

stafffestival2016

CHARITY NOMINATIONS

Simon on the Streets

Nominated by Rachel Prinn, Karen Cooper, Maggie Whitworth, Isobel McCully, Nicky Bray and Cathy Evans.

We would like to nominate Simon on the Streets – they are a great local charity, they raise awareness of homelessness as well as trying to help those who need it most. With increasing numbers of visibly homeless people on the streets, especially more young people, Simon on the Streets tackles this problem at the coal face, removing some of the traditional barriers for homeless people to access help.

www.simononthestreets.co.uk

Camp Nibble

Nominated by Isabel Kraay

I would like to nominate Camp Nibble to be the Staff Festival's official charity. I see that in previous years we have never supported an animal charity and as many people love animals I think this would be a popular cause. In addition, small animals are often overlooked but they are sadly often neglected or abandoned, so the work of this charity is very important. They are a Leeds based charity and as they are small, the help that we could provide would make a huge difference to them. This is a cause close to my heart as I have a rescue rabbit myself and have previously had rescue guinea pigs and hamsters, so I know what intelligent and affectionate animals they are and it's so sad that they are often mistreated. Camp Nibble do wonderful work caring for and rehoming these animals and also educating people about the needs of small animals, particularly rabbits.

www.campnibble.com

Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT)

Nominated by Diane Davis

The reason for my nomination is because I currently have a friend in hospital who is recovering from a brain injury. I also know of people (friends of friends) who have actually been patients at the Daniel Yorath House, at Garforth whilst recovering from a serious brain injury. Through rehabilitation and support, they now live in houses run by the trust, but still have support on a regular basis.

www.thedtgroup.org/brain-injury

Child Bereavement UK

Nominated by Dr Richard Peake

Child Bereavement UK supports families where a child or parent has died and relies on donations to run a 24 hour helpline, provide bereavement support for families and train professionals across the UK. A parent dies every 22 minutes in the UK, 1 in 29 young people of school age has been bereaved of a parent or sibling, each year around 6,000 families are bereaved by suicide. Child Bereavement UK offers practical and emotional support in the aftermath of a death whether sudden and traumatic or anticipated because of illness to help families rebuild their lives.

Shortly before taking up my Masters course my sister died suddenly leaving behind her 13 month old son. Child Bereavement UK and the Counselling Service helped me find a way through the trauma and successfully complete my studies. My experience is not unique, if you choose to support the charity this will help provide more specialist support to children, young people and parents to cope with grief and live positive lives.

www.childbereavementuk.org

Alan Morement Memorial Fund (AMMF)

Nominated by Joanne Thorpe

My reason for suggesting this charity is that after my friend was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma when she was 28, she discovered AMMF, the only charity in the UK who support people with bile duct cancer. They supported my friend, her fiancé and both families and friends throughout her treatment which unfortunately didn't work and she died last February, weeks before her 30th birthday and 3 months after their wedding.

AMMF's main goals are to raise the awareness of cholangiocarcinoma, to provide information to those who need it and to encourage and support specialised research into the causes, methods of earlier diagnosis and effective treatments for this disease. As a small charity they do not have the same publicity as the larger ones which, if they become the staff festival's chosen charity, this would help with immensely.

www.ammf.org.uk

Reading Matters

Nominated by Katherine Ingham

Reading Matters aim is to support children and young people with their literacy and to foster a love of learning to read for pleasure. This is done mostly through training reading mentors, volunteers that go into schools to partner pupils with their reading, and training reading leaders; older pupils who work with the younger year groups within a school.

www.readingmatters.org.uk

Swarthmore Centre for Adult Education

Nominated by Charlotte Mackenzie

I'd really like to nominate them as they do so much for adults in our community who may otherwise feel unable to study, either through lack of funds, social exclusion or disability etc. They offer many courses for free or low fees and really are an asset to our wider community, I think it would be lovely to support them as their beautiful building is in need of repair at the moment.

