

Care and Connect *for families*



October 2024 Issue #31



Welcome!

In this issue...

- Discover the winners of our **Staff and Volunteer Awards 2024**
- Read about the **Deafblind International Outdoor Network 2024**
- Take a look back at Creative Scotland's **Time to Shine** strategy
- Receive an update from our **Fundraising team**
- Join our **upcoming events**
- Read **news from your service**

Staff and Volunteer Awards 2024

This year's Staff and Volunteer Awards - held on Thursday, 10 October at Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry - was yet another spectacular evening recognising and celebrating Sense Scotland's staff and volunteers who go above and beyond in making sure the people we support can live meaningful lives. Though it was quite a contrast to the Village Hotel, Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry had its own unique charms, including a Western-theme, country-style entertainment, and a laid-back environment.

Once again co-hosted by Angela Bonomy and Edward Reid (in his new pink cowboy boots), the evening began by celebrating staff members who have achieved a professional qualification in the last year - from SVQs to Professional Development Awards - before kicking off with the Volunteer of the Year Category.

The winners of each award are listed below:

- **Volunteer of the Year** - Nathan Jones
- **Big Idea** - Tullideph Service
- **Directors' Award** - The Recruitment team
- **Inspiration (Operations)** - Geraldine Beattie
- **Inspiration (Non-Operations)** - David Kehoe
- **Chief Executive Award** - Dr Paul Hart
- **Employee of the Year** - David Stephen
- **Team of the Year (Non-Operations)** - The Fundraising team
- **Team of the Year (Operations)** - The Learning Hub

A number of staff and volunteers who had reached milestones in their time with Sense Scotland - from 10 years to 30! - also received Long Service Awards during the ceremony.

As the final award was given out and the formal part of the evening wrapped up, Johnny Lee Memphis - Scotland's very own Elvis Presley - took to the stage to perform a mixture of country classics and hits by the King of Rock and Roll. Attendees flocked to the Opry's dancefloor for a boogie and a chance to celebrate the excellent work of their peers, their teams, and Sense Scotland as a whole.

You can view photos from the event on our Facebook page at facebook.com/sensescotlandcharity.

Deafblind International Outdoor Network 2024

We were thrilled to host a number of deafblind people and their support staff from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands at the sportscotland National Sports Training Centre Inverclyde in Largs from 23 – 27 September, showcasing the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures that Scotland has to offer.

The week began with our guests' arrival on Monday, when everyone had the chance to get to know each other and reconnect with friends from previous outdoor networks. After dinner, they were introduced to the exciting and ambitious plans for the week.

You can read the full write-up and view photos from the spectacular week at sensescotland.org.uk/dbi-outdoor-network-2024.

Time to Shine

We were thrilled to participate in Creative Scotland's recent look back at ten years of Time to Shine, a youth arts strategy which aimed to engage children and young people in the arts.

Our Sensatronic Lab project was chosen as one of Time to Shine's case studies – the project, which aims to make digital music accessible to all, works with people of all ages and backgrounds to explore music and creativity through the use of innovative multi-sensory digital activities and instruments.

Earlier this year, we welcomed the Creative Scotland team to TouchBase Glasgow, where filming took place for a short video on the impact of the project. You can watch the video now at www.vimeo.com/999041813, and check out the Time to Shine report at bit.ly/time-to-shine-report.

Fundraising Opportunities

Sense Scotland is a charity. Many of our services rely on funding from trusts, foundations and the public. We need to raise at least £1million every year. Can you, your family, friends or employer help? To find out more about our fundraising activities and opportunities, please sign up to our fundraising newsletter at bit.ly/sense-scotland-fundraising, give the team a call on 0300 330 9292 or email us at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

Christmas Shop

Our online Christmas shop is now live on our website! Visit sensescotland.org.uk/shop to check out the variety of festive products we have on offer, including cards, jewellery, soft toys and

scented gifts from Mecoco – our charitable enterprise based in North Ayrshire. You can also check out Mecoco's Christmas shop at mecoco.org/collections/christmas.

A Night at the Museum Ball

Tickets are still available for our glamorous 'A Night at the Museum' ball! Join us on Saturday, 16 November 2024 for an enchanting fundraising event in aid of Sense Scotland, set within the splendid surroundings of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Promising a night of opulence and elegance, the ball will commence with a drinks reception, sponsored by WoodWinters Wines & Whiskies, followed by a sumptuous three-course dinner, a number of guest speakers, and captivating Broadway-style entertainment.

Hosting the event this year will be Greg Summers, renowned TV and radio presenter. He will be joined by previous host Edward Reid – providing outstanding vocals and charming banter – alongside Broadway singer Sarah Galbraith and viral sensation The Vintage Explosion.

Guests have the option to select from Platinum, Gold, or Silver tables, each offering a different level of indulgence. Find out more and book your tickets at sensescotland.org.uk/masquerade-ball.

Light Up the Track

There are just ten weeks to go until five phenomenal charities light up the track at Knockhill Racing Circuit. Join Sense Scotland alongside My Name's5 Doddie Foundation, The Fire Fighters Charity, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance and the RAF Benevolent Fund for an incredible St. Andrew's Day celebration like no other. There's something for everyone:

- The Tartan Saunter – a gentle saunter around the track
- The Tartan Dash – a competitive timed 6km running challenge
- LED Torchlight Parade – be part of the first LED parade and light up the track

Participants and spectators alike will enjoy a whole host of activities, alongside a medley of Scottish tunes performed by the fantastic Sing in the City choir. Every penny of your registration fee will be equally divided among the five charities, including Sense Scotland. Find out more at bit.ly/sense-scotland-knockhill.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots (Online) – Weekly on Tuesdays

Our weekly toddler group for children under five with additional support needs occurs weekly on Tuesdays from 10:30am – 11:30am. This offers a virtual opportunity for toddlers to get together, play and have fun. Book your free space at bit.ly/twinkle-tots-online.

Connect and Sensory Play (TouchBase Fife) – Wednesday, 20 November

Our next Connect and Sensory Play session at TouchBase Fife will take place on Wednesday, 10 November, from 10am - 2pm! Drop-in anytime and see the wide range of sensory toys we have on offer and take part in our fun activity of the day.

The sessions are available for parents and carers with a child aged 0-18 with additional or complex needs. Children and their siblings are welcome to come along. This is also a good opportunity for professionals working with families to come along and find out more about our services and how we can help support the families you work with.

If you would like more information, please email LindaMitchell@sensescotland.org.uk or call us on 01592 646015.

Christmas Fayre (TouchBase Lanarkshire) – Saturday, 30 November

Join TouchBase Lanarkshire for their Christmas Fayre from 10am – 2pm and enjoy Santa's Grotto, handmade crafts, a tombola, and soup and refreshments.

Christmas Party (Ellon services) – Sunday, 8 December

Come along to Ellon Royal British Legion on Sunday, 8 December from 1pm - 5pm and celebrate the festive season with our Ellon services. Tickets cost £10 and include finger food, music, games, and more. If you're interested in buying a ticket, contact Rachel on 07725 788 212.

Please let us know what you think of Care and Connect. Send your feedback to communications@sensescotland.org.uk.

You can find past issues at sensescotland.org.uk/care-and-connect.