Step Up, Step Out and Step Into Action!

Step Up MCR is the place based giving charity investing in big dreams and ideas across Ancoats & Beswick and Clayton & Openshaw. Our purpose is to unleash the unlimited human potential of people living in these neighbourhoods.

Place based giving is all about the difference we can collectively make in our neighbourhoods by giving something back, no matter how small.

We know that our communities are full to the brim with passion, pride and potential. That’s why we’re focusing on the difference you can make by getting involved.

Maybe you have an interest or hobby and would like to volunteer with a local group to meet like-minded people?

Or do you have the skills to run your own group, but need the resources or space to make it happen?

There are infinite ways we can all give back to invest in our communities, whether you’re a resident, business, or community group. Here are just some of the ways you could give:

**Knowledge**
Your knowledge, expertise or experience might be just what a local project needs to get going.

**Stay Up-to-date**
Receiving regular updates from local projects means you can give back when your community needs your support. Social media, attending activities or speaking to your neighbours is a good way to stay plugged in.

**Time**
Volunteering with a local group or starting up your own is a great way to help others and feel more connected.

**Funding**
Giving financial support to local projects will mean seeing the difference you make on your doorstep.

**Resources**
Sharing our resources is a brilliant way to reduce waste and support local.

**Skills**
Whether painting and decorating or budget and finance—collectively, all of our skills could make a big local impact.

**Space**
Somewhere to hold meetings, run sessions or store equipment is often a crucial first step for incredible things to happen.

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The Beacon Centre is now established as its very own charity and has received the funding it needs to refurbish the building, thanks to Sport England and The National Lottery Community Fund. The Beacon Centre will be opening in the Autumn and is partnering with local organisations to provide community-led activities for people in Beswick, Clayton and Openshaw, including:

• Older People’s Luncheon Club
• Community Grocer
• Job Club
• Health and Fitness Sessions for All Ages

Head to [www.beaconcentremcr.co.uk](http://www.beaconcentremcr.co.uk) for more information and to get involved.

The Beacon Centre is Recruiting!

Thanks to your donations through Step Up’s latest community fundraiser, The Beacon Centre now has the funding it needs to recruit for a new Centre Manager! The brand new role will be involved in shaping the start of The Beacon Centre’s journey. The post-holder will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Centre, managing and developing the centre and working closely with the management committee.

If this sounds like the perfect opportunity for you, head to [www.beaconcentremcr.co.uk](http://www.beaconcentremcr.co.uk) to find out more, or email hello@beaconcentremcr.co.uk.

Applications close Friday 27th August at 12 noon.

STEP UP FOR THE BEACON CENTRE

The Beacon Centre is looking for community groups, fitness instructors and arts projects to hire out their space for £15 per hour. If this sounds like the perfect fit for you, contact hello@beaconcentremcr.co.uk.

Follow Beacon Centre MCR on Facebook for more updates.
Jan’s exciting new project will work with residents, schools, and local partners to care for the long-term health of the planet, while improving health and wellbeing at a community level.

Evermore will be centred around fundraising for a reverse vending machine, set to be stationed at the heart of the neighbourhood.

How does a reverse vending machine work?
1. Empty plastic bottles and drinks cans are placed in the reverse vending machine
2. The material is scanned and registered on a database
3. A coupon is printed, offering either a discount or charitable donation to local groups
4. The machine sorts, compacts and stores empty bottles and drinks cans, ready for collection

Through the technology, Jan hopes to inspire people from all walks of life to feel more connected to each other and their environment. She aims to link the coupons and donations to local organisations so that your work can go even further in giving back to the community.

Jan is also keen to share her passion for art, poetry and creativity to build a growing movement from the community outwards. She says:

Changing the narrative on Mancunian streets, changing the way our humble heart beats
Known for our stripes yes, The Manchester Bee, we’re a City United unanimously.
We know how to party we know how to play, will you join our new mission the Evermore way.
It all starts in Beswick with a vending machine, it’s possibly something that you’ve never seen.
It’s called reverse vending and relatively new, it has lots of benefits for me and for you.
We’ll set an example for generations to come, taking care of our planet benefits everyone.
A great “undercurrent”, a movement so pure, recycling bottles and oh so much more.
And as we accumulate vouchers to use on ourselves, I promise you’ll gather some great mental wealth.
Feeling refreshed you’ll probably sing, this is our planet full of “natural bling”

STEP UP FOR EVERMORE

Jan is looking for local volunteers to support with canal and river clean ups and will soon be starting a fundraising drive to get the funding needed for the reverse vending machine.

Get in touch to join a local litter pick or to meet with Jan to develop the project.

hello@stepupmcr.org
Max Trax will be an amazing community-led cycle track within Delamere Park, Openshaw, in memory of Max Rimmer-Chambers.

Max’s story
Max was a very special little boy born with the help of fertility treatment. He was adored by his parents, Colin and Kerrie, and he charmed all who met him. Tragically, Max passed away in 2017.

The Dream
Knowing that Max had a passion for fun, adventure and all things with wheels, the community in Openshaw have a dream to build a bike track in Delamere Park that can be enjoyed by all children and families in the area.

The Adventure So Far
Kerrie and the Max Trax team have worked alongside local schools, Step Up MCR and Manchester City Council to design a track that works for everyone. Specialist track company, Bike Track, have now brought the ideas to life.

Working together, the team have designed a track that they believe fits perfectly within the park whilst keeping the wide open green space. All trees will be left untouched and the proposed track is to be built on the inner field that already holds the skate park.

Future Dreams
The Max Trax team would love to turn the Beehive building into a community-run hub which could house a tea room and bike repair shop. Workshops will aim to recycle pre-loved bikes so they can be put back into the community or hired out to those who wish to use Max Trax.

They also hope to one day run a community allotment to go alongside the recently planted orchard.

Scan the QR code to complete the online community consultation by 10th September 2021.

STEP UP FOR MAXTRAX
The Max Trax team need your help. They have spoken to lots of local residents during the planning of this track, but now it is time to have your say.

You can also find the consultation online by heading to www.stepupmcr.org
The centre will provide activities, classes and services designed to benefit the mental health and physical wellbeing of residents. Its primary focus is yoga, meditation, movement, nutritional guidance, sound healing and breath work.

The centre will house a host of community groups to offer art classes, adult drama, youth theatre, sober raves, book clubs, outdoor walking groups and seated yoga for the elderly.

The Resonance