

December 2023

Issue #21



Welcome!

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A Night at the Museum Ball

Our first-ever ball, A Night at the Museum, was a smashing success! On Friday, 17 November, over 300 guests joined us at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum to raise funds for people with communication support needs and sensory disabilities.

Hosted by the fantastic Edward Reid, our guests were led through a number of wonderful fundraising activities, including a prize draw (sponsored by Mappin & Webb), a pledge activity, and a Grand Auction, in which paintings by Mark Niven, a person we support, as well as the legendary Peter Howson, were handed to the highest bidder.

Guests also enjoyed entertainment by the legendary Johnny Lee Memphis and Big Vern n the Shootahs, who got them on their feet dancing. And when Gary, dad of Theo (featured in our Christmas Appeal), took the stage, there wasn't a dry eye in the house as he shared Theo's story.

The event raised £75,000, smashing our target and putting smiles on everyone's faces. It was incredible to see how many people were willing to go above and beyond in supporting people who need it most.

Thank you to all of our guests, the staff at the Kelvingrove, and our sponsors: Mappin & Webb, CSS Ltd, WoodWinters Wines & Whiskies and City Holdings for helping us to make this extraordinary event happen.

Children in Need

Our STRIDE transition group in Ayrshire had a once-in-a-lifetime experience last month when they were filmed by the BBC for Children in Need. Appearing on the Scotland Live Show, the segment showed STRIDE members as they were visited by the fine folks at McGill's Buses, who walked them through the process of taking public transport. Our STRIDE groups are all about empowering young people to develop independent living skills, and this

demonstration certainly fit the bill. You can watch the full segment on BBC iPlayer at bbc.in/3uGetsR, starting at around 52 minutes and 30 seconds.

Celebrating Christmas

A number of our services have been celebrating Christmas in a major way this year, with fairs, parties, and days out – and many more to come! First to kick off the festive celebrations was TouchBase Ayrshire, who held their Christmas Fayre on Wednesday, 29 November. The TouchBase was jam-packed with people we support, families, and staff, who browsed stalls offering baked goods, candles, arts and crafts, and raffle tickets. Santa also made an appearance! The main event this year was a gigantic, inflatable snow globe, in which people could get their photo taken with falling fake snow.



Soon after, TouchBase Glasgow and TouchBase Dunbartonshire had fairs on the same day. We had a great turnout at TouchBase Dunbartonshire, where funds raised through sales of stocking fillers, home baking, raffle tickets and Christmas decorations have gone towards purchasing Rebound equipment for the TouchBase. In Glasgow, meanwhile, our Christmas Fête raised £1968.65

and had all the usual Christmas activities you'd expect, from a raffle, a tombola, face painting, and arts and crafts. Plus, our very own Mystic Kath was in attendance to give some much-needed spiritual advice!



Meanwhile, our Learning Hub at TouchBase Glasgow has also been getting into the festive spirit with an advent calendar, created by Learner Support Practitioner Melanie. The calendar contains sensory gifts behind each door for all of our learners.



Make sure to check our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sensescotlandcharity to see photos from all of our Christmas events from around the country.

Upcoming Events

Gingham & Glitz – Grand Ole Opry – Sunday, 28 January 2024

With the year coming to end, we don't have many upcoming events, except one... Gingham & Glitz! Our upcoming fundraising event for the new year is the perfect balm for those January blues, with an all-singing, all-dancing event at the Grand Ole Opry in Glasgow. Hosted by the one and only Edward Reid, guests can expect a day of country tunes and hoedown shenanigans. If you're up for live country music, love a bit of line dancing, and enjoy the classic tunes of Doris, Dolly, Patsy, Carrie and Kenny, then join us on Sunday, 28 January 2024 from 1pm – 6pm. Book your tickets now at www.sensescotland.org.uk/gingham-and-glitz.

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