

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMUNITY INSPIRATION AWARDS

POST CEREMONY BROCHURE



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

'changing lives, creating opportunities'





Welcome!

The Community Inspiration Awards is our way of recognising and celebrating the achievement of members of the community, staff from the public sector, businesses, and voluntary organisations who have made extra ordinary contributions to help others and whose efforts have made a positive difference in the community.

We received almost a thousand nominations for people from all section of the community doing some amazing things. We had a difficult task in shortlisting and selecting the finalist for each of the category, as all the nominations that we received deserve to be recognised for their outstanding achievements. However we had to select the best from the best. We shortlisted 6 finalists in each of the 15 award, that's 90 finalists in total. From these, our judges selected the runner up and winner for each award.

The CIA will not have been possible without the support of our award presenters, partner organisations, sponsors, staff and volunteers. So a big thank you to them and also special thanks to all the people who took time out to make the nomination for this year's Community Inspiration Awards. You have put forward many wonderful and inspirational people. All the people nominated are inspirational and it's great to know about the wonderful work everybody is doing.

Nozmul Hussain

Chief Executive | Community Foundation

Host



NOZMUL HUSSAIN

Chief Executive
Community Foundation

Award Presenters



SIMON FOSTER

West Midlands
Police & Crime Commissioner



GLENN HARRIS

Chief Executive
Midland Heart

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MAJOR GENERAL TIM HODGETTS
West Midlands Lieutenancy



RT. REVEREND BISHOP ESTHER PRIOR
Bishop of Aston



KERRIE CARMICHAEL
Leader
Sandwell Met Borough Council



MAJID MAHMOOD
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Birmingham City Council



NICKY BRENNAN
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness,
Birmingham City Council



PAT CARVALHO
Principal and CEO
Birmingham Metropolitan College

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SUPT. KARL THOMAS
West Midland Police



SUZANNE HARTWELL
Deputy Leader
Sandwell City Council



SIOBHAN BLAKE
Chief Crown Prosecutor
The Crown Prosecution Service



MIKE HOPKIN
Principal
South and City College



CLLR OBAIDA AHMED
Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing
and Community
Wolverhampton Council



MARK SMITH
High Sheriff of the West Midlands

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SIMON TUHILL
Chief Fire Officer & Chief
Executive, WM Fire Service



DR. SUZANNE CLEARY
Deputy CEO, Birmingham
Community Health care NHS
Foundation Trust



SALLY BURNS
Director of Public Health
Birmingham City Council



REBECCA TIGUE
Principal
Sixth Form
University College Birmingham

COMMUNITY AWARD CATEGORY



LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALIST



GEOFFREY HOLT
Narthex



**REV. CANON FRANK
LONGBOTTOM**
Birmingham Mind



**MAJOR MUNISH
CHAUHAN**



DAVID ROGERS
Midland Mencap



WENDY BRADE
St Basils



**DR NAZIR AHMED
SHAMEEM**
Halesowen/ Dudley
Yemeni Community
Association

2nd RUNNER UP



Wendy Brade

St Basils

Devoted 45 years to supporting young people and preventing homelessness across the West Midlands

Award Presented by Simon Foster
Police & Crime Commissioner
West Midlands Police

1st RUNNER UP



Rev. Canon Frank Longbottom
Birmingham Mind

For supporting local charities and making meaningful impact

Award Presented by Simon Foster
Police & Crime Commissioner
West Midlands Police

WINNER



David Rogers
Midland Mencap

For supporting housing initiatives since 1988 providing people with the chance to live independently with dignity

Award Presented by Simon Foster
Police & Crime Commissioner
West Midlands Police

DUTY TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD FINALIST



**RUPHSANA NAHAR-
QAYUUM**



**ANURADHA
UPPLAURI**
Bridging Brains



PAMELA COX
New Beginnings



CLLR. LEE MARSHAM



JILLIAN WHITFIELD
St Basils



KATIE MCCORMACK
Free at Last

2nd RUNNER UP



Jillian Whitfield

St Basils

For working with homeless people and helping them understand how to navigate residential living with benefits

