

**NEWMAINS COMMUNITY TRUST**

# Annual Report 2023-2024

Newmains Community Trust  
Centre





# A message from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Newmains Community Trust.

Before I say anything else, I wish to say how upset we are by the sudden death of our former Chairperson, Christine McNally, at the beginning of this month. Christine was Chair from 2017 until 2022, and she worked tirelessly to get the NCT Centre into a stable position. She is very sadly missed, and our condolences go towards her family.

Since the Trust is a community organisation, the AGM is important in that it is your opportunity to hear about the achievements of the organisation over the year, and also to formally elect the Board members. We aim to meet the needs of the Community, remembering that NCT is owned by its members and residents of Newmains & District. The Board of Trustees are all volunteers who direct the strategic development and overall management of the Centre, keeping within the limits of Company & Charitable Laws

2024 has been a period of stability and gentle growth for the NCT Centre. The pandemic is now well in the past, along with the emergency measures that were essential as a result.

Along with the two Vice Chairs, John Kelligan & Nancy Summers we have concentrated on achieving financial stability, or at least as close as possible in changing times. Particular thanks go to Nancy for her diligence in this. Board members now consist of the three of us, along with Leanne Pollock from NLC, Willie McCann & Marie Campbell, with Angela Weir as Company Secretary & Board Representatives being Elaine Wilson, Chris Drage, Senga MacFarlane & Stephen Byrne.

The Newmains Community & Conference Centre has weathered the financial crisis and energy prices but has remained active in all the important areas of its remit – providing a meeting place for village activities, providing a social cafe with affordable prices, and a warm place in the winter for those that need it (along with the honesty trolley).

The Cafe has been doing well, due in large part to the skills of Martin, and we will continue to monitor the staffing levels to ensure it is both successful & sustainable. This is an ongoing task.

We will do whatever is necessary to ensure the continued success and viability of the Centre, keeping it as a valuable resource within Newmains. The aim of the NCT when it was created was to improve the Health & Well Being of the people of Newmains, and that is still the aim.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their hard work in getting the Centre to where it is now, and our partners North Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and all the other organisations and grant funders who support the Trust.

I'd also like to thank Willie Hose in particular, who retired as Caretaker after nine years in the Centre. Willie was appointed in 2015 when the Centre opened.

John Harper  
September 2024



# A message from the Operations Manager

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the dedication, hard work, and support each of you has contributed to making this year a remarkable success.

To our incredible staff, your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been the backbone of our achievements. Your professionalism and passion are truly inspiring. To our volunteers, your generosity and willingness to give your time and energy have made a significant impact. Your contributions are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

To our partners, your collaboration and support have been instrumental in our progress. Together, we have achieved great things, and I look forward to continuing our successful partnerships. To our customers, thank you for your trust and loyalty. Your feedback and engagement drive us to continually improve and excel in our services.

This year's accomplishments are a testament to what we can achieve when we work together towards a common goal. I am excited about the future and confident that, with your continued support, we will reach even greater heights.

Thank you once again for your hard work, dedication, and support.

Warm regards,

Jane Wood

## Our Purpose

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We are an Anchor Organisation for our local area of Newmains. With the sole aim of supporting our community to thrive. Our community has several areas of deprivation in the top 5% of Scotland and the people we engage with require support for a variety of issues. We provide signposting, activities, and advice, based in our bustling community hub that is open to anyone aged 0-99+.

