruit new volunteers and improve processes. She mentors young handlers, collaborates with other Area Reps, and initiates partnerships with universities. Her resilience, fundraising efforts, and commitment make her an exceptional volunteer.

Alyssa Kuranowicz Vintage Vibes Project, LifeCare (Edinburgh) Ltd

Aly's friendship with Betty has had a profound impact on both their lives. They go out for weekly coffee trips, exploring different places and bringing joy to Betty's isolated world. They also venture on longer adventures, allowing Betty to experience things she hasn't in years. While their friendship is beautiful, it isn't without challenges. Aly supports Betty through her moments of sadness and loneliness, providing empathy and a listening ear. Aly's commitment has boosted Betty's confidence, even leading to an interview with STV. Their bond, despite a significant age gap, has greatly improved Betty's quality of life, making Aly an invaluable volunteer.



Individual Awards

Amelia Blackley Volunteer Edinburgh

Amelia is a remarkable and dedicated volunteer, bringing joy to our office every Tuesday. Her attention to detail and accurate updates of Volunteer Edinburgh opportunities enhance the lives of those seeking to volunteer. In 2022, she generously assisted at the Royal Highland Show and the Unicorn project, showcasing her kindness and giving nature. Amelia's regular attendance ensures everything is in order, supporting our work and maintaining a high-quality service. We greatly value her contributions, as she keeps us on track, helps with calls, and ensures the opportunities we provide are of excellent standard. Amelia is essential to our team's success.

Andrea Keddie Safe Families

As a family friend, Andrea offers 1:1 support to families. She makes the young person feel valued, showing real interest in them personally and putting her own interests aside. She shows great humility and relates well to the young people by giving them space to talk and letting them know she is there. She will gently try to bring up difficult subjects but is perceptive enough to know when a change of subject or activity is needed, remaining trustworthy and respecting the individual. Andrea is incredibly thoughtful and approaches each new connection by really considering the young person's interests.

Barbara Parry Space & Broomhouse Hub

People with dementia love continuity of service which helps them feel secure. Barbara never lets them down by attending every week. The members look forward to her being at the bus to greet them when they arrive. She cares deeply for all the members and gives excellent care, service and attention. If we know of a local resident that needs a little shopping or just a check in, Barbara can always be depended on to offer her help. She is a pillar of the local community and a brilliant volunteer for the Beacon Club.

Cadet Warrant Officer Luke Phillips 1143 Sqn (Portobello)

CWO Luke Phillips has shown immense dedication and perseverance over the past six years, diligently working to achieve his rank despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. He successfully transitioned the squadron to online platforms, ensuring continued engagement with cadets during the pandemic. Additionally, Luke instructs cadets in Drill Leadership and Synthetic Flight Simulator Training twice a week at the squadron.

Caro Kemp Girls Rock School



Individual Awards

Girls Rock School Edinburgh runs free music workshops for all women in a relaxed, informal and supportive learning environment. Caro's passion for this creates an incredible culture of supporting each other whilst playing and learning music, no matter what your ability is. Caro is so inspiring, showing me and everyone who attends the school that women and non-binary people can do anything despite what the music scene might project. I have made friends and a band through GRSE, plus learnt to play the drums and improved my confidence and self-esteem. This is all testament to the GRSE team and their never-ending support and encouragement.

Caroline Anderson Corstorphine Community Centre

Caroline has dedicated 10 years to volunteering at Corstorphine Community Centre, taking on multiple roles with unwavering commitment. She runs the lunch club, providing delicious home-cooked meals and organizing social activities for elderly community members. Additionally, she initiated the Tea Dance, preparing sandwiches and actively engaging in dancing. During the pandemic, Caroline supported the CCC Food Bank, delivering meals and making regular check-in calls. She established the CCC Charity Shop after a devastating fire, raising significant revenue. Caroline's positive, can-do attitude is infectious, encouraging and involving everyone she encounters. She excels at finding creative solutions, motivating others, and highlighting the positives in every situation.

Carrie MacDonald Volunteer Edinburgh

Carrie has been volunteering in the Volunteer Edinburgh office for the last 3 years. During this time she has been utterly dependable. Carrie appears to have an insatiable appetite for shredding and approaches her role with great enthusiasm and dedication, without her we would be unable to move around the basement and she has helped us to keep on top of our GDPR obligations. Carrie has an immensely positive and cheerful approach to her work and she is on great terms with everyone in the office. She is a breath of fresh air and a valuable member of the team.

Chris Doye Humanist Society Scotland

Chris has been the Secretary of the local group for a number of years, taking responsibility for recording and distributing meeting minutes, and helping with the administration and smooth running of the local group. Chris is a reliable and thoughtful member of the team.

Chris Shropshire Volunteer Edinburgh

Chris started volunteering with us with low confidence, but gradually increased their hours and responsibilities, becoming a valued member of our admin team. They



Individual Awards

have also volunteered with other projects and secured paid work. Returning to their passion for graphics, Chris has created stunning visuals for us, promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering. They now offer their graphic design skills to other projects and incorporate it into their current paid work. After 15 years, Chris is a successful graphic artist and has helped us convey volunteers' stories through powerful images, showcasing the life-changing impact of volunteering on health and wellbeing.

Constanza Moreno-Sanchez Vintage Vibes Project, LifeCare (Edinburgh) Ltd

Constanza, a dedicated Vintage Vibes volunteer for almost 5 years, brings love and energy to her 1:1 friendships and Sewing Bee group. She brightened the life of Doreen, a housebound lady with dementia, through tea, scrabble, and companionship. After their match ended, Constanza joined the Sewing Bee, sharing her craft passion and forming strong connections. During the pandemic, she became a lifeline for Robin, providing regular calls and meetups that greatly improved his mental health. Constanza's influence extends beyond volunteering, inspiring friends and colleagues to join and securing support from her employer. Her commitment and generosity make her an exceptional ambassador for Vintage Vibes.

