



# Nine Lives Community Fund

## Annual Impact Report 2022



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## About Forever Manchester

Our job is to fund and support community activity throughout the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. We do this through generous contributions from individuals, families and businesses. People like you.

The impact of this support is real. It is the impact of community activity. It is the impact that ordinary people have when they do extraordinary things together. It's about a hand up, not a hand out, it's about focussing on what's strong, not what's wrong and it's about recognising that there is no us and them...only us.

Community activity is a unique resource, helping to improve mental and physical wellbeing, reducing social isolation, developing confidence to try something new, raising aspirations and employability as well as providing an opportunity to meet and connect with each other.

We live in a 'find it, fund it, fix it' world. A culture dominated by a glass half empty mind-set that assumes we're all too dumb or incapable of sorting things out ourselves and by policies that consign people to being passive recipients of state funded services, creating increased dependency not a culture of independence or empowerment.

We're at a unique point in time. A time when our generation needs to recognise that we need to look after our communities and make sure that they are great places for future generations to live, work and love.

And if this is currently the norm then just think what the immediate future might hold – life expectancy rising faster than imagined, with people expecting to live until they're 90 by the year 2030 and research suggesting that most students will still be paying back loans from their university days in their 40s and 50s and inevitably more austerity measures.

Life is going to look very different if we carry on hurtling forward at this speed without stopping to take stock. We need to start thinking about the future in far longer terms than we currently do, recognise what might lay ahead and understand the implications and start to put the building blocks in place now to ensure that society is in a fit state to look after itself.

So whether you think of your community as where you live, where you work or where you play, let's recognise that we've all got unlimited potential, assets, skills and talents and that if we pool them all together we will become stronger and we will build a movement of people who choose to take action for the common good.



## The Nine Lives Community Fund

Forever Manchester's Nine Lives Community Fund is a partnership between Forever Manchester and the Chambers of Chris Kennedy KC at 9 St. John Street, Manchester.

Nine Lives was launched in February 2008 and is the first set of Chambers in Manchester to create its own charitable fund to support community activity in the North of England. They aim to support two "Themed funds" each year which include.

- Supporting minoritized communities
- Environment
- Older People
- Children, young people and families
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Education, skills and lifelong learning

In addition to the above Chambers actively supports two local Charities



*"We are blessed to have a great relationship with 9 SJS extending five years and we're still in touch with some of the staff who continue to personally support us by running in the 10K every year or donate items to us.*

*9SJS have such compassion for their city and community.*

*Their Nine Lives Community Fund and their commitment to helping charities and communities locally is nothing short of astounding.*

*We are enormously thankful and blessed by their ongoing support."*

**Carol Price**  
**Fundraising Manager**



*“Over the recent years, the team have kindly supported the Wood Street Mission and our work supporting and helping struggling families across Manchester and Salford.*

*We feel very grateful that the team have chosen to collect toys and gifts for our families as part of our Christmas Appeal for several years now, for us to distribute and ensure that local children can have a happy Christmas like every child deserves.*

*Without the support of the local business community, including that of Nine St John Street Chambers, Wood Street Mission would be unable to make a difference to the lives of so many local families caught up in the poverty trap.*

*All involved at Wood Street Mission are thankful to have Chambers team on board championing our cause.*

*We look forward to many more years of working together.”*

**Steph Edgar**  
**Fundraising Lead**

## The Nine Lives Committee



Liz Murray



Richard Price



Vanessa Thomson



Sarah Kilvington



Helen Longworth



Lucky Kaur



Norman Lamb



Tony Morrissey

# Awards Overview for the last twelve months

## **Meet and Eat**

Based in Clifton, Salford, Meet and Eat brings people of all ages people together every Friday and provides them with a free 2 course meal. To help reduce isolation for their older members, they requested funding to enable them to continue the Friday lunchtime meals for those who are struggling with the current situation. They requested funding to make approximately 25 meals a week for 20 weeks.

## **Stockport Samaritans**

Help people at the lowest point of their lives. Callers contact them by phone, email or in person and they provide confidential, non-judgmental emotional support for those who are combating distress and despair as well as suicidal feelings. This local branch requested funding to train 4 new volunteers to help meet demand.

## **Dry Wave**

Based in Manchester uses music and social events to connect, signpost and share stories for young people with drug and alcohol addictions. They requested funding to help to provide an open course for 25 young people ages 18 to 25 who struggle with addiction/low mental health encouraging them to talk and share their experiences and use poetry, music, rap or podcasts to tell their story and gain new skills with outcomes of helping or signposting to other services.

## **Brightmet Community Group**

This group, based in Bolton, was established to tackle poverty in their local community by running a community locker for children's clothes and shoes. They have expanded their support by also provide food parcel and toiletries for families. To help improve their reach and how families access the service, they requested funding for a laptop to update their digital processes and shelving to store items and maintain the space.

## **Little Green Sock Project,**

Based in Urmston, aims to reduce the effects of child poverty in our local area by distributing excellent quality preloved children's clothing to families who are in financial crisis. To continue with their project, they require storage, shelving, clothes rails and other items to keep the clothing safe and clean. A dedicated team of volunteers then sort, clean, iron, package and redistribute the clothing to where the need is the greatest in the local community via referral from health/social and 3rd sector referral partners and, more recently, to refugees arriving from Ukraine. The group received funding for shelving and containers to stock clothing.

### **Salford Heart Care**

Has been in existence for 34 years and exists to aid the health of elderly residents in Salford through peer-to-peer support and wellbeing activities such as yoga, breathing work and holistic therapies. They applied for funding to contribute to the cost of room hire costs for their two groups enabling us to provide activities such as exercise, holistic therapies, and relaxation with our remaining funds. These activities will encourage existing and new members to attend on a regular basis and will help to improve their health and wellbeing whilst reducing social isolation.

### **Lancashire Lions**

Operates across Greater Manchester to provide a range of sporting opportunities for their visually impaired members, as well as lots of social opportunities for members and their families, creating a community of support. Due to their conditions many members feel isolated and can struggle with mental health. Funding was provided to enable the club to offer free transport for 10 weeks allowing members to familiarise themselves with the route so they can then travel by themselves.