www.swarthmore.org.uk

Children's Heart Surgery Fund

Nominated by Michelle Nolan and Sue Bourne

Children's Heart Surgery Fund is the award winning charity supporting the Yorkshire heart unit at the Leeds General Infirmary. They fund equipment, staff posts, resources and training for those who work on the heart wards; and support patients with congenital heart disease and their families. They are funded by generous donations from the general public and their corporate supporters, and by the amazing efforts of their fundraisers. They are only able to help because of the support.

www.chsf.org.uk

The Haven

Nominated by Tammy Murray

A national charity providing personalised care and support for people with breast cancer. They have centres in Leeds, London, Hereford, Wessex and Worcestershire – however they also do telephone appointments with their therapists, nurses and advisors if you don't live near one of their centres. My reason for nominating this charity is simply because it is absolutely brilliant, and they have been such a support to me since I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 2011. They really are so fantastic and offer such invaluable help, information, therapies and much more during such a dark time. I couldn't see this opportunity go by and not at least try to help them out as much as possible. I would be so happy if they were able to offer their services in more locations across the UK, and the only way they will be able to do this is through charitable donations.

www.thehaven.org.uk

Maggie's Yorkshire

Nominated by Jen Wickham

Maggie's provide something very unique in cancer care, somewhere to turn, a place of comfort, a refuge and a base from which to face the future following a cancer diagnosis not just for the patient but for their family and friends. Maggie's deliver time, understanding and support from expert and caring professionals in a way that is totally complimentary to medical treatment and which is strongly supported by the NHS. More than 14,000 people in Yorkshire are diagnosed with cancer each year and they need and deserve the care and support that Maggie's provides.

Planning permission has now been granted for the new £5m Maggie's Centre in the grounds of St James's University Hospital. Working in partnership with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the centre will provide free support for anyone living with cancer as well as their family and friends – their door is always open and anyone can pop in. £3m has already been raised. When the fundraising hits £4m, work will begin on site and the centre should be open in 2017.

www.maggiescentres.org/yorkshire

Alzheimer's Society

Nominated by Fiona Rushworth and Joshua West

My personal reasons are because of family members suffering with this disease. For more general reasons – I feel that the society is not as 'popular' as children's charities or guide dog charities can be, but they are very great researchers and as this is a growing problem in our country (more sufferers and more getting this at a much younger age) – it could impact on all of us if they were to find cures and/or delaying drugs.

www.alzheimers.org.uk

Motor Neurone Disease Association

Nominated by Antonia Whitley

I lost my granddad to MND. It is a terrible disease which eventually robs the body of its motor functions. It was truly heart breaking to see a lovely, active, hardworking and devoted family man reduced to being bed ridden and having to be fed through a tube. He is missed by his seven children, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

www.mndassociation.org

Save the Children

Nominated by Mazen Al-Hajjar

I feel very passionate about the work done by Save the Children. The projects they run don't just benefit children in the UK but they also benefit children worldwide. They do value education for children and respond to crisis that affect children all over the world. Their work helps save children's lives, they fight for their rights and fulfil their potential.

www.savethechildren.org.uk

Compassion in World Farming

Nominated by Erika Smith

I think it would tie in with the 'Country fair in the city' as it is to do with farming. They do a wonderful job campaigning for the fair and ethical treatment of farm animals.

www.ciwf.org.uk

Nephrotic Syndrome Trust

Nominated by Naomi Quinton

Nephrotic syndrome is not a well-known condition but the Leeds paediatric renal team care for many children in West Yorkshire with this. The nephrotic syndrome trust fund research and support for families with this difficult illness.

www.nstrust.co.uk

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)

Nominated by Mike Leonard

I would like to nominate a farming charity that looks after farming families facing financial difficulties, where there is a potential for loss of employment, income, and home. In Leeds, we tend to be cosseted away from the pressures that our farming communities experience here in Yorkshire, and to be able to provide the RABI with funding, would help highlight the plight of rural families in our Region.