Cookie McAra St Columba's Hospice Care

Cookie McAra, a remarkable volunteer, returned to the St Columba's Hospice Charity Bookshop after a year of cancer treatment. Despite her challenges, Cookie remained dedicated, even volunteering during her chemotherapy. Her appreciation for NHS care led to a published letter in the Scotsman. Cookie's infectious laughter, supportiveness, and customer interactions make her a valued team member. Her warmth, enthusiasm, and inspiring outlook on life inspire others and contribute to the shop's positive atmosphere. The team is thrilled to have Cookie back, grateful for her unwavering dedication.

Craig Gibson Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust (FCCT)

Craig supports the operation of our canal boat the Lochrin Belle by delivering significant volunteering hours as a crew member. Craig is a mature, intelligent and reliable individual who has taken on every opportunity offered to him. He is currently working toward his Maritime and Coastguard Authority Boatmaster Licence which will enable him to become a 'skipper' on the boat. Craig has fully embraced the ethos of FCCT and its aims of facilitating and encouraging the local community to engage with the Union Canal and its surrounding area and his impact has been immense.



Individual Awards

Dave Wylie Volunteer Edinburgh

Dave started with us as a volunteer advisor on our Community Connecting /LOOPS phoneline, researching what was available and checking accuracy of information before passing on the details to the people who had enquired in the most generous and caring of ways. Dave is willing to turn his hand to a wide variety of tasks and has subsequently taken on research projects for us. He is a valuable representative of the team at Volunteer Edinburgh and has been able to help us investigate areas of volunteering that we otherwise would not have the capacity to do so.

David Ivinson Shelter Scotland

David is an incredibly reliable Shelter volunteer since 2019, never missing a day and often staying late to assist. His excellent rapport with customers and contributions to organizing the DVD and vinyl records department have made it a sought-after section, drawing in customers. David's positive mindset and willingness to help in any capacity have proven invaluable. Moreover, his involvement in the book department has resulted in increased sales for Shelter, while his visually appealing displays have enhanced the shop's image, attracting new patrons. David's commitment and dedication make him an outstanding asset to the organization.

David Stanger Space & Broomhouse Hub

David has dedicated over 16 years to volunteering at the Beacon Club, initially twice a week and now once a week due to lockdown. He is a kind, patient, and wonderful volunteer who takes the time to get to know each member individually. David goes above and beyond by purchasing activities, games, books, and puzzles tailored to each member's interests. He willingly takes on any task and is always willing to join trips and outings, even on days he doesn't usually volunteer. David's background as an engineer adds an extra dimension to the club, as he shares his projects and experiences with the members. He consistently gives his all, providing 110% dedication to the service. David is a reliable, unsung hero who radiates cheerfulness and offers assistance wherever needed. The members greatly appreciate his presence and enjoy spending time with him. He humbly and quietly supports everyone, making him an invaluable part of the Beacon Club.

Denise McLelland Corstorphine Community Centre

Denise brings a smile to all who attend her weekly Gentle Exercise sessions and she is extremely passionate about the power of movement and connection in our every day lives. From a wee group get together Denise has grown the group and now has a regular 20 attendees with a growing waiting list. Her commitment to the centre and the health of our users is phenomenal. Denise adapts to anything and every that gets thrown her way. Her positivity is infectious, her energy is admirable and her commitment is outstanding. We don't what we would do without her.



Individual Awards

Eleanor Douglas Lothian Health Services Archive

Eleanor is a dedicated and enthusiastic worker who brings a sunny disposition and genuine care to her role. Her passion and joy in helping others discover our collection items are a delight to witness. Through her work, she reminds us of the transformative power of knowledge and research. Despite limited face-to-face interactions with the public, having Eleanor on our team allows us to experience the fascination and happiness that arises when people seek guidance. She has been a valuable and wonderful addition to our small team.

Elizabeth Barnes Grassmarket Community Project

Elizabeth started volunteering helping support our Tartan Enterprise. However we had to do a reshuffle of our Tartan Enterprise and create a Make & Mend class for our members. Elizabeth jumped at the chance to run this and has created a very successful class for our members every Tuesday. This is also designed to teach members how to repair clothes that would normally be thrown out due to wear and tear and give them a new lease of life. Elizabeth has a fantastic rapport with every member wither they have been coming to class for a while or are just new and would like to give it ago. Elizabeth is very patient and strives support every member to have an enjoyable experience while gaining new skills.

Elizabeth Bryson Grassmarket Community Project

Elizabeth has made a massive impact since starting her volunteering with the Grassmarket Community Project and she supports a wide range of classes and activities with dedication. In my absence, Elizabeth runs the meal service directing up to 10 volunteers every week and giving out specific tasks on the night to ensure a smooth service. Elizabeth also runs our Art class for members and supports our benefits team. Elizabeth is kind, compassionate and very dedicated to helping those less fortunate. Nothing is ever a hassle. She treats everyone with respect and dignity and strives to improve their livelihoods.

Ellen Wilson Community-based ESOL Home Learning

Ellen Wilson has been a volunteer tutor with the Edinburgh College Home Learning scheme for over four years, both as a home tutor and as a classroom volunteer. She is being nominated due to the fantastic commitment, energy, and enthusiasm that she has given to her students and the scheme since joining it. All of her students have shown appreciation for Ellen's friendliness, her flexibility, and her creativity in building useful and engaging lessons. Every week can be different, and Ellen is able to adapt to meet the needs of the learners she works with compassion and humour.



