VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION AWARDS 2024 – NOMINATIONS

**HOPE AWARD**

**Ian –** Southport Foodbank **(Winner)**

Ian has a real empathy for those coming through the door at Southport Foodbank and goes out of his way to ensure that they always feel comfortable and welcomed. He has also stepped up to regularly help out at supermarket collections and has been a great Easter Bunny and Santa at events. Ian is an ambassador for Compassion Acts in the community, at the Job Centre, and beyond, providing hope to those in need.

**Maria –** Lakeside Foodbank (Runner Up)

Maria always has a smile and a warm welcome for the patrons who attend Lakeside Foodbank. Whether they are regular attendees, or those accessing our services for the first time who are feeling upset and ashamed, Maria treats everyone who attends with the greatest of respect and provides hope and encouragement to all. Maria is an immensely skilful organiser who leads her team with a mixture of good humour, industry, and attention to detail.

**David –** Foodbank (Runner Up)

David has never missed a foodbank session. He is always cheerful and never complains, no matter how many bags he has to transfer! He always makes sure the heating is on and that tea and biscuits are available for our clients, often coming in early and stopping late to lock up after a session. We could not function without people like David.

**Jenny –** High Park Pantry (Runner Up)

Jenny was one of the first to get involved at High Park Food Pantry over 5 years ago, initially leading a small team which has continued to grow. She has always shown dedication, patience, and the ability to put clients at ease. Jenny has attended many training courses, expanding her skills and enabling her to better serve the community. She has often gone the extra mile, collecting food herself from the Compassion Acts centre when needed and contacting clients who may temporarily be struggling to attend. She is always efficient, reliable, and encouraging in a consistent and friendly manner.

**June –** Canning Road Foodbank

June is a caring person who is always ready to talk to and engage with foodbank clients. She helps with the preparation and distribution of food parcels and always goes the extra mile to provide clients with a positive experience.

**ACTION AWARD**

**Peter & Janet –** Allotment **(Winner)**

Work at the allotment is both physically demanding and time consuming, with Peter and Janet tending to the land and growing fresh, healthy produce for the community whatever the weather. Whilst much of this takes place behind the scenes and away from our other projects, neither Peter nor Janet seek recognition for their work. Instead, their hard work and commitment is driven solely by a genuine desire to make a positive contribution to the community. They put their beliefs into practice every day and make a genuine difference to other people’s lives.

**John –** Uniform Hub (Runner Up)

John has consistently shown great enthusiasm and attention to detail at the Uniform Hub, whilst demonstrating a proactive approach which is an inspiration to others. Without his input, the Uniform Hub would not be in the shape that it is today. John has been an incredible asset to the charity, and has transformed the Uniform Hub with his passion, dedication, and organisational skills. His methodical approach and attention to detail has ensured the smooth running of the Uniform Hub for all the team.

**John –** Logistics Driver (Runner Up)

John’s commitment to the charity and its values continued even after he retired as a member of staff, when he stepped in at very short notice to become a volunteer driver. John also frequently puts himself forward to disassemble, transport, rebuild, and arrange shelving or other furniture at various locations and much more. Always happy to jump into action and get stuck in, John truly encapsulates our shared values.

**Andrea –** Victoria Centre (Runner Up)

Andrea is a first-class negotiator and influencer who is able to listen to people in an attentive and caring manner as part of the reception team. Andrea engages with others with an attention to detail and a concern for their welfare, even if only making them a cup of tea. She has also recently taken on the role of fundraiser, getting stuck into organising the Comedy Bingo Night in 2023 and is currently organising an innovative Rodeo Ramble event for 2024.

**Paul –** Logistics Driver

Paul has helped many of the new drivers to learn and adjust to their role, often going above and beyond to get things done. He puts his positive beliefs into action everyday and strives to inspire others to do the same.

**Roger –** Logistics Driver

Roger demonstrates great commitment, consistency, and reliability in his role as logistics driver, particularly on the fortnightly ‘Fareshare run’ to Speke in Liverpool. He is always willing to jump in and help less experienced volunteers to learn the ropes and assist them in any way he can.