www.rabi.org.uk

Yorkshire Animal Shelter

Nominated by Sarah McLaren

I would like to nominate the Yorkshire Animal Shelter. I have previously been a volunteer here and they do wonderful work in taking neglected and abandoned animals brought to them by rescue charities and vets. They are currently trying to raise money for a new cat block, so any awareness of this would be really good for them. They also have permanent residents and need to pay for vet bills.

www.yorkshireanimalshelter.org.uk

Tommys

Nominated by Lisa Smith

www.tommys.org

Rugby League Cares

Nominated by Clive Hudson

Charity used to assist players who have been injured or even died whilst playing what can be a very dangerous game.

www.rugbyleaguecares.org

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

Nominated by May Boothby

They are always underfunded for all the work they are involved in.

www.rnli.org

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Nominated by Janet Hindle and Tracie Crombie

Gives blind people independence and dogs need a network of people to provide training. Every hour, another person in the UK goes blind, which means more guide dog puppies need to be trained. All blind and partially sighted people should be able to enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else.

www.guidedogs.org.uk

British Hen Welfare Trust

Nominated by Jennie Robinson

My Favourite Charity, it rehuses battery Hens.

www.bhwt.org.uk

Crohns & Colitis UK (NACC)

Nominated by Emma Chippendale and Jo Westerman

My father has suffered from Crohns disease for nearly 50 years and there is not as much publicity around bowel diseases as other conditions although they affect a huge number of people. Most people will know somebody who is affected by these issues. Research into the issues and support for those affected by them is vital. (Emma)

www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk

Unisef

Nominated by Zoe Read

Good Cause.

www.unicef.org.uk

Oxfam

Nominated by Andy Brown

Help for the people who need it.

www.oxfam.org.uk

Barnardo's Yorkshire

Nominated by Sarah Humphreys

Supports young people in Leeds who are in crisis.

www.barnardos.org.uk

Yorkshire Rose Dog Rescue

Nominated by Matt Preston

Excellent work putting a stop to dogs getting put down and bridging gap to rehome.

www.yrdr.co.uk

The Cellar Trust

Nominated by Sue Underwood

A much needed service helping people recovering from mental health problems. Providing people with tailored support to help them move forward and improve their mental health and wellbeing, in a way that complements any additional support they are receiving through other services.

The CEO used to work in Comms and H&S (Kim Shutler Jones) and their Marketing, Comms and Events person worked in Comms (Ces Kulikowski).

www.thecellartrust.org

Candlelighters

Nominated by Paul Gill, Sarah Moses and Marc Steward

This charity is close to me as I have several close friends who've been in the unfortunate situation of benefiting from their services.

Seeing some of my closest friends dealing with their children's Cancer battles is heart-breaking. Candlelighters, a Leeds based charity, have been with them on their journey every step and have been invaluable in helping not only the kids but the parents at the most horrific of times. They also are striving for more research in child cancers, as only a tiny portion of the main cancer charities research goes on childhood cancers, due to it not being economically viable for the drug companies.

Candlelighters

Nominated by Debbie Senior

Candlelighters is a local Leeds charity that supports children with cancer and their families, working through the Children's Hospital at the Leeds General Infirmary. They fund research, family holidays and help with essential services within the hospital. They have a family support centre in Woodhouse Square where families can go for help, advice or just a chat and support and meet other families who are going through the same thing.

This is a very worthwhile charity and is local to the University and I would be grateful if it could be considered to be the nominated charity for the University's Staff Festival this year.

www.candlelighters.org.uk

Basik

Nominated by Jenna Smith

Basik is a small, family run charity based in Burley-in-Wharfedale with the motto 'Build Schools End Poverty'. They work to raise money for schools in Africa, and are currently fundraising for a school in the Kasaala district of Kenya. They need to raise £17,000 to build a third classroom, a lab and a staffroom, and to continue to sponsor children to attend the school. I have chosen to nominate them for a number of reasons:

1. It is very difficult for children to attend school in Kenya, due to the government only paying 5% of the fees. I believe that education is a basic human right and, as Basik do, that education is the way out of poverty.
2. They are a small, local charity, and all money raised goes directly to the school they are fundraising for. They also have documents to demonstrate how each penny is spent.
3. Being a university, I think it would be nice to use the money raised by the staff festival to help others with their education.