Individual Awards

Emily Gillespie CARDS Rowan Alba Ltd

Emily has been visiting the same client for over two years, through new diagnoses, through relapses, hospitalisations, and sporadic bouts of good news. In the words of the client, "I struck gold being assigned Emily my befriender, she helps me sort through the contents of my brain each week and is a constant in my world where little else is. Her company and support has been incalculable." After starting work for another 3rd sector organisation, Emily realised that there was a lot of potential crossovers of skills. She engineered a meeting from which emerged a partnership to expand training availability and resources along with signposting and shared volunteer resources.

Eric Greenhill Edinburgh Community Food

Eric has been part of Edinburgh Community Food since April 2022 when he came on board to help with the Grow Strong project - getting children involved in growing, cooking and eating tomatoes. However his versatility and willingness to support our charity quickly made him an indispensable volunteer. Eric is always reliable, friendly and popular with the staff and participants alike. He has made our programmes run smoothly, knowing he will be there to lend a hand in anyway possible and engage in conversation with our participants. Eric has been a great advocate for Edinburgh Community Food and the work that we do.

Esther Mathieson B Healthy Together

Esther contributes across the board at B healthy together! Throughout the past few years, Esther has support various projects including those delivered during the Pandemic. She currently supports our Cooking Club, Community Meals and Craft group. Esther brings warmth and good humour to her role and goes above and beyond in her engagement with our service users, other volunteers and staff. Her knowledge of crafts, cooking and indoor plants is matched only by her story-telling ability. Esther has brought her undying kindness and brilliant capacity for connection to her volunteering role. She makes friends wherever she goes and prioritises joy and positive experiences above all else.

Farrah Maryam Goodies Charity

Farrah's unwavering dedication and selflessness have driven her to save waste and support vulnerable individuals in her community. She goes above and beyond, even during holidays like Christmas, to provide for those in need. Her expertise in time management has expanded the charity's volunteer base and created collaborations with other organizations, allowing for greater assistance to those in need. Farrah's innovative thinking and networking skills have paved the way for new opportunities and a collaborative network between organizations.



Individual Awards

Fergus Henderson Pilton Equalities Project

Fergus is a dedicated and reliable driver for our community transport buses, never missing a run. He provides essential support to elderly and vulnerable adults, ensuring their safety and well-being. Fergus's compassion, patience, and first-aid skills make him popular with both staff and clients. He contributes imaginative ideas, such as involving family members as helpers during the pandemic food deliveries. Fergus's technical knowledge aids in bus maintenance, and his referrals of acquaintances as volunteers greatly benefit our organization. We are fortunate to have him as an integral part of our team.

Fiona Watt Girls Rock School

GRSE offers inclusive music workshops to promote women, girls, transwomen, and genderqueer persons in the male-dominated music industry. Caro and Fiona's passion for gender equality has fostered a supportive environment where learners' confidence and skills flourish. GRSE is making a significant impact by balancing the gender representation in bands and empowering individuals to pursue their musical aspirations. The team's unwavering support and encouragement inspire personal growth and foster lasting friendships.

Glenda Watt OBE ACE IT Scotland SCIO

In her impactful six-year tenure as Chairperson of ACE IT Scotland, Glenda Watt OBE successfully guided the charity through a period of uncertainty, leading it towards continued growth and success in promoting digital inclusion for older people in Edinburgh. Glenda's expertise in the care sector and her deep understanding of the needs of older individuals greatly influenced the organization's approach, prioritizing individual needs and breaking down barriers to digital inclusion. She fostered collaborative partnerships with local organizations, effectively pooling resources and expanding the charity's reach. Glenda's compassionate and patient leadership style, particularly during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured that ACE IT Scotland adapted swiftly to provide essential services and support to vulnerable individuals.

Hatty Chick CARDS Rowan Alba Ltd

Since being matched with her client J in November 2022, Hattie has shown remarkable care and dedication. J had experienced extreme isolation during the Covid pandemic, lacking support and medical care. Hattie's regular visits and encouragement helped J regain trust, engage with medical professionals, and attend appointments. They explored outings to the museum and café, boosting J's confidence and improving his overall quality of life. Hattie's commitment and



Individual Awards

compassion made a significant difference in a short period, establishing a strong bond and fostering positive changes for J.

Henry Barlow Friends of Starbank Park

Henry, a dedicated volunteer at Starbank Park, initially joined as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He excels in teamwork, providing guidance to younger volunteers with a positive and helpful attitude. Henry's calm and good-natured character makes him an effective task leader, always punctual and committed. He quietly motivates the team and has recycled compost bins into mulch for flower beds. Henry's consistent presence and cheerful demeanor have made him an invaluable volunteer for over two years.

Hilary Wallace Oxfgangs Care

Hilary is a wonderful Befriender! The role involves being matched with a vulnerable, elderly Service User and visiting them regularly to reduce their isolation and develop a companionship. Hilary is an absolute delight to work with, such a positive and generous individual. She engages in all kinds of conversation with our elderly Service Users in a meaningful way, showing genuine interest and demonstrating exceptional communication skills. Hilary goes over and above her Befriending role and is also willing to help out in our Day Centre during busy periods, taking on all kinds of tasks if it means she's giving back.