Award Presented by
Major General Tim Hodgetts
West Midlands Lieutenancy

1st RUNNER UP



Ruphsana Nayar-Qayuum (Posthumous Award)

Ruphsana worked as a tireless advocate for mental health for ethnic minorities. She used her personal experience as a guide to amplify the voices of minorities and advocate on their behalf

Award Presented by
Major Tim Hodgetts
West Midlands Lieutenancy

WINNER



Pamela Hancox
New Beginnings

Pamela dedicated her time to ensure children received the best start in life, assembling bundles for children with care and love.

Award Presented by
Major Tim Hodgetts
West Midlands Lieutenancy

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER AWARD FINALIST



RASHTA BUTT



**THE KINDNESS
POSTBOX**



**UNDERGROUND
LIGHTS**



ANDREW SMITH

The Feast



AISHA KHAN

Walsall/AINA Hub



RAJESH MEHTA

Telford & Wrekin Interfaith
Council

2nd RUNNER UP



Rajesh Mehta
Telford & Wrekin Interfaith Council

As a result of his leadership the Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council he has brought together over 60 Faith and community groups throughout the Borough

Award Presented by
Rt Revd Esther Prior | Bishop of Aston

1st RUNNER UP



Andrew Smith
The Feast
(award picked up on his behalf)

Andrew has worked tirelessly, since the mid 1990s, to bring people from different faith communities together.

Award Presented by
Rt Revd Esther Prior | Bishop of Aston

WINNER



Rashta Butt

Rashta has worked to build a vibrant and connected community hub that regularly welcomes 7 different ethnicities to participate in their activities, creating a stronger, happier community

Award Presented by
Rt Revd Esther Prior | Bishop of Aston

ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION AWARD FINALIST



ASIA KHATOON
Friends of Sparkbrook



RAVINDER TAGGAR
Go Woman! Alliance



**CHRISTOPHER
MARTIN**



MIKE CAIN
Back the Track



**BIRMINGHAM
MASJID AND
DAWAH CENTRE**



THE WOOD SHACK

2nd RUNNER UP



Birmingham Masjid and Dawah Centre

The volunteers from the centre have continuously served to bring about positive environmental changes to their local area in Lozells. Be it rain or snow, they have diligently been going out with the litter pickers and shovels to remove tons of rubbish discarded on the roads, parks and front drives of elderly people.

Award Presented by
Cllr Majid Mahmood | Cabinet Lead Environment
Birmingham City Council

1st RUNNER UP



Mike Cain
Back the Track

Since 2016, Mike and his team of volunteers have been breathing new life into the disused rail track between Walsall and Lichfield.

Award Presented by
Cllr Majid Mahmood | Cabinet Lead Environment
Birmingham City Council

WINNER



Asia Khatoon
Friends of Sparkbrook

Thanks to her effort, her team regularly work cleaning up Sparkbrook .
Asia has also been instrumental in highlighting issues around nitrous
oxide canisters and the danger they pose to the environment.

Award Presented by
Cllr Majid Mahmood | Cabinet Lead Environment
Birmingham City Council

SPORTS AWARD FINALIST



LUKE LEYLAND



MONIKA MROZ



NORMA HYDE

Special Olympics Sandwell



JAMILA BI

Archery GB



NAVJOT SIDHU



**BRIGHT FUTURE
ASSOCIATION**

2nd RUNNER UP



Monica Mroz

Monika's passion for hiking across the English countryside showcases her resilience, love for nature, and commitment to personal wellbeing—proving that motherhood and adventure can go hand in hand.

Award Presented by Nicky Brennan
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness
Birmingham City Council

1st RUNNER UP



Bright Future Association

BFA has been empowering children and young people through sports, education, and engagement.

Award Presented by Nicky Brennan
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness
Birmingham City Council

WINNER



Jamila Bi
Archery GB

She has delivered programs focused on archery and has created archery opportunities for Deaf and Visually Impaired children to try the sport, and allowed more than 3000 people to try archery.

