



VYoYNpXN

# Everyone Needs a Margaret!

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## Entry details

Your name	Sally Munday
Your email address	<a href="mailto:smunday@home-start.org.uk">smunday@home-start.org.uk</a>
I am happy for my email address to be added to the BQF marketing database	Yes
Name of Secondary Contact	Sophie Orviss
Secondary Contact email address	<a href="mailto:sorviss@home-start.org.uk">sorviss@home-start.org.uk</a>
The Secondary Contact is happy for their email address to be added to the BQF marketing database	Yes
Organisation Name	Home-Start UK
Do you have a BQF Membership?	No
If you are not a BQF Member do you fall into any of the categories below?	✓ charity

If you are not a BQF member please give your billing address\*

| NA

If you are not a BQF member please give the email address of your accounts department for billing purposes*	NA
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Please give a brief summary of your award submission

A volunteer who has experienced incredible personal hardship has changed the lives of countless families in her community of the Isle of Wight by being a non-judgmental, compassionate listening ear. She has supported parents and children reach their potential for over 20 years, with some of the babies she supported now with families of their own, thanks to the unwavering power of Margaret.

How did you hear about the UK  
Excellence Awards

Other

**Who are you nominating?**

Margaret Rylands

I confirm that the person I am  
nominating is fully aware of this  
submission.

✓

**Please tell us in your own words why you are nominating this person for the Patron's award?**

Please include:

- What they do that makes them excellent?
- Why they do it?
- When/where they do it?
- How are they making this happen?
- Who benefits and what has the impact been?

'Because she is Margaret! The most kind-hearted non-judgemental, selfless person you could ever meet', (the words of a parent). Margaret has been a constant at Home-Start Isle Of Wight since 1999. In that time she has supported 14 families. Nothing stops Margaret from giving her time to helping families. Home-Start stands alongside families when they need us most, often by the support of a trained and experienced volunteer who visits families in their own home and supports with practical and emotional help and offers signposting expertise to other local support services. Home-Start is a movement of 180 charities across the UK, who help ensure children get the best start in life, every single day.

Margaret is a volunteer for Home-Start Isle of Wight and has experienced challenges with her health and the last couple of years have been marked by the loss of loved ones. Despite everything Margaret never wants to take a break and always asks us to 'keep me busy' and we do! She is about to be introduced to family number 15! Margaret is so unassuming, she shies away from the limelight and finds it hard to accept recognition of how special she is to us. She always maintains that she gets more out of volunteering than she gives. We know that the families she has been matched with over the years would disagree. Margaret is so special to some families that she has stayed part of their lives for many years. She now spends time with the children of some of the original Home-Start children. Margaret is truly special and we are so proud that she is one of our volunteers.

We cannot imagine Home-Start Isle Of Wight without Margaret. She has been a constant since almost the beginning of the charity in 1997. Throughout the changes that Home-Start Isle Of Wight has seen over the years Margaret has been there with her very calm and measured approach. She has a special way of saying a lot without saying much at

all. Margaret will sit quietly and listen, let others talk around a topic and then come in with the voice of experience! Margaret has been on the board of trustees for many years and has also steered the charity as chair. Margaret is always ready to move with the times and embrace new ideas and she is amazing at remembering what has gone before and uses her experience to guide others. Over many years Margaret has supported families from all backgrounds and with a wide range of needs as a Home-Start Home-Visiting Volunteer. Nothing phases her and she always shows so much care and understanding for the families she supports. Her kindness and non-judgmental attitude means that Margaret is a calm and reassuring presence for parents. She also has a magic touch with little ones. She is never happier than when she is cuddling a baby off to sleep!

'Margaret came to our family 20 years ago when I had 3 young children. I was 24 and a single Mum. I had 2 more children and Margaret remained the greatest support to our family. She read bedtime stories so I had time to clean, helped with shopping and trips out- no easy task with 5 children under 8, and came with me to numerous hospital appointments! Margaret is she was always there, an ear to listen a shoulder to cry on and the encouragement to move onwards and upwards. I lost my Mum very young and Margaret has been with me on the rollercoaster of parenting. Without her there were days I would have given up but she was there to help me pull myself back up. Margaret gave me confidence in myself and without her support I would not have become the person I am. The strength she shared all those years ago when I was pulling my hair out has been the back bone to my family and helped nurture the young lives of my children's for all the years that have passed since.' (Supported Parent)

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