Ian Thom Save The Children

Ian Thom is the epitome of a great volunteer. From various roles with Save the Children to leading the Marchmont shop, he displays dedication, enthusiasm, and creativity. Ian's strong leadership, skilled team, and community involvement have resulted in consistent sales and positive feedback. With excellent communication skills and a focus on diversity and inclusion, he raises the organization's profile. Ian's humble nature, support, and tireless efforts make him highly regarded and a source of inspiration for all. He acts with integrity, kindness, and a playful spirit, leaving a lasting impact on those he encounters.

Irene Hope Erskine Edinburgh Home

Irene has been part of the Erskine team for nearly fifteen years. Due to covid we had to suspend the volunteer service but now that Irene has now returned, she has been a breath of fresh air with the support she gives to our Speech and Language assistant, activity assistants and other volunteers. As soon as Irene enters the home she immediately asking what needs to be done whether that can be setting up equipment for one of our groups or seeing to the general needs of the residents. Irene also supports our Local minister with monthly services, where she collects the



Individual Awards

residents to attend and on arrival, she becomes the pianist for our hymn along until the minister arrives.

Irene Robertson Pilton Equalities Project

Irene is an invaluable volunteer at our organization, leading gentle exercise classes in three-day care clubs. Her reliability, warm approach, and adaptability create a positive and uplifting experience for members. Irene also actively participates in community events and brings expertise and enthusiasm to her role. Her classes not only promote physical well-being but also foster a sense of joy and camaraderie among participants. We deeply appreciate Irene's effort and dedication to our clubs.

James Chalmers Humanist Society Scotland

Jim serves as vice convenor of the local group, and helps to chair meetings, run the monthly social evenings in the pub, and is responsible for advertising the events and activities of the local group online. Jim is appreciated for his wise counsel, and his wider understanding of the charity, its aims and values (as he also serves on the national charity's board of directors as a trustee).

Janie Conlon Grassmarket Community Project

Janie runs our Tartan Social Enterprise three days a week on a voluntary basis and still finds time to volunteer in our cafe one day a week! In this role, she has recruited and retained a team of people who have support needs, developed new products and has given us our most successful financial quarter to date. She is teaching vulnerable adults to sew and engaging them in our project, which is improving their wellbeing and mental health and giving them something to look forward to. Janie has taken our tartan enterprise from making run-of-the-mill products, to the most beautiful creative items we have ever seen.

Jill Eccleston Scottish Cycling

Jill, who moved to Edinburgh a couple of years ago, continues her volunteering journey as a Breeze Ride Leader for British Cycling. She reached out before her move to ensure she could keep helping women enjoy cycling. Jill is actively involved in the Scottish Cycling Breeze Program, leading and supporting women-only rides in Edinburgh. Additionally, she contributes to VIE Velo by assisting with tandem bike piloting and training for disabled riders. Jill's dedication extends to Run Bike Fun, where she provides classes, lessons, and coaching to promote confidence, health, and overall well-being.



Individual Awards

Jill Petri Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity

Jill is a dedicated Hub Volunteer, providing warm and welcoming support to children, young people, and families in our drop-in space at the hospital. From serving beverages to engaging in games and crafts, Jill fulfills every task with a friendly smile. Her calm energy creates a comforting environment, and she has a keen sense of when families need space or extra time. Since joining us in 2021, Jill has been reliable and instrumental in the success of our growing and popular hub. She has also become a valuable mentor, training new volunteers and sharing her expertise in books, libraries, and creative activities. Jill is cherished by our team.

Jim Paterson Bethany Christian Trust

Jim has been an integral part of the team for many years. In his role as a Click & Connect volunteer he is responsible for helping those who come through the doors with any difficulties they have on their laptops, helping them with great patience and care. There is rarely something he doesn't know how to do and he is always willing to give things a go or find a way to overcome difficulties. Jim is loving, happy, humble, trustworthy and knowledgeable in his volunteering role and he always does more than is asked of him.

Jo McFarlane Volunteer Edinburgh

Jo is our Volunteer Makar, a poetic force who turns volunteer interviews into inspiring case studies and stories. They have created a captivating play showcasing our Health and Wellbeing Team's work. Jo's magic transforms our work into powerful drama, celebrating significant events and inclusivity through poetry. They work quietly but diligently, always ready to assist in any way we ask. As one of our longest-serving ambassadors, Jo uses poetry and prose to illuminate the successes of volunteering, particularly for those facing challenges. Their creativity reaches people we wouldn't otherwise reach, encouraging new volunteers to consider making a difference.

John Carruthers 1143 Sqn (Portobello)

Flying Officer RAFAC John Carruthers is the Squadron Adjutant and shooting officer, he arranges courses for both staff and runs the Air Rifle Range at the Squadron as well as being the deputy Flying Officer for the South East Scotland Wing. Flying Officer RAFAC John Carruthers has his main roles within the Squadron. John also volunteers regularly to take cadets gliding at Kirknewton and has taken on the new role in the synthetic training of Staff and Cadets so cadets are able to use their own squadron flight simulator which gives them the confidence to go onto fly in either a glider or powered aircraft.



Individual Awards

Jordan Smith CARDS Rowan Alba Ltd

Successfully rematching a volunteer can be a tricky business but Jordan allowed the handover of a very deep and enmeshed relationship to happen without any anxiety or worry to his client. Jordan is reflective, engaged and attended any training sessions that he could to improve his understanding, but never allowed his expanding theoretical knowledge to impede his relationships. It merely assisted the service in being better. As does his selfless mentoring of new, less experienced volunteers. He can communicate the joys and challenges of the role more humanly than any of us ever could. Utilising his experience Jordan has also worked with us to simplify our volunteer literature and make it more accessible and useable within the role.