Award Presented by Nicky Brennan
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness
Birmingham City Council

VOLUNTEER AWARD FINALIST



SAIFF SALIH
Halesowen/ Dudley
Yemeni Community
Association



**BACK AND 4TH
VOLUNTEER
DRIVERS**



EDNA DUNN
Hately Cross Big Local
Partnership



RETINA ROWE



**SYED AL
MUHAMMAD FAISAL
SAMI**



DAWID KOZLOWSKI
Belvedere

2nd RUNNER UP



Back and 4th Drivers

A team of over 20 volunteer drivers working as Back and 4th Community Drivers put in their own time to assist charities, community and voluntary groups in moving around the city.

Award Presented by Suzanne Hartwell
Deputy Leader
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

1st RUNNER UP



Saiff Salih

Halesowen/ Dudley Yemeni Community
Association

Saiff has dedicated more than 17 years of his life to ensure the Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association and Halesowen Cultural Centre become a thriving success to meet the needs of the local population

Award Presented by Suzanne Hartwell
Deputy Leader
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

WINNER



Edna Dunn

Hately Cross Big Local Partnership

For improving green spaces, and petitioning for the re-opening of a community building which now serves residents of her local area.

Award Presented by Suzanne Hartwell
Deputy Leader
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARD FINALIST



ANNE ANDERSON



JAN BARRON

Batchley Support Group



**HIS HONOUR
ANTHONY CLEARY
OBE**



KALEEM HUSSEIN



**HEATHER
MATUOZZO**

Clouds End CIC



ATIA LOKHAT

Zubeda Welcome

2nd RUNNER UP



ATIA LOKHAT

Zubeda Welcome

For providing access to high-quality Islamic education, preserving faith and cultural identity of those who may struggle to retain it in times of great change and stress.

Award Presented by Siobhan Blake
Chief Crown Prosecutor
The Crown Prosecution Service

1st RUNNER UP



Heather Matuozzo
Clouds End CIC

She provides people with the tools to overcome hoarding behaviours with personal advice, support groups, accredited training to professionals, and even support packages to families in the area.

Award Presented by Siobhan Blake
Chief Crown Prosecutor
The Crown Prosecution Service

WINNER



Jan Barron
Batchley Support Group

Jan serves as the treasurer for Batchley Support Group, which provides support with education and employment, mental health difficulties, low price or free food for struggling members of the community, and benefit support.

Award Presented by Siobhan Blake
Chief Crown Prosecutor
The Crown Prosecution Service

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award Presented by:
Mike Hopkin
Principal of South and City College

&

Councillor Obaida Ahmed
Cabinet Member Wolverhampton Council

2nd RUNNER UP



Fizah Tahir

Fizah has shown extraordinary determination and resilience throughout her studies, dedicating herself wholeheartedly to her education. She worked tirelessly all year round, demonstrating an unwavering focus to achieve her goals of securing 10 GCSE at grade 8

1st RUNNER UP



Zuheyb Mohamed Hassan

Despite significant health challenges, including a long-term absence and leg surgery, Zuheyb demonstrated remarkable resilience to secure Two 9s & five 8s for his GCSEs.

WINNER



Jaden Payne

Jaden was diagnosed with an Acquired Brain Injury, in May 2017, aged 14. However he returned to school, and successfully passed all 9 GCSEs and then went to college to get a Level 3 Extended Sports Diploma – passing with Distinctions. In 2024 he achieved a Bachelor of Science in Sport Rehabilitation Honours degree from St Mary's University in London.

