



**HOME
START**

Royston, Buntingford &
South Cambridgeshire

Registered Charity No. 1105385



**SUPPORTER
NEWSLETTER**

Schools are back and the sun is shining...

Here we are in September already, schools are back and the Home-Start Team are back in the office. We are so happy to be back and are also really pleased to welcome Tracy back from furlough in her new role as Fundraising Events Support Manager.

Now that we are back in the building, we have had to make a few changes in terms of how our supporters access our office. We can no longer receive visitors unless they have made prior arrangements. These changes will help to keep our staff and their families safe, as well as our supporters and volunteers. If you find you need to come and see us in person, please get in touch with the office by telephone (01762 262262) or via email (admin@hsrsc.org.uk), and we will book you in.

So, what's happening in the world of Home-Start?

Welcome to our new volunteers!

In January we started a new Training Course, preparing four new volunteers to be home visiting volunteers. The course was going really well and was due to finish in April but then – lockdown happened!

As events overtook us we were able to move online, and these amazing volunteers came with us on the journey of training in a virtual way. We are so grateful that they stuck with us through such challenging times, and they are now ready to support local families. We are delighted to welcome them to our Home-Start team.

Making a difference for local families

Last year, families told us that after their Home-Start support:

- **93% felt more able to manage their mental health needs**
- **100% felt less isolated**
- **96% felt more able to manage their children's behaviour**

The last 6 months has seen significant changes to the way that we are able to support families. There have been some steep learning curves around online technology and it hasn't been a time without challenge, however, both our one-to-one and group support for families has continued online on a weekly basis.

More recently, we have found ways to meet up face-to-face with families, adhering to safety guidance around Covid. Now, as restrictions are easing and schools have begun to allow pupils back in, we are seeing families facing heightened anxiety and uncertainty about the future. ***"I couldn't be a mother without Home-Start"*** is what one mum told us when we asked her how her Home-Start support had helped. It's those words and others

like it that make us determined to continue to be there for our local families in the best way possible, despite what challenges the next few months has in store!



We need your support now more than ever...

To date, this financial year, we have been really fortunate to receive emergency funding from many sources, helping to ensure that we can continue to support families throughout this tumultuous time.

However, our fundraising target is a whopping **£165,500**. This figure is certain to increase next year and means we must keep on being forward thinking in how we will secure the funds needed to continue supporting local families.

Did you know...?

- It costs us around **£1,369** to provide weekly home visiting to a family for 9 months.
- **£325** to recruit and train a new volunteer so they are able to provide that support.
- **£20** pays for the hire of a hall, where we run our family support groups for 2 hours.
- **£16** pays for a months' worth of zoom licenses, so we can run our virtual Family Support Groups.

Here at Home-Start we pride ourselves on our resourcefulness under pressure and our ability to face every challenge with a smile and a cup of tea. Every year brings new demands and 2020 has certainly kept us on our toes. Our funding streams have taken a **huge** hit this financial year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, particularly our Community and Fundraising Events. The targets for these funding streams constitute 30% of our annual income (that's around £49,000); this year we have secured only 3% of our targets set against our fundraising initiatives directly as a result of the coronavirus crisis.



And that's why **we need your help now**, more than ever before...

- Could you commit to a small, regular monthly donation?
- Is there an individual or group challenge that you've been contemplating that you could turn into a sponsored event – Sober October perhaps?!
- Can you get involved in our online fundraising events and initiatives and share the details with friends and family?

If you would like to find out more about ways you can support Home-Start please [visit our fundraising pages](#) and don't forget to keep checking our website and Facebook page for new events.

The support we have received over the last few months has been humbling, and we want to say a heartfelt **"Thank You"** to everyone who has been involved with our charity. But, we cannot be complacent! With your help, we must focus on securing future funding and finding new ways of working together, to ensure that this fundamental service in our local community carries on for many years to come.

Family Day Out

We would like to say a very big thank you to PICO Technology for their generous donation of £993, awarded to Home-Start in June.

This funding enabled us to provide our supported families with the chance to visit Shepreth Wildlife Park, a day trip that for many families would not have been possible otherwise. Thank you!!



At Home with Home-Start Events

Did you take part in our gin tasting on the 26th June? We partnered up with local company Pinkster Gin to bring you a gin tasting event from the safety and comfort of your home, and everyone who bought tickets had a great time. [A review of the event can be found on our website.](#)

We've also had a beer tasting event with Rocket Ales and the Royston Rotary Club organised a virtual balloon race on our behalf. Don't forget to [check back on the News section of our website](#) to read the review blogs for these events.

And, if that wasn't enough... during September and October we've partnered with world-famous chocolate company, Hotel Chocolat, to bring you exclusive chocolate tasting events. [Sign up for your tasting pack and experience here](#) - but hurry, there aren't many places left!

Don't miss out on the next 'At Home With Home-Start' Virtual Event...

Chocolate Tasting Experience with Hotel Chocolat

Dates available:

- ~~Thurs, 10th September~~ (SOLD OUT)
- ~~Thurs, 17th September~~ (SOLD OUT)
- Tues, 6th October (5 TICKETS REMAINING)



Giving Tuesdays

The Giving Tuesday campaign started back in April as a way to bring our community together: every Tuesday until 1st December we're posting exciting activities, challenges and ideas to inspire you.

Learn a new skill, take part in some nature detection or challenge your friends and family in one of our quizzes. All the activities are free to access from our website, and we'd love you to share them far and wide. [To find out more click here.](#)

What's next...?

We've had a pretty busy summer, one way and another, and the autumn is looking just as packed!

Not only do we have the Hotel Chocolat tasting events, we've got a cocktail evening with Pinkster Gin coming up, a tea tasting event, a coffee tasting event, Creative Conversations with author Sarah Harrison and Jack-the-Ripper expert Neil Bell, and lots more.

To make sure you stay up-to-date with our events, follow us on...



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