

Care and Connect *for families*



December 2024 Issue #33



Welcome!

In the last issue of the year...

- Relive the success of our second **'A Night at the Museum' Ball**
- Support CCPS's **'More Than Warm Words'** campaign
- Help us celebrate our **40th Anniversary**
- Receive an update from our **Fundraising team**
- Find out about our **Christmas Events**
- Read a heartfelt **thank you from us**
- Read **news from your service**

A Night at the Museum

Last month saw our second annual 'A Night at the Museum' Ball at the iconic Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, where we welcomed 280 guests who were eager to raise funds for the people we support.

Taking on hosting duties this year was TV and radio presenter Greg Summers, who ensured the event ran smoothly. Greg led our guests through a number of spectacular fundraising activities, including a prize draw (offering a two night stay in Budapest), a £100 pledge, and our live and online auctions. Among the items up for grabs were artworks created by the people we support, Michelin star experiences, and luxury stays.

These activities were punctuated by wonderful performances, first from Matthew Ward (who was later joined by Arts Manager, David McCluskey), then Edward Reid and Sarah Galbraith with a magical Broadway showcase, and finally viral sensations The Vintage Explosion, who closed the night with a stunning set. Guests also heard from guest speakers Paul and Katriona Goode, who told the story of their son Matthew, who sadly died last December. Matthew's story is told in our Christmas Appeal, which you can read on our website at sensescotland.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2024.

Our guests helped us raise a grand total of £74,680, and we're so grateful to everyone who contributed, as well as all of the volunteers who made it go as smoothly as possible. Here's to next year's 40th Anniversary Ball!

More Than Warm Words

Social care staff need more than warm words this winter. As a member of the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS), we are calling on the Scottish Government to recognise the true value of the social care workforce by giving the gift of fair pay in the 2025-26 Budget. Action is needed, especially in light of impending changes to employers' National Insurance.

You can find out more about the campaign and get involved at bit.ly/ccps-warm-words.

Help Us Celebrate

Next year marks Sense Scotland's 40th Anniversary, and we need your help to celebrate!

Do you know a celebrity or media personality who might be interested in helping raise awareness of the work we've done over the past 40 years? Whether they're a local legend or a national

treasure, we'd love to connect with them to help make our 40th Anniversary celebrations truly unforgettable.

If you can help, please email us at communications@sensescotland.org.uk. Together, we can make this milestone year one to remember. Thank you for being such an important part of our journey.

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 Card Competition

Our Christmas Card Competition for 2025 is live! Our Fundraising team are looking for the people we support to produce a piece of art that can be used as part of our range of festive cards for Christmas 2025. You can be as creative as you like - the only rules are that it should be as "Christmassy" as possible and the artwork must be original and not borrowed from somewhere else. Use paint, pens, photography - anything. You are only limited by your imagination.

Please consider encouraging your family member to get involved in our competition. The closing date for entries is Tuesday, 31 December 2024. The winner will get a £50 cash prize and all entrants will also receive a certificate. For an entry form, please email fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

2025 Events

We have a fantastic roster of fundraising events to take part in next year, including Kiltwalks, marathons, and unique runs. If you'd like to find out more, visit sensescotland.org.uk/fundraising-events, or email us at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

Christmas Events

By the time you receive this newsletter, most of our Christmas events will have already taken place. Thank you to everyone who attended these! Make sure to check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/sensescotlandcharity to check out photos from our recent and upcoming Christmas events.

Christmas Concert (TouchBase Glasgow) – Thursday, 19 December

Join us at TouchBase Glasgow (43 Middlesex Street, Glasgow) for our Christmas Concert! Taking place from 1pm – 3:30pm, the concert will feature festive performances from the people we support, including Jennifer Miller, Isaac Clark O'Malley, Jamie Thomson, the TouchBeats, and the Sensatronics. We look forward to seeing you there!

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. Our last session of the year will be on Tuesday, 17 December before resuming on Tuesday, 21 January 2025. These sessions offer a virtual opportunity for toddlers to get together, play and have fun. Book your free space at bit.ly/twinkle-tots-online.

Thank You

From all of us at Sense Scotland – and especially our Communications team! – we'd like to thank you for your engagement and feedback regarding Care and Connect, as well as your ongoing support on social media. We hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas period filled with warmth and joy, and a very happy new year. We look forward to another year of sharing uplifting updates and inspiring stories with you.

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.