PUBLIC SERVICES AWARD CATEGORY



PUBLIC SERVICES AWARD FINALIST



CAROLINE PHANSI



**SOCIAL
PRESCRIBING
DEPARTMENT**



**DR AMANDA
SKEATE & PIE TEAM**



**ENGAGEMENT TEAM
WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY**



**HEALTH
PROTECTION TEAM
COVENTRY**



MEENA BIBI
Saathi House

2nd RUNNER UP



Health Protection Team, Coventry

The Health Protection Team in Coventry provided support to local mosques and other organisations to run health awareness projects

Award Presented by Glenn Harris
Chief Executive
Midland Heart

1st RUNNER UP



West Midlands Combined Authority

The WMCA Engagement Team worked with 16 artists to develop workshops across 26 of the most deprived wards in the West Midlan

Award Presented by Glenn Harris
Chief Executive
Midland Heart

WINNER



Meena Bibi
Saathi House

For setting up a Community Advice Surgery to support those having issues with housing, debt, and access to benefits for local women who do not speak fluent English.

Award Presented by Glenn Harris
Chief Executive
Midland Heart

COMMUNITY REASSURANCE AWARD FINALIST



JACKY MULVEEN
WE:ARE



SAM SHAW
West Midlands Police



NETWORK FOUR



**ROUGH SLEEPERS
OUTREACH TEAM**



PETER MARTIN



CYNTHIA SPENCE
shape

2nd RUNNER UP



Jacky Mulveen

WE:ARE

For saving the lives of many women and children being subjected to domestic abuse, helping them to escape and thrive.

Award Presented by
Mark Smith | High Sheriff of the West Midlands
Supt. Karl Thomas | West Midlands Police

1st RUNNER UP



Cynthia Spence
SHAPE

For providing help to women from all backgrounds who are victims of domestic violence, ensuring everyone who accesses their services receives the best care and support, helping them regain self-confidence, self-belief and self-esteem

Award Presented by
Mark Smith | High Sheriff of the West Midlands
Supt. Karl Thomas | West Midlands Police

WINNER



Networkfour

Trained volunteers provide crisis prevention, real-time safeguarding and first aid, enhancing public safety.

Award Presented by
Mark Smith | High Sheriff of the West Midlands
Supt. Karl Thomas | West Midlands Police

FIREFIGHTER AWARD FINALIST



STEPHEN GRAHAM
West Midlands Fire
Services



**WATCH COMMANDER
CRAIG TIPTON**
West Midland Fire Services



**FIREFIGHTER
HAYLEY WALSH,
FIREFIGHTER
TYRONNE HYLTON
AND WATCH
COMMANDER
MICHAEL JACKSON**

West Midlands Fire Service

2nd RUNNER UP



Watch Commander Craig Tipton **West Midlands Fire Service**

Craig has been recognised for outstanding leadership in tackling anti-social behaviour and knife crime across Staffordshire and the West Midlands.

Award Presented by Simon Tuhill
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive
West Midlands Fire Service

1st RUNNER UP



Stephen Graham
West Midlands Fire Service

Stephen has dedicated 50 years of exceptional service to West Midlands Fire Service and the local community. His lifelong dedication stands as an inspiring example of service and resilience.

Award Presented by Simon Tuhill
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive
West Midlands Fire Service

WINNER



**Firefighter Hayley Walsh, Firefighter
Tyronne Hylton and Watch Commander
Michael Jackson
West Midlands Fire Service**

For remained focused on saving lives. Their actions protected three victims in an extremely volatile and dangerous situation.

Award Presented by Simon Tuhill
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive
West Midlands Fire Service

HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD FINALIST



**MATRON SUZANNE
RIGBY & DR. DAVID
PALMER**



JACKIE PRICE
Cancer Research Hub



TEAM MCCALL



**THE CONNECTED CARE
NETWORK**



SHAMALA ANTONIO
Impact4Life



**KATHLEEN ROCHE-
NAGI**
Approachable Parenting

2nd RUNNER UP



Matron Suzanne Rigby & Dr. David Palmer

For providing health service to vulnerable people in society, assisting with medication, redressing wounds, and more

Award Presented by Dr. Suzanne Cleary
Deputy CEO, Birmingham Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

1st RUNNER UP



The Connected Care Network

For pioneering the model of care that links NHS education, social and voluntary sections.

