

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

# COMMUNITY INSPIRATION AWARDS

## POST CEREMONY BROCHURE



'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

# A W A R D P R E S E N T E R S



**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

# A W A R D P R E S E N T E R S



**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 TIGHE**

Principal  
Sixth Form  
University College Birmingham

# COMMUNITY AWARD CATEGORY





# LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALIST



**GEOFFREY HOLT**

Narhex



**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 Nayyar-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 4<sup>TH</sup>  
VOLUNTEER  
DRIVERS**



**EDNA DUNN**

Hately Cross Big Local  
Partnership



**RETINA ROWE**



**SYED AL  
MUHAMMAD FAISAL  
SAMI**



**DAWID KOZLOWSKI**

Belvedere



# 2nd RUNNER UP



## Back and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Midland

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!