www.basik.org.uk

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL)

Nominated by Kristen Dundon, Alix Brodie-Wray and Christopher Armstrong

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) provide a vital service for women and girls in Leeds, they are a small charity that is independent and volunteer led and they help girls and women at some of their most vulnerable moments through their helpline and advocacy services – they are launching a much needed specialist counselling service this year and by supporting them at this year's Staff Festival, we would make such a difference and make a big contribution to the amazing work that they do.

www.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk

Hope Pastures

Nominated by Victoria Jordan

Hope Pastures is an equine rescue and rehabilitation charity. Based near the ring road, they offer a rural haven in the middle of a busy city for the animals they rescue and the community around them. Cases of equine abandonment and neglect are sadly on the increase and Hope Pasture manages to have a huge positive impact on its animals and for its visitors with little resource. They do such an amazing job and it is a wonderful place in the heart of suburban Leeds.

www.hopepastures.org

University of Leeds Footsteps Fund

Nominated by Greg Miller and Louise Banahene

We would like to nominate the University of Leeds Footsteps Fund as the official Staff Festival Charity for 2016. The fund, which is run by the University's Alumni and Development team, provides a wealth of benefits to our students – both by supporting union societies and by providing a range of scholarships for students from less privileged backgrounds. Since 2004, more than 14,000 people have donated a total of over £5 million through Footsteps Fund appeals. The Staff Festival would be an amazing opportunity to highlight the work which the Footsteps Fund does across campus, and to show staff the benefits it is bringing to all our students.

Put together, these gifts have supported a range of initiatives:

- Centenary Alumni Scholarships are worth £3,000 each year for students with 3 As at A level, who might not have been able to take up their place without financial support.
- Hardship Funding Grants help students who, through no fault of their own, may find themselves in danger of being unable to complete their degree.
- Leeds Masters Scholarships are worth £5,000 and enable students whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent them from studying at a postgraduate level.
- Leeds for Life Grants allow students from less privileged backgrounds to undertake projects which will be developmental for them and beneficial to the community.
- The Laidlaw Library includes a wall showing the 2,300 supporters whose donations to the Footsteps Fund contributed to its development.
- Research into Cardiovascular disease and Diabetes was supported by the appointment of a PhD student, funded by donations to the fund.
- Numerous Leeds University Union societies have been able to buy much-needed equipment, thanks to grants from the fund.

www.campaign.leeds.ac.uk/footsteps-fund

Bone Cancer Research Fund

Nominated by Yasmin Hafiz

I met a number of people associated with the charity at a meeting in February, and was struck by the importance of early diagnosis in this rare and malignant form of cancer, particularly as symptoms are often incorrectly diagnosed as 'growing pains' in teenagers.

www.bcrf.org.uk

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Nominated by Sarah Heeks and Ian Hunter

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust carries out vital work to protect and conserve Yorkshire's wild habitats and wildlife. The Trust runs around 100 nature reserves in Yorkshire, including sites in Leeds such as Adel Dam and Kirkstall Valley reserves. Their 'Living Landscape' project aims to restore and reconnect areas of wildlife habitat, linking up reserves through nature corridors, enabling wildlife to move through the landscape, and ensuring access to green spaces for communities. The Trust also connects residents to their local environment through volunteering and community projects.

www.ywt.org.uk

Rethink

Nominated by Emma Hatton

Mental illness affects approximately 1 in 4 people at some point, therefore we will either be affected ourselves or know someone who has been affected by mental illness during our lifetime. Mental illness is accompanied by a huge stigma, yet is really just a manifestation of a physical problem within the brain.

The range of mental illnesses is vast and for those worse affected who are taken into care under section, the process of being forcibly taken into custody and being made to wait for assessment for hours, usually in a police cell, is extremely traumatic and can worsen any paranoia or psychosis.