Award Presented by Dr. Suzanne Cleary
Deputy CEO, Birmingham Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

WINNER



Kathleen Roche-Nagi

Founder of Approachable Parenting, Kathleen delivers inclusive, culturally sensitive courses, empowering ethnic minority and perinatal families, improving access to resources, strengthening family bonds, and enhancing community wellbeing.

Award Presented by Dr. Suzanne Cleary
Deputy CEO, Birmingham Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FINALIST



**DR. SARAH ALLEN &
MRS. NICOLA
HEMMING**



MICHAEL GREEN



**DUDLEY COLLEGE
STUDENTS' UNION**



SHABNUM BI



JAMES BRAGG



YASMIN AKHTAR
Go-Woman! Alliance CIC

2nd RUNNER UP



Michael Green

Michael supports at-risk youth through sports and mentoring, building resilience, re-engaging students with learning, and providing positive role models praised by schools and families.

Award Presented by
Pat Carvalho

Principal and CEO of Birmingham Met College

1st RUNNER UP



Dudley College Students' Union

Student-led union fostering inclusivity, activism, and community outreach, championing issues like homelessness while supporting diverse cultural and faith-based student groups.

Award Presented by
Pat Carvalho

Principal and CEO of Birmingham Met College

WINNER



Yasmin Akhtar
Go-Woman! Alliance CIC

Leads the Reading Ladies program for pre-entry English learners, blending language development, digital literacy, and confidence-building in a supportive, flexible learning environment.

Award Presented by
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO of Birmingham Met College

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE AWARD FINALIST



DARYL CHAMBERS



SHAYLESH PATEL
ASTOP Limited



**CLARE ALLINGTON
DIXON**
Urban Goodies CIC



DBONNIE HARVEY
DClent Connect



JANET DAVIES
Walsall Community
Network



**GODSPROMISE
ADEOSUN**

2nd RUNNER UP



Janet Davies

Walsall Community Network

Leads a consortium of 15 organisations delivering wide-ranging services, continually improving residents' wellbeing across Walsall

Award Presented by
Rebecca Tigue
Sixth Form Principal
University College Birmingham

1st RUNNER UP



Bonnie Harvey
Clent Connect

Founded during COVID-19 to tackle isolation, now a volunteer network of 80+, creating a supportive community hub for vulnerable residents.

Award Presented by
Rebecca Tighe
Sixth Form Principal
University College Birmingham

WINNER



Shaylesh Patel
ASTOP Limited

Provides free rent and rates to 20+ charities, enabling vital projects to grow and thrive with strong landlord and community support.

Award Presented by
Rebecca Tighe
Sixth Form Principal
University College Birmingham

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AWARD FINALIST



**ST ALBANS
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**



**NORTHFIELD
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP**



**THE HATELEY
CROSS BIG LOCAL
PARTNERSHIP**



**BIRMINGHAM OPEN
SPACES FORUM**



**COMMUNITY ENGAGE
FOUNDATION**



**PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE
CIC**

2nd RUNNER UP



The Hateley Cross Big Local Partnership

Since 2014, HCBL has invested £1m in community-led projects, building centres, empowering youth, connecting residents with services, and transforming green spaces in Hateley Heath and Stone Cross.

Award Presented by
Kerrie Carmichael
Leader, Sandwell Met Borough Council

1st RUNNER UP



Northfield Community Partnership

For 17 years, Northfield Community Partnership has supported over 10,000 people yearly with food banks, wellbeing programmes, and recreational activities for vulnerable families and older residents.

Award Presented by
Kerrie Carmichael
Leader, Sandwell Met Borough Council

WINNER



St Albans Community Association

SACA has supported Smethwick for 40+ years, tackling inequality through partnerships with authorities, schools, charities, and grassroots groups, helping thousands annually in one of the UK's most deprived areas.

Award Presented by
Kerrie Carmichael
Leader, Sandwell Met Borough Council

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS





Thank You

It was great to see so many people at the 13th Community Inspiration Awards ceremony and to be in the presence of wonderful people who have done truly amazing things.

We look forward to hosting next year's Community Inspiration Awards!