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Issue #20



Welcome!

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- Learn about our 2023 Christmas Appeal
- Read a joint letter to the First Minister from CCPS
- Buy your Christmas shopping with Sense Scotland
- Join our upcoming events

Christmas Appeal

Our 2023 Christmas Appeal has now landed, and focuses on Theo, a two-year-old boy with brain damage and cerebral visual impairment, and who is supported by our Early Years team. Since being born in April 2021, Theo has never been home, but since being supported by us, he has shown how amazing and determined he is in the face of all odds. You can read a snippet of the Christmas Appeal, from the perspective of Theo's parents, below:

"This is Theo – our determined, opinionated, cheeky, happy wee boy. He was born on the 1st of April 2021 but has never been home. It's no joke.

Theo has been in hospital his whole life – but we're hoping that will change soon and we can get him home for Christmas and be a proper family. Sleeping in his own room, in his own bed, surrounded by family and friends, not doctors and nurses. We'll be sure to let Santa know he's got a new address.

You can read Theo's story now at sensescotland.org.uk/donate-now. You can also watch our first-ever TV advert, featuring Theo, at bit.ly/christmas-appeal-advert.

Letter to the First Minister

We have joined over 100 organisations in signing a joint letter to the First Minister, calling on him to increase pay for social care staff. The letter, led by the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS), urges the Scottish Government to value social care staff in the 2024-25 Budget, after it was announced that the new base rate of pay for social care staff - £12 per hour – would match the updated Real Living Wage, sending a clear message to social care staff that they are only worth the bare minimum.

We encourage you to read the letter at bit.ly/ccps-letter and to continue to show the Scottish Government that social care staff like those at Sense Scotland deserve a fair wage which reflects their duties and responsibilities.

Christmas Shopping

Have you got your Christmas shopping yet? We're delighted to be able to offer a number of unique and heartfelt items through our 2023 Christmas Catalogue which could make the perfect gift for someone you love. Whether you want to purchase cards designed by Sandy, a person we support, or a selection of tealights personalised by Helen and Nicole at TouchBase Lanarkshire, our catalogue has items suitable to anyone in your life. Just make sure you get your orders in by Friday, 15 December to ensure delivery in time for Christmas. Browse now at bit.ly/sensechristmas.

Speaking of tealights, you can also purchase a number of festive fragrance items from Mecoco, a social enterprise in North Ayrshire which is part of the Sense Scotland family. Check out Mecoco's Christmas candles, wax melts, and wax shards at mecoco.org/collections/christmas.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots - TouchBase Glasgow - Every Tuesday

Our weekly toddler group continues on Tuesdays between 10:30am - 12pm. The group is suitable for children aged 0-5, and includes nursery rhymes, storytelling and sensory play. The final session of the year will be a Christmas Party on Tuesday, 12 December. Book your slot at bit.ly/twinkletots.

Christmas Fayre – TouchBase Dunbartonshire – Saturday, 2 December

TouchBase Dunbartonshire would like to invite you all to their Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 2 December between 1pm and 3pm. Come along for jewellery, textiles, artwork, home baking, a raffle, and Christmas decorations, with all proceeds going towards purchasing Rebound equipment for the TouchBase! For more information, contact TouchBase Dunbartonshire on 0141 772 5588.

Christmas Fête – TouchBase Glasgow – Saturday, 2 December

Join our annual Christmas Fête at TouchBase Glasgow and enjoy a raffle, tombola, arts and crafts, face painting, Mystic Kath and more! Drop in any time between 11am and 2pm.

Christmas Fête – TouchBase Lanarkshire – Saturday, 9 December

TouchBase Lanarkshire is hosting their Christmas Fête on Saturday, 9 December from 11am - 3pm. Stay tuned for more information, or get in touch with Gillian McGrory at gmcgrory@sensescotland.org.uk to find out more.

Christmas Parties – TouchBase Ayrshire/Glasgow – Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December

Come along to our Early Years team's Christmas Parties! We will be hosting games, sing-alongs, storytelling, crafts, and a special visit from Santa Claus. These sessions are suitable for children aged 0-15 with communication support needs, their siblings and family. Book your tickets for Ayrshire at bit.ly/ayrshire-xmas and for Glasgow at bit.ly/glasgow-xmas.

Please let us know what you think of Care and Connect. Send your feedback to communications@sensescotland.org.uk. You can find older issues at sensescotland.org.uk/care-and-connect.