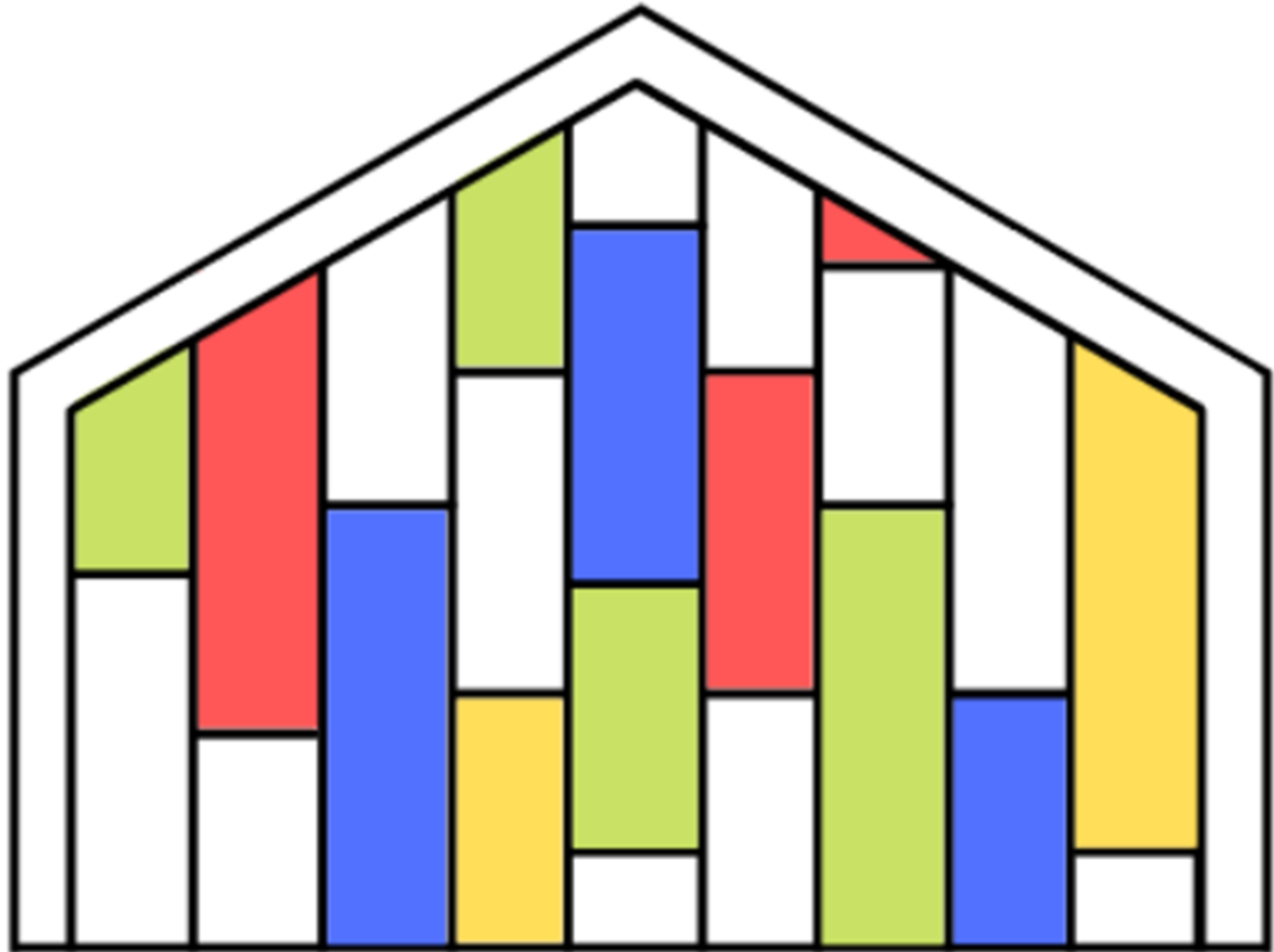


# NEWMAINS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Our Vision

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To establish a vibrant hub where community support, social enterprise, business, and training thrive, fostering cultural activities that inspire residents and enhance health, wellbeing, employment, aspirations, and community cohesion sustainably.



# Highlighted moments...

Throughout the year, we hosted a variety of community events that were each a great success, as captured in the wonderful photos. It was heartwarming to see the community come together, enjoying activities and building connections.

These events provide us with valuable opportunities to engage with the community, listen to their needs, and gain insights into how we can better serve them, and strengthening our bond with the community.

- Bike Swap Shop
- “Oan Yer Bike” event
- Easter fun day and bike event
- Summer Fayre
- Learn how your bike works event

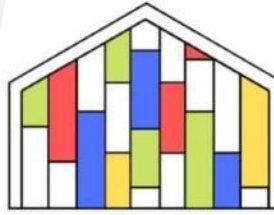


## Highlighted moments...

We offered free mental health training for our community.