**Unity Award**

**Formby Pantry Team (Winner)**

It is clear that all volunteers at Formby Pantry and the work they continue to do encapsulates our core value of ‘unity’. They have pulled together, utilising the various skills amongst the team, to run a successful Warm Space alongside their well organised pantry sessions. It is felt that the strength of collaboration and unity within the team means that their collective efforts should be recognised as a group; from the chefs, bakers, and tea makers to the greeters, chatters, shoppers, and stock fillers, the Formby Pantry team should be celebrated and thanked for their hard work and their positive contribution to both the charity and the wider community.

**Zia** (Runner Up)

Zia is a hands-on, practical person who has assisted the charity in many different ways over a number of years. She has recently undertaken the important, but painstaking task, of completing risk assessments at all of our projects to assist the management team with the Health & Safety action plan. Zia brings a large amount of knowledge and experience from her professional career, whilst also remaining down-to-earth, enjoying a good relationship with each member of the team.

**The Lakeside Foodbank Team** (Runner Up)

This inspiring group of volunteers are the embodiment of ‘unity of purpose’. The Lakeside Foodbank team have successfully worked together over many years to ensure clients’ needs are properly met – ensuring there is always adequate provision of services, listening and responding to clients with empathy and friendship, and working together to ensure the best decisions are made. Each of the volunteers brings their own experience and unique skills to the role, strengthening the team and ensuring that each client always receives a positive, meaningful experience when attending Lakeside Foodbank – this team is unity at its best.

**Morag –** Southport Pantry (Runner Up)

Morag cares deeply about all the volunteers and clients at Southport Pantry. She always asks how everyone is and makes sure they have a hot drink before we start. When talking to her about these awards, her response was ‘I think we should nominate our whole team to win the award’; she is very a team builder.

**Ann – Birkdale Pantry**

Ann is such a positive and helpful person who has taken on the responsibility of the storeroom at Birkdale Pantry. Ann’s willingness to go the extra mile is exemplary.

**Lilian** – Southport Pantry

Lillian is always positive. She is a great communicator who is always aware and considerate of the needs of both clients and other members of the team. You can’t ask for more, she is outstanding and inspirational – when others give up, Lillian presses on. Well done, Lillian!

**RESPECT AWARD**

**Gerard** ­– Welfare Team **(Winner)**

For his unwavering patience and understanding with our more complex and challenging welfare advice clients. Gerard has championed some of our most difficult cases and advocated on their behalf, even when other members of the team have lost hope. Through his determination Gerard has turned expectations around and received successful outcomes for his clients.

**Pauline ­–** Salvation Army Foodbank (Runner Up)

Pauline’s gentle manner puts people at ease right away. She seeks to sympathise and understand every person she engages with, managing to lift the spirits of even the most downhearted of people who walk through the door. Pauline epitomises compassion.

**Shelagh –** Birkdale Food Pantry (Runner Up)

Shelagh inspires the team and Birkdale Food Pantry with kindness and efficiency. Our clients are central to all that she does and are treated with the utmost compassion. This is particularly true of Shelagh’s approach to new pantry members who may be nervous about coming to pantry for the first time. It is through her efficiency, humour, and care that all volunteers who work with Shelagh feel valued.

**Kathryn –** Tarleton Pantry

Kathryn is extremely helpful and is always willing to go the extra mile, especially in the opening our new pantry in Tarleton. She has been willing to try new roles and expand her knowledge in order to help the wider team. Without the flexibility and commitment of people like Kathryn, and her good humoured approach, Compassion Acts would not be able to achieve what it does.

**SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Rosie –** Southport Pantry

Rosie has been a key member of the volunteer team since the early beginnings of our first food pantry at Grace Baptist Church.

Rosie is compassionate, generous, and supportive with everyone she has contact with at Southport pantry and in the wider community. She is a highly valued volunteer who serves those in need with respect, dignity, and great care. There to listen no matter how busy, Rosie will easily forge positive relationships with clients and members of the team.

Rosie goes way beyond her role as a volunteer, encapsulating all our shared values, and is an ever-present force for good within the charity.