Kath MacDonald Positive Help

Kath is the very definition of a safe pair of hands, as I know that I can trust her to do anything we ask and it will be done well and with incredible warmth and care. I wish I could clone Kath and have a dozen of her! She reads the situation with each person, knowing when they need some encouragement, practical support or more of a listening ear, and adapts accordingly. Recently Kath has facilitated a new pilot project where we host a group for our service users. Being a small staff team we would not have had the capacity to take this on, but Kath has brought her usual 'can do' attitude to the project.

Kathleen Sharkey Save The Children

Kathleen is a vibrant and charismatic individual who radiates positivity and kindness. Despite overcoming personal challenges, she has become a beloved member of our shop team, as well as a favorite among customers and the retail community. Kathleen's impeccable customer service, combined with her sense of style and humor, has led to successful upselling and satisfied customers. She goes above and beyond to ensure everyone feels welcome and comfortable, fostering loyalty and return visits. Kathleen's extensive knowledge of Edinburgh and her willingness to offer advice to tourists have made her a remarkable ambassador. She is an advocate for mental health, creating a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Kevin Hall Citadel Youth Centre

Kevin is a regular part of the Futureheads Careers Cafe Team and has helped many young school leavers put together their C.V.s or prepare for job interviews. During Covid, Kevin wanted to continue supporting our work at the Citadel and he volunteered every week helping deliver meals to families during lockdown. In 2022 he joined our Board of Trustees. Kevin has brought a very unique set of skills to our organisation. He is extremely patient and has supported lots of young people who



Individual Awards

are very low in self confidence and in some cases where English is not their first language.

Kirsty Dow Vintage Vibes Project, LifeCare (Edinburgh) Ltd

Kirsty volunteers by providing companionship to 'Peter,' who lives with advanced dementia. Despite his communication difficulties, Kirsty organizes weekly walks, both locally and further afield, reminiscent of Peter's love for walking. Accompanied by her son and dog, the visits create heartwarming moments and bring joy to all. Peter's family finds comfort in Kirsty's presence, as she ensures his safety and happiness during their outings. Kirsty's person-centered approach and adaptability cater to Peter's needs, providing him with a relaxed and engaged environment. These life-changing visits have allowed Peter to explore the outdoors and alleviate his isolation. Kirsty treasures their friendship, and their bond is truly special.

Lilian Bayne Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity

Lilian, a dedicated volunteer for ECHC, has been selflessly giving her time for many years, possibly since before 2010. Despite being 80 years old, she continues to contribute in various ways. Lilian has actively raised awareness of SKFF (now ECHC) through community talks, managed collection cans in her local area, and has tirelessly served patients, visitors, and staff at the RHCYP hospital shop. Not only does she generously donate from significant events like her Golden wedding anniversary, but she also utilizes her crafting skills to create and sell Christmas cards, further supporting our cause.

Lilly Hueber St John Scotland

Lilly is a key member of the team responsible for teaching CPR to community groups following the siting of a public access defibrillator by St John Scotland. Even as a new mum if the baby can attend so does Lilly! Lilly's lively vivacious approach to teaching is well received by many members of the public drawing them into taking part in active learning.

Lorna Vickers Space & Broomhouse Hub

Harry Guntley, a member of the Beacon Club, nominated Lorna and Barbara for an award. Despite not having a computer, Harry wanted to acknowledge their excellent care service and support provided to the club's members. Lorna, with her extensive volunteering experience, excels in flower arranging and holds workshops and arts and craft days for the members. She actively participates in big events like tea parties and readily volunteers for outings. During the lockdown, Lorna went the extra mile by arranging taxi pickups, allowing members and their carers to enjoy a much-needed break at the hub.



Individual Awards

Lorraine Mounce Corstorphine Community Centre

Lorraine has been involved with CCC for 6 years, initially joining the lunch club with her mum who sadly passed away. She is the founding volunteer group leader for the babies group and created a popular music and dance session for under 5's. Lorraine expanded the groups to accommodate all children in need, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment. She also volunteers at the charity shop, leads the knitting group, and organizes monthly tea dances. Lorraine goes above and beyond, baking, facilitating, researching, and providing support. She is an invaluable asset to CCC and even fundraises for another charity in her hometown.

Madison Hunter The Ripple Project

Madison has been a dedicated volunteer for 8 months, making a significant impact as a Ripple Buddy. Through engaging play activities, she builds positive relationships with children from P3-P7 with additional support needs. Madison's energy, commitment, and firsthand experience of high school enable her to reassure and support children transitioning to secondary education. Her qualities of patience, creativity, and maturity shine through as she creates a safe and comfortable space for open discussions. Madison's presence has been particularly valuable for P7 students, who benefit from her insights and answers to their questions. Her hard work, reliability, and adaptability make her a valuable asset to our team.

Marimar Chapple Safe Families

Marimar offers 1:1 support to families and she has a passion for helping and encouraging. She is incredibly flexible with support and when she sees a need will help practically and emotionally. She provides wonderful encouragement to mums, enabling them to see how well they are parenting and helping them build in better routines and suggests helpful strategies. Marimar puts in the extra time to do research on the local community to help them find belonging in their local area, reducing their isolation and empowering them to link in with their community.

Martin Pearce Granton Parish Church/Granton Goes Greener

In February 2022, Martin Pearce responded promptly to a request for fundraising help to support Ukrainian refugees and the Ukrainian church. Together with St. Cuthbert's church members, he collected donations and organized an art and craft auction, raising over £5,000. Martin assisted in organizing three additional fundraising events and outings for refugees, while also supporting food banks and charities fighting homelessness and the refugee crisis. Martin's dedication and involvement made a significant impact and received praise from attendees at the recent gala concert, launching Edinburgh's #UkraineForever program.