Rethink has an excellent outreach programme for service users to change the perception of police and social workers and help them to deal with people affected by mental health issues in a more understanding way. Not everyone has such extreme experiences, but Rethink also helps people suffering from depression or breakdowns to find access to counselling, to help them get through daily life and manage the things that become so overwhelming at these times.

Rethink also offers additional services such as legal, housing and debt support and of course, the families of people affected by mental illness can also seek their help. Mental health issues are so far reaching for the individual experiencing them and their families that I really hope you will consider this charity. Rethink is a national, not local charity, but the support you could give could be felt by so many people.

www.rethink.org

Getaway Girls

Nominated by Victoria Treherne

Getaway Girls is a fantastic example of a small charity which works wonders with a small amount of funding, and it has a very long-lasting impact on the lives of the young women it supports.

The charity's remit is to work with vulnerable young women aged 11-25 from Leeds to build confidence, develop new skills and take positive risks in an environment which offers co-operation and support.

www.getawaygirls.co.uk

The Donkey Sanctuary

Nominated by Maggie Credland and Nicola Kingswell

The Donkey Sanctuary does amazing work worldwide rescuing and rehoming often very badly mistreated donkeys, but it also uses some of the donkeys it rescues to provide therapy for both children and adults. The charity's specially designed arenas provide the perfect setting for their work with hundreds of children who have additional needs. Every year they deliver more than 50,000 sessions. They offer a unique and effective form of assisted therapy that helps to improve confidence, self-esteem, major and minor motor skills, core balance and gives children a real sense of achievement.

The charity also has a team of specially trained donkeys that provide an outreach service visiting hospices and residential homes including those dealing with dementia care, where the donkeys provide valuable assisted therapy to residents. The emotional and physical benefits of companion animals are now well established and there is well-researched evidence that shows spending time with animals can have a direct calming influence on vulnerable individuals.

Donkeys love warm and affectionate human contact so the animal assisted therapy works very well both ways! Many of the donkeys used have been rescued from a life of neglect, mistreatment or abandonment and through the care provided by the Sanctuary, are able to be rehabilitated and lead interesting and rewarding lives, meeting and helping thousands of people across the UK.

www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/visit-us/leeds

Antenatal Results & Choices (ARC)

Nominated by Amy Scott

In September last year, my husband and I received the life-shattering news that our baby had severe abnormalities that were incompatible with life. Four weeks later, we went through with the seemingly impossible procedure to end his suffering, before I gave birth to our beautiful boy, Joseph.

There are no words to describe the pain of handing over your son to a midwife for the last time. What we are going through is an isolating rare experience shared by only a few. Love and ending a life simply do not reconcile and without ARC's expert guidance we would not have got this far. They continue to support us as we learn to live our lives with Joseph only in our hearts.

ARC is a charity run by a small team that currently runs at a large deficit. It is an essential resource and resort for parents caught in the huge conflict between modern scientific fact and natural instinct. As well as providing counselling, they bring together bereaved parents for whom ARC's online forum is a lifeline, and help them to pick up the pieces in the face of heart-breaking losses. They also train healthcare professionals on explaining diagnoses, delivering bad news and dealing with grief-stricken parents.

ARC is the only national charity helping parents and healthcare professionals through antenatal screening and its consequences. ARC offers non-directive information and support to parents before, during and after antenatal screening; when they are told their baby has an anomaly; when they are making difficult decisions about continuing with or ending a pregnancy, and when they are coping with complex and painful issues after making a decision, including bereavement. It is a fantastic cause helping those who also find themselves facing this painful unimaginable journey. It would mean so much to us and the other parents if this charity was supported through the Staff Festival.

www.arc-uk.org/home

Emmaus Charity

Nominated by Donna Brady

I would like to nominate Emmaus Charity in Leeds. This charity supports homelessness and homeless people by offering a safe and secure roof over their head and also a chance to work at the charity thus enabling them to feel part of what we consider to be a 'normal' society member.

I visit the charity approximately twice a week with my son and all the staff/members there are amazing. Their life stories are heart-wrenching and humbling and truly do make you consider what you have with regards to possessions, materialistic items and the general 'tat' that we consider ours. These people have often been living on the streets and have absolutely nothing – imagine what that would be like if you were forced to leave everything you have.