As a result of this, our community members were upskilled in having a mental health conversation and how to support others with mental health problems.

NEWMAINS COMMUNITY TRUST



Newmains Community Trust

&

SAMH

present:

**SAMH**  
WORKPLACE

# FREE TRAINING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Tuesday 25th April 10:30am - 12.30pm

## Mental Health: supporting others

Upskill your ability to have a mental health conversation and how to support others with mental health problems.

- ☒ What is stigma and discrimination and how does it affect our mental health?
- ☒ Common mental health problems, more specifically depression and anxiety.
- ☒ Early warning signs and triggers – How we might spot the signs of



## Highlighted moments...

We launched several new services to integrate with and enhance our current offerings.

We were delighted to welcome back the Citizens Advice Bureau to the Centre. They now hold an open outreach service on the third Friday of each month, providing invaluable support to our community.

We have NLC Tackling poverty Team do outreach work each month, they offer opportunities, support, advice and information that will address the main drivers of poverty.

In collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire, we introduced the 'Near Me' service. This initiative facilitates easier access for our community members to attend pre-arranged appointments with their health professionals. Individuals can utilize a laptop and a private space within the Centre for their consultations.

In partnership with Cairney Cycles, we launched 'Newmains on Wheels', our new Cycling Activity Development for the benefit of Newmains community.



**NEWMAINS ON WHEELS**

have a top class fleet of bikes and E-Bikes available to rent on a monthly basis

enter your interest now and a member of our team will get in touch to tell you more!

Click Here to Register!

<https://forms.office.com/e/ExS7QcqH4Y>



**NHS**  
Lanarkshire

**Near Me**



**citizens  
advice  
bureau**

# Highlighted moments...

Our community, led by our Social Group and The Woodland Clean Up Group, played a crucial role in preparing our community garden areas for the spring and summer seasons. Their hard work and dedication have truly paid off, as evidenced by the beautiful gardens showcased in the photos.

The thriving herb and vegetable gardens are a testament to the collective effort and care of our Social Group. These gardens not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of our outdoor spaces but also provide practical benefits. The fresh herbs and vegetables are used in our community café, ensuring that our meals are both delicious and locally sourced. Additionally, these fresh produce items are available for community members to take home, promoting healthy eating and self-sufficiency.



# Highlighted moments...

Our 'Thursday Club' social group enjoyed some wonderful trips out this year, including the Riverside Museum, Kelvingrove and Callander House.

They were often joined by some of our friends from Beechwood Care Home. These outings exemplifies our commitment to fostering strong community partnerships and ensuring that our services and activities are as inclusive as possible.



# Highlighted moments...

Our weekly art class has been thriving this year, thanks to the incredible support of our talented artist, Helen Porter. Helen's expertise and enthusiasm have truly brought our sessions to life, inspiring creativity and joy in all participants.

Each week, we are delighted to welcome our friends from Beachwood Care Home, and we love seeing the unique and beautiful art projects everyone creates.

This initiative exemplifies the power of partnership working and inclusivity. By collaborating with Helen and Beachwood Care Home, we have created a space where everyone feels valued and included, regardless of their background or abilities.



## Highlighted moments...

In response to the ongoing cost of living crisis, we brought back our Cozy Club this year to support those in need of warmth during the winter months. Where we provided hot drinks and snacks, a warm place to sit, and free Wi-Fi.

This initiative offered a safe and welcoming space for individuals to study, relax, or meet friends without the worry of heating costs. By providing these essential services, we aim to alleviate some of the financial pressures faced by many and ensure that everyone has access to a warm and comfortable environment.



# Newmains Cozy Club

COME INTO THE NCT CENTRE,  
GRAB A HOT DRINK OR SNACK,  
STUDY/DO HOMEWORK, USE  
THE WI-FI OR JUST FIND OUT  
WHAT'S ON - ALL FOR FREE!

# Highlighted moments...

This year, we launched the Christmas Wish Tree project with a heartfelt mission to reach all vulnerable members of our community, not just children.

The project was a great success, and we were able to distribute over 50 gifts thanks to the generous donations from our community. These contributions made a significant impact, allowing us to extend our support to those who might otherwise feel forgotten during the festive period.

We are deeply grateful for the support and generosity shown by our community members. The donations helped us ensure that everyone, regardless of age or circumstance, received a little extra cheer at Christmas.

NEWMAINS  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST

CHRISTMAS  
WISH  
APPEAL

This year, we are asking you to help give gifts to those who will struggle this Christmas.

Our Wish Tree contains requests from those who have been nominated by our partner agencies, schools, nurseries and care homes.

Please Take A Tag and fulfill a wish this year to ensure no-one feels alone or goes without. We thank you in advance for your generosity!



## Highlighted moments...

We held our Breakfast with Santa events again this year, this event is always a great success with families having the opportunity to have breakfast with Santa, enjoy a festive story time read by Santa himself, followed by the opportunity for photos to capture the moment. We invited Santa to come along to our soft play sessions and held a weekend event, both of which were a sell out event.

We always look forward to this event particularly.



# Highlighted moments...

We were honored to take part in the annual Remembrance Service at Newmains War Memorial.

The service is a cornerstone of our community's traditions, fostering a sense of unity and shared history.

Following the service, we invited everyone to join us for free refreshments .

Hosting this event each year reinforces our commitment to remembering our past while strengthening the bonds within our community. We look forward to continuing this important tradition each year.





# Highlighted moments...

We organised our annual Easter and Christmas Lunches, bringing together community members for meals prepared and served by our dedicated café staff.

These lunches provide an opportunity for everyone to connect, share stories, and enjoy each other's company, thereby highlighting the strong sense of community within Newmains.

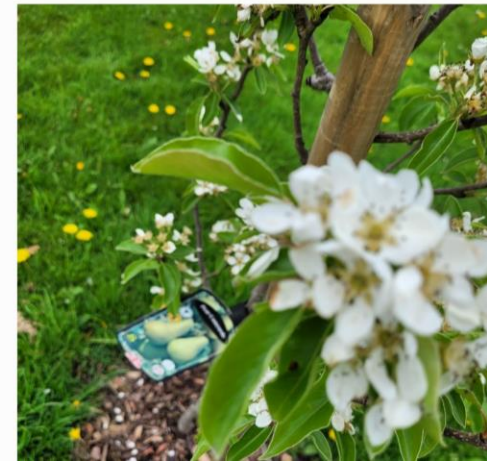
We extend our gratitude to all our staff and volunteers who work diligently at each event to make it memorable for the community.



# Highlighted moments...

In partnership with the Orchard Project and Tracey Stone, we were able to offer comprehensive training courses in Practical Orchards. These courses covered essential skills such as planting, pruning, grafting, natural pest and disease management, and designing a climate-resilient orchard.

Thanks to the Orchard Project, we now have a thriving orchard that serves as a hands-on training tool for the practical aspects of the course. This collaboration has not only enhanced our educational offerings but also contributed significantly to our local environment and habitat. The orchard provides a sustainable green space that supports biodiversity and offers a habitat for various wildlife.



# Highlighted moments...

Some highlights of our Newmains on Wheels project, in partnership with Cairney Cycles.

eBike rental scheme up and running with 13 ebikes in our fleet

Weekly Strathy Park ride have regular attendance and serve as a great exposure for our activities, the toddler trike is very popular. To date, we've help 170+ unique individuals get active in the saddle

We have welcomed two additional colleagues Graham and Ava to support the project. We have completed several Park Tool School education classes.

We will be starting afterschool cycle clubs from October in partnership with the local primary schools.

We have been working with Motherwell FC on their Pedal to the Pitch project.



## Highlighted moments...

We were honored to be the first charity to be awarded in the North Lanarkshire Councils Employer Charter accreditation.

We were awarded Silver in recognition after satisfying three of the four pillars of the Employer Charter:

Fair Pay – all paid members of staff are paid at least the real living wage;

Employ North Lanarkshire – We are in regular contact with the council's Employability Team when they have any recruitment needs, we offer a range of volunteering opportunities to the local community and regularly engage with local schools;

Buy North Lanarkshire – We support other local businesses, where possible.



# Highlighted moments...

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We were thrilled to plant our own living Christmas tree at the front of the building. Unlike cut trees, our living tree will continue to flourish year after year.

The tree's new position will offer the community a safer location to gather during our annual switch-on events, and we look forward to making these occasions memorable for everyone.

We extend thanks to Craigmarnoch Nurseries for planting the tree for us.

The Christmas tree, surrounding Silver Birch trees and raised beds are lovingly looked after by our gardening group.



# Highlighted moments...

We recognised the hard work and commitment of some of our staff and volunteers during the year.

Their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have been the backbone of our successes, and we are grateful for the difference they make to our community.

These are just a snapshot of our current staff and volunteers, we thank them all for making a difference.



# Highlighted moments...

We asked some of our volunteers to create a blog post for our website

**Mary (Admin Volunteer and helps with Period Dignity project)** “For me volunteering means doing something willingly for yourself and others without being forced. Volunteering at NCT has really exposed me to the community in learning new skills and increased my confidence in myself and my career. So, I will say it's a good choice I've made helping the community and also building myself a future.”

**Senga (Volunteer Receptionist/Admin and Board Representative)** “In retirement and after years of at home watching TV, holidays and lunches out, I decided to volunteer at my local community centre for something better. I started volunteering with NCT in 2021 and it's been the best thing I've ever done. At NCT I get to meet lots of people and be involved in as many activities and projects as I like. Or depending on how I'm feeling, I can just chat with lots of nice people...If you have a few hours spare, you should come along and volunteer, you will love it!



# Highlighted moments...

In collaboration with the Newmains Community Council and the North Lanarkshire Council Community Partnership Team, we organised a Community Engagement Event aimed at developing a Community Action Plan for Newmains.

This event provided a platform for residents to voice their ideas, concerns, and aspirations for the future of our community. By fostering open dialogue and active participation, we aim to create a plan that reflects the collective vision and needs of Newmains.





# Highlighted moments...

In partnership with the Smart Play Network (PlayTalkRead), we were thrilled to welcome Benji the Bus on a snowy day to entertain families with children aged 0-4.

The event featured a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, messy play, and a wide selection of books for the children to enjoy.

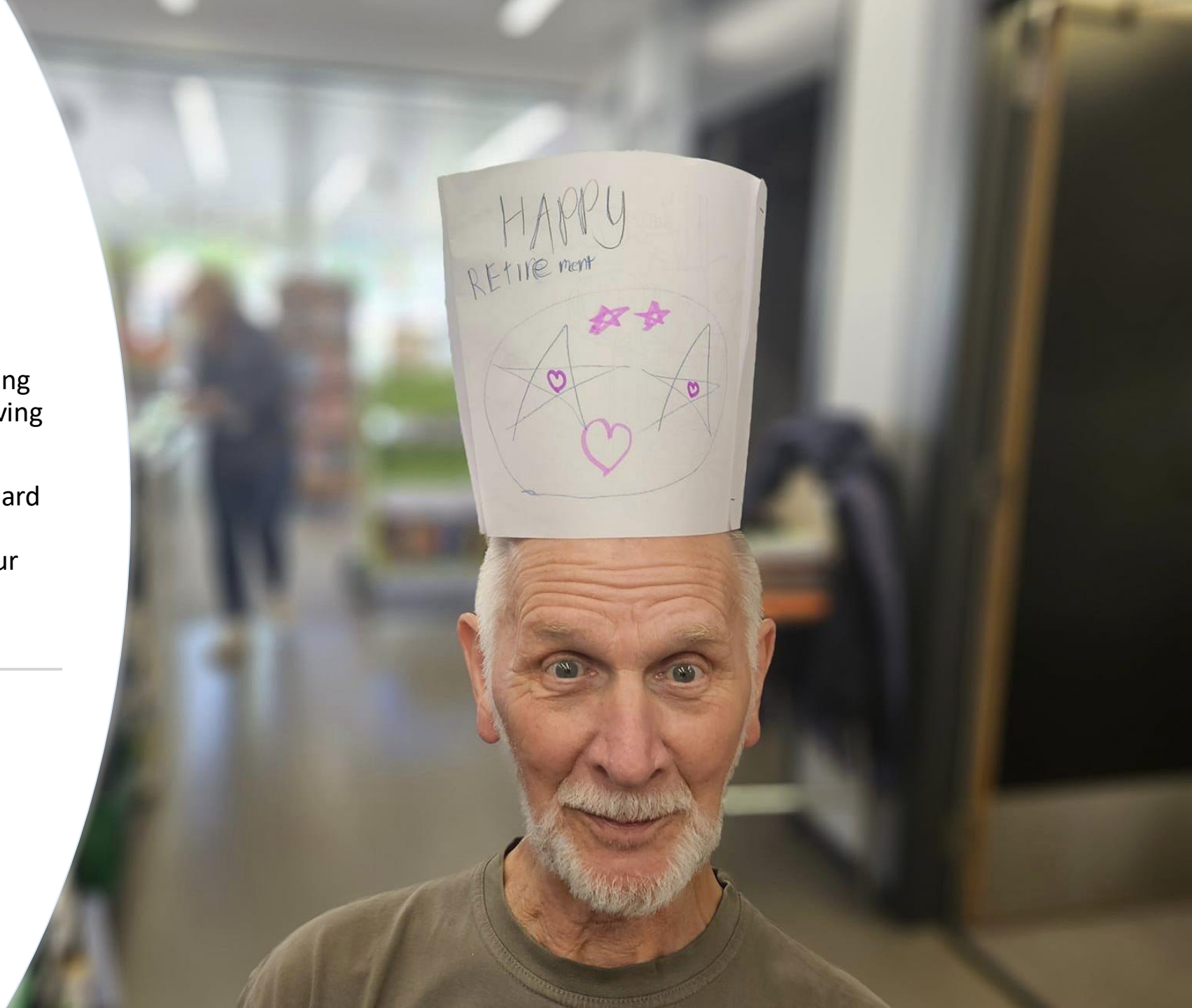
This service allowed parents and caregivers the opportunity to build a supportive network and foster creativity and social interaction, events like these contribute to the overall well-being and growth of our youngest community members.



# Highlighted moments...

Our caretaker, Willie, retired this year. Having started in 2015, Willie was our longest-serving staff member.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for all his hard work and dedication in keeping this place running smoothly and bringing smiles to our faces over the past nine years!



# Highlighted moments...

In partnership with NLC and led by our volunteers, we served as an anchor organization for the Period Dignity project.

This role enables us to discreetly provide products and raise awareness about how and where to access period products/services.

Our goal is to ensure that everyone can access these services with dignity and ease in a friendly, welcoming environment.

To date:

- Individuals have collected 42 orders directly from the centre.
- We made 99 deliveries of both single-use and reusable products to homes in Pather, Greenhead, Coldness, Wishaw South, and Newmains.



## Highlighted moments...

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations of food and money that we receive from our community.

These contributions play a vital role in keeping our donations table well-stocked and ensuring that we can continue to support those in need.

Thank you for helping us make a positive impact!



# Aspirations for future years...



INCREASE OUTREACH  
TO DIVERSE GROUPS



SUSTAINABILITY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
INITIATIVES



MENTAL HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING SUPPORT



COMMUNITY  
LEARNING AND  
EDUCATION  
INITIATIVES



FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
NEW AND EXISTING  
INITIATIVES



COMMUNITY DIGITAL  
SUPPORT INITIATIVES

# Thanks to all our supporters

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Big Lottery Community Fund

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The Robertson Trust

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North Lanarkshire Council

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The Clothworkers Foundation

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North Lanarkshire Community Lottery players

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Turcan Connell

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Paths for All



TURCAN CONNELL