Individual Awards

Mary McGuire Citadel Youth Centre

Mary is a committed and valued volunteer who has been working with the children in the groups and clubs for nearly 8 years. She is particularly talented at cooking activities and guides the children through recipes as they make different types of food together. Over the years Mary has helped and encouraged children to try new foods and learn cooking skills that they can use at home with their families. Mary encourages children to try new activities, get along well with others in the club and speak about their feelings. She has a friendly and kind approach to volunteering with the children and is an asset to the team.

Maureen Irving Grassmarket Community Project

Since 2015, Maureen has been an exceptional member of our Tartan Enterprise team, crafting beautiful items from our Greyfriars tartan fabric. She understands the importance of maintaining high standards in every piece, as these items generate vital funds for our project, benefiting our 300+ members. Maureen's teaching skills shine as she patiently and respectfully guides new volunteers, creating a welcoming and nurturing environment. Her warm and helpful nature puts new volunteers at ease, fostering a sense of community where everyone can thrive.

Michael Dunlop Friends of Starbank Park

Mike, a dedicated volunteer, joined our Friends Group to connect with the local community and take a break from his busy career. With his compassionate nature and methodical approach, he has become an integral team member, accomplishing various tasks in the park and bringing energy and enthusiasm to our group.

Mike Baillie Edinburgh Headway Group

Mike has been a dedicated and humble member of our volunteering team since 2009, providing unwavering support and dedication. He is a rock to both our members and staff, approaching each day with rolled-up sleeves and a genuine willingness to connect with our members. Mike effortlessly supports multiple individuals, demonstrating great awareness of their needs. If someone appears withdrawn, he engages with them compassionately and brings them into the group setting. His adaptability and understanding of the power of kind conversations make a real difference. Mike's consistent enthusiasm and hard work, coupled with his caring and considerate approach, make him an invaluable member of our team.

Milly Whitehead Big Hearts Community Trust



Individual Awards

Milly initially wanted to be a befriender but found her place as a volunteer at That's Me, a program supporting teenagers and young adults. Through her involvement, she has grown in confidence and become a role model for the kids, impressing both fellow volunteers and her father. Milly's enthusiasm and willingness to be involved in various activities make her a valuable asset to Big Hearts and a beloved companion for the kids in the program.

Mohammed Anwar Volunteer Edinburgh

Mohammed's journey as a volunteer began in 2011 when he moved to Edinburgh. His dedication and eagerness to learn were evident from the start, particularly in improving his IT skills. He excelled in various administrative tasks, including data entry and document scanning. Even during the pandemic, Mohammed stayed connected and eagerly awaited the opportunity to resume volunteering. His humility, attention to detail, and commitment have made him an invaluable part of the team for over a decade. While there may be fewer admin tasks now, Mohammed's presence brightens the office, and we greatly appreciate his ongoing contribution.

Monika Faryna-Lubecka Granton Goes Greener / Granton Parish Church

For over 4 years, Monika has volunteered with the "Granton Goes Greener" project, supporting their swap shop, and serving as an event photographer. Despite personal challenges, she remains positive, caring, and connects with service users and volunteers, offering empathy and understanding. Monika's dedication and support make the project more welcoming and inclusive.

Morag McIntyre Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity

Morag's support has been invaluable in helping to secure funding which allows us to continue to make a difference to those attending the Royal Hospital for Children & Young People. She has been instrumental in securing a six figure gift which has brought to Edinburgh an MRI guided laser which will remove lesions that cause epileptic seizures, the first of its kind available on the NHS in the UK. In 2023 she has been key to ECHC's £500,000 'No Time to Wait' fundraising campaign which will see the creation of a brand new mental health support service for children and young people.

Nathan Wild Community One Stop Shop

Nathan is an exceptional and versatile volunteer whose unwavering commitment and willingness to help make him invaluable to our charity. He seamlessly assists various sections, including the Foodbank, Community Pantry, and store collections. His dedication as a full-time student at Heriot Watt University, attending voluntary



Individual Awards

work during study breaks, reflects his admirable support for the Broomhouse Community. Nathan's enthusiasm is infectious, inspiring fellow volunteers, particularly other students, to contribute during term time. Their collective passion brings fresh ideas and a youthful perspective, transforming our volunteering efforts at the Community One Stop Shop. We are fortunate to have Nathan on our team.

Neil McKinley Queensferry Churches' Care in the Community, QCCC

Volunteering with Queensferry Care for the past 5 years, Neil has shared many of his personal qualities and skills. As a volunteer Befriender Neil has provided friendship and discrete, appropriate support to three older gentlemen, ensuring positive and beneficial relationships developed. His friendship, gardening skills, and resourcefulness have made a significant impact on the lives of those he assists. His friendship, gardening skills, and resourcefulness have made a significant impact on the lives of those he assists.

Niamh Mackie St John Scotland

Niamh is an amazing, reliable volunteer who has grown from teaching small groups to being able to lead a session. She has a natural gift when teaching people that can be hard to engage with and excels when working in schools. During COVID lockdown we were unable to provide CPR teaching so Niamh moved to supporting NHS Lothian blood transfusion service and is now considering nursing as a career. She now balances employed shifts with blood transfusion service with a continuing teaching CPR commitment. Niamh has taught me that there are many ways to teach a skill and different students respond to different styles of instructor.

Nicola spence Muirhouse Millennium Community Centre

As a dedicated and trustworthy befriender, Nicola has been able to help women who are experiencing abuse. She has a lovely manner and can make people feel comfortable and safe. She has dedicated her time to ensuring that anyone who comes into our centre is seen straight away, with a smile, a cuppa and a hug if needed. Nicola will provide an ear until a key worker is free to take over.