Some of the tenants were working people with families but sadly due to governmental changes, recession, unemployment or mental health issues their lives became broken and families split. Most of them arrive at Emmaus with the "thousand yard stare" that people develop when it seems that their world has ended and all is lost. The tenants at the charity take on challenges themselves to help raise money for Emmaus – only 6 months ago did some of them taken on the Three Peaks Challenge.

The charity itself sells items from its shop not only in Kirkstall Market, but on eBay too. The users of the charity can learn new life skills and become involved in furniture restoration, the catering in the kitchen, delivering the furniture and other items – they are given a soul-self-satisfying "sense of purpose" which inevitably aids their (sometimes recovery) but mostly their wellbeing.

www.emmaus.org.uk/leeds

Yorkshire Mesmac

Nominated by Greg Baugh

They provide incredible services to many people across the Yorkshire area – they are invaluable.

www.mesmac.co.uk

The Joanna Project

Nominated by Paul Whitehead

The Joanna Project are a local charity who work with women involved in prostitution or struggling with drug addiction in the Leeds area. They are a small team with limited funds, who work consistently and selflessly to provide a range of support options for vulnerable women.

In addition to putting themselves on the front lines, providing support through their night-time outreach work in red-light districts, they also support women by offering assistance with day-to-day tasks and setting up wider support networks. For the last year they have operated the Joanna House in Holbeck – as safe space for vulnerable women, offering washing facilities, food, clothes, support, and the opportunity to meet others in similar situations. The Joanna Project is a committed charity providing life-changing assistance to the most vulnerable and overlooked women of Leeds.

www.joannaproject.co.uk

Stroke Association

Nominated by John Ramsden

It's something anyone can suffer from and the associations work needs as much funding as it can get and is often overlooked.

www.stroke.org.uk

Young Minds

Nominated by Stuart Fortey

I would like to nominate Young Minds, which is the UK's leading charity dedicated to improving the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Recent media reports have highlighted the poor service that young people with mental health problems are receiving from the NHS. This makes the work of charities such as Young Minds particularly important.

In the UK, 850,000 children between the ages of 5 and 16 have mental health problems; 1 in 10 deliberately harm themselves; and half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by the age of 14. Choosing to support this charity will help to fund the varied activities and projects on offer, as well as help to reduce the stigma attached to mental health problems.

Young Minds is an especially appropriate charity for the university, since both are committed to the intellectual and emotional development of young people. The charity has a well-planned, comprehensive and informative website.

www.youngminds.org.uk

Yorkshire Cancer Research

Nominated by Annette Caplan

I would like to nominate Yorkshire Cancer Research as the University's charity for the Staff Festival – the reason for this is that cancer has affected either directly or indirectly a large number of staff at the University. The charity has the vision that every single person in every community in and around Yorkshire has the best chance of living a long and healthy life with, without and beyond cancer.

www.yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk

West Yorkshire National Trust Volunteers

Nominated by Georgina Collins

My nominated charity is the West Yorkshire National Trust Volunteers, because they carry out lots of important conservation work for different National Trust properties across Yorkshire and even going into Cumbria and Northumberland.

www.wyntv.org.uk

Bambisanani Partnership

Nominated by Andy Lockwood

I have had the pleasure of working with and witnessing the impact of the work of this charity over the last 12 months. Based in Menston, over the last 10 years they used sport to develop education, leadership and global understanding in both Leeds and South Africa. A small charity, they deliver amazing programmes in the toughest of areas.

Their work is nationally recognised and is praised for the impact that it has on the lives of those they work with. They have helped to fund teacher education, access to education, equipment and uniforms. They are in the middle of raising funds for an emergency care facility for AIDS Orphans in rural Kwazulu-Natal and providing satellite internet coverage for a local high school. A browse of their website will truly give you a picture of the amazing work they do and how we could potential support amazing developments.

www.bambisananipartnership.org