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**Arun, Worthing  
& Adur**

Councillor Tony Hunt  
Arundel Town Council  
Maltravers Street  
Arundel BN18 9AP

29 December 2022

Dear Tony

On behalf of everyone at Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur, our thanks to all the Arundel residents for their support for the Reverse Father Christmas.

The number and quality of the donations was simply staggering, and we thank you so much for choosing Home-Start to support. Such donations make a world of difference to our families and their children. In fact, they also give our staff and volunteer team such a boost to see how well considered our work is in the local community.

Please pass on my thanks to Tracy, who was so helpful in organising and transporting the donations too.

One of our supported parents has recently trained as a volunteer and has kindly agreed to share how the support of Arundel residents help families feel included.

We are now supporting families to have a warmer winter; working with them to look at how they use their energy and finances in the best possible way.

My sincere thanks and best wishes for 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget'.

**Bridget Richardson**

Chief Executive Officer



I am a newly qualified Home-Start volunteer and I share my story with you to highlight the difference your support makes.

In 2018 I was physically and mentally falling apart. Laid bare, I believed I was a terrible mum, a shell of a person with no value or place in this world.

I first called Home-Start incredibly distraught after a google search as I wasn't even sure I would make it through the next hour. The pure care, understanding and compassion given from that very first conversation brought me to tears, feeling for the first time in a long time that I mattered.

Charlotte, my Home-Start volunteer, saved my life – all by just being 'present'. I had no support from family whatsoever, but she was there for me and my daughter, Holly and together we changed my family life for the better.

Even at the end of her visits, she never stopped being there for us. Dressed as Christmas Elf, she arrived with gifts and a hamper filled with items that really made our Christmas. The sheer generosity and compassion of this visit at what was such a difficult time of year, reduced me to tears. Holly still plays with the doll given to her on that first special Christmas, when life began to feel 'normal' again.

Four years on, I have just started an MSc in Occupational Therapy and Holly has started school and is kindest and happiest incredible human. I have also come full circle as I am now a Home-Start volunteer. The charity gave me my life back so now I want to give back. I want to be there for people in a way that can only ever bring light to those drowning in the dark or suffering needlessly in silence.

I was given the opportunity to be the best I can be, the best mum I could be for Holly, giving her the best foundation on which to thrive. I now want to give this opportunity to others.

Without supporters like you, Home-Start would not be able to provide this life-changing service. So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much for your compassion and generosity.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 2023!

*Erin and Holly*



P.S. If you would like to keep up to date with events, news, appeals and who your donation supports, do sign up to our newsletter either on our website [www.home-startawa.org.uk](http://www.home-startawa.org.uk) or on the QR code here.