Nikki Hancock Volunteer Edinburgh, Firhill Partnership

Nikki is a fantastic baker, and she has used her skills to make homemade sweet treats for the coffee afternoon at St Stephen's Court each week. Everyone appreciates the variety of cakes that Nikki makes, as well as the warmth that she brings to the event and her baking has inspired others to join in. Nikki has lots of personal challenges to overcome, but despite these, has consistently pushed herself, in order to contribute. Her baking has brought a real sense of community to St Stephen's Court!



Individual Awards

Pat Devine ACE IT Scotland

Pat volunteers for multiple projects at ACE IT, including one-to-one sessions, Moose in the Hoose, and Get Smart at Hearts. His commitment to weekly sessions and building a new database has significantly enhanced the organization's operations. Pat excels in adapting his approach to different individuals, whether assisting someone with dementia or resolving technical issues. His knowledge of IT problems is remarkable, but it is his kind personality that truly shines through. Pat's ability to effortlessly transition between projects and thrive in each one is a testament to his adaptability and dedication. ACE IT is grateful for his invaluable contributions and positive impact.

Pat Knox St Columba's Hospice Care

Pat is an outstanding and dedicated volunteer who has been with us since our charity shop opened in 2017. She works two shifts per week, excelling at customer service and contributing great ideas for displays. Pat's commitment, even during the COVID outbreak, and her efforts in raising funds for the hospice through collection tins are commendable. She received a long-term service award in 2021. Pat's positive energy, assistance with shop arrangements, and role in increasing gift aid levels make her a valuable asset and a wonderful ambassador for our cause. She is a kind and supportive presence within our team.

Pawel Paprocki Feniks. Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services Ltd.

Pawel became our Community Ambassador and bravely shared his journey to recovery in our campaign "Shed your armour, show the scars", which encouraged Polish men to seek help when struggling with their mental health. Pawel's lived experience of mental ill-health made a remarkable contribution to the project. Pawel has become an excellent role model for the Polish community in Scotland. He contributed to normalising mental health help-seeking by sharing how he's been overcoming challenges. Moreover, he inspired many Polish men to share their difficulties, successfully promoting the wellbeing of a highly stigmatised group, which faces suicide risk at almost twice the rate of the Scottish population.

Phil Attridge Citadel Youth Centre

Phil began by driving to collect members of our Junior Support Group after they finished school on a Monday. He then became a regular driver for some of our youth groups. His consistent humour and interest in young people was just what was needed. Phil was always a smiling face when the kids got on his bus and for some who had not had a great day, he was an infectious tonic of jokes and laughter. Phil had the ability to cheer everyone up he came into contact with. Staff enjoyed his



Individual Awards

wry sense of humour, and the kids were always keen to tell him their latest news or share their latest toy.

Richard Buffery Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity

Richard has been fundraising for the charity since 2015, undertaking remarkable challenges like a 887-mile walk from Lands End to John O Groats at 73 years old, raising over £12,500. He is a dedicated volunteer, collecting cans and engaging with local businesses and community groups. Richard's commitment extends to micro volunteering, actively supporting the charity on social media and raising awareness in his network. His unwavering support and efforts have made a significant impact for ECHC.

Richard Grant Humanist Society Scotland

Richard edited the local newsletter for a number of years, he organises film nights for members, and helps with the running of Kaffeeklatsch (a monthly coffee morning for members). He also takes responsibility for setting-up and hosting the local group meetings online. Richard is a reliable and committed volunteer, dealing with lots of the often invisible (but necessary!) work behind the scenes which makes the meetings a success.

Richie Morgan Volunteer Edinburgh

Richie, a dedicated volunteer for 14 years, created captivating short films for Volunteer Edinburgh's annual awards ceremony. His professionalism, friendliness, and attention to detail made each recipient's achievements shine. Although Richie will be missed as the resident filmmaker this year, his talent and success in his filmmaking career are celebrated. View his work at <https://www.runaboutfilms.com/>.

Robert Palmer Positive Help

Bob has been a fantastic support to his young befriender. He has developed a brilliant, trusting relationship with the young person he supports and always takes time to plan exciting and interesting outings. Bob is extremely proactive in identifying the needs of the child and it's been lovely to hear from both the child and his parent about how much they value Bob's support, and the progress the child is making because of Bob's dedication and commitment to volunteering. Bob always goes the extra mile to ensure he remains a constant support in this child's life.

Ros Cadoux Positive Help



Individual Awards

Ros has been a volunteer in our Home Support service for the past four years. She builds relationships with those she supports, helping them with tasks in the house that they find difficult to perform themselves. Ros is warm and personable, caring deeply about the two service users she sees regularly. They both speak highly of her and the support she gives them. Ros is flexible in her approach to volunteering with us. As we work with people whose health can fluctuate she is willing to adapt where she can to accommodate them, ensuring they continue to get the service they value.

Ruth Foye Volunteer Edinburgh (Firhill Partnership)

Ruth has shared her talents of cooking to consistently make soup and often some other delights, for her community in Firhill, Supported Accommodation. Thanks to Ruth, we have been able to have a weekly soup group, which is attended and enjoyed by the residents and staff. Ruth has an incredible skill at putting flavours together, never using a recipe. Her warmth and care for others really brings people together and her resilience and determination is constant inspiration to me. I would not be able to run the soup group without her!

Sandra Campbell Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Sandra's extensive consulting background has greatly impacted our retail shop, enhancing customer service and volunteer support. Her professionalism and kindness stand out in our competitive environment. In addition to her shop floor duties, Sandra takes on various responsibilities, including training new volunteers and managing administrative tasks. Her energy, commitment, and reliability have earned the trust of management. Sandra's passion for Gift Aid has significantly increased donor participation, while her flexibility and dedication to training contribute to the team's growth and motivation. We greatly appreciate her commitment and the positive influence she has on fellow volunteers.

Sandra Lawrie Changeworks

Sandra, a champion volunteer for Changeworks, engages with businesses and individuals to promote environmental sustainability. She guides businesses away from single-use plastics, informs people about energy-saving tips, and acts in energy efficiency films. Sandra has a can do attitude and happily puts herself forward in new and unfamiliar situations. She is really friendly and enjoys meeting new people, both within the organisation and members of the public. Her adaptability, friendliness, and reliability make her a valued asset to the organization. Sandra, a Changeworks volunteer, guides businesses in Portobello to reduce single-use plastics. She provides information on energy bill support at flu clinics and acts in energy efficiency films for vulnerable households. Her efforts promote environmental impact reduction and improve quality of life.



Individual Awards

Sheila Main Save The Children

Sheila Main embodies the perfect volunteer with her wit, dedication, and customer service skills. Her warm welcome and vast local knowledge make her a valued member of the team. Sheila's versatility, sparkly presence, and commitment to the cause make her a cherished ambassador for Save the Children. Her infectious energy uplifts the Nicolson Street team and brings joy to the community. Sheila's baking prowess, style, and genuine kindness leave a lasting impact, making her an inspiration to all.

Sheila McKay Edinburgh Headway Group

For 10 years, Sheila has been a dedicated volunteer at Edinburgh Headway Group. Initially as a reflexology therapist, she continued supporting us after retirement. Sheila's dependability and compassion shine through as she provides weekly assistance at our premises and offers befriending services to a member every fortnight. Her adaptability and caring nature make her an invaluable asset, forming special bonds with members and enhancing their social experiences. From conversations to cooking, exercise, and day trips, Sheila's positive outlook and friendly demeanour greatly contribute to our organization's success.

Sue Ferguson Community-based ESOL Home Learning

Sue has been a volunteer with the Edinburgh College ESOL Home Tutor scheme since January 2021, initially supporting one student in her own home. Sue's helpfulness and commitment to this student meant that she was able to join a class last year. Sue also works alongside an ESOL teacher once a week, encouraging and patiently helping students with their literacy skills. Sue is continually upgrading her skills and regularly attends Home Tutor Training events. During Lockdown she was able to continue supporting students online and was in regular contact with her home student during this time to make sure that she was not feeling isolated.

Tilly Bellamy Chest Heart And Stroke Haddington

Tilly joined the team in May 2022, initially shy and lacking confidence. However, her transformation has been remarkable. With her fashion and color expertise, she now works full-time in a nursing home while still dedicating time to volunteering. Tilly's commitment, support, and sense of style have had a significant impact on the shop and its volunteers. She deserves recognition for her hard work and dedication.

Tina Cowlie Bethany Christian Trust

Tina is a dedicated and long-standing volunteer at Bethany Christian Trust, contributing to the retail side of the organization. Her commitment and work ethic



Individual Awards

are exceptional, as she handles various tasks such as sorting, steaming, pricing, stock rotation, and replenishment. Tina's attention to detail and positive attitude have greatly contributed to the outstanding amount of money raised through the sale of items she discovers while sorting. Her extensive experience, reliability, and fashion sense are invaluable to our retail sales. Tina's efficient and accurate work speed sets her apart, making her a true asset to our team.

Vikki Floyd Friends of Starbank Park

Vikki is an indispensable volunteer who never misses a day, acting as the "glue" in our volunteering efforts. She takes care of new volunteers, manages park maintenance and rotas, and ensures smooth coordination among the team. Vikki goes the extra mile by helping elderly volunteers and organizing community events. Recently, she led the renovation of our Bothy, creating a welcoming space. Vikki's efficiency and dedication are remarkable, and she keeps everything organized and tidy. She even personally collects materials for events, such as Festive Wreath Making Workshops. We're grateful to have Vikki as a valued member of our team, making the park shine.

Wilson Masih Bethany Christian Trust

Wilson has been a dedicated volunteer at Bethany's Befriending Service, Passing the Baton, since August 2018. He is reliable, committed, and supports his Befriendees through challenging times. Wilson's excellent communication skills and kindness make him a valued team member and his Befriendees feel comfortable and at ease during their weekly visits. Wilson has been a faithful volunteer with Bethany's Befriending Service, Passing the Baton since August 2018.

Zoe Jarrold Inverleith Hockey Club

Zoe, a dedicated volunteer, has been coaching the under 10s section at Inverleith Hockey Club since September 2020. She stands out for her commitment, reliability, positive attitude, and ability to engage with the young players. Zoe's improvement as a leader has made her popular among the children she assists. She is able to take full responsibility for a small group on her own, directing their hockey activity, encouraging the children and improving the drills and games using her initiative. She started off three years ago as shy and lacking confidence as a leader, but has become one of the most popular assistant coaches with the younger children she helps because of her warm and fun nature.

Zakariya Vansoh NHS Lothian / Saltire / Volunteer Edinburgh

Zak was nominated by NHS staff in recognition of his time spent volunteering on an elderly medicine ward, providing companionship to patients without visitors during



Individual Awards

the pandemic. Alongside providing comfort and support to patients, he also mentors new volunteers and organises refreshments. In addition to time spent on the wards, Zak spends his time doing conservation work in local greenspaces, supporting children with additional support needs and promotes non-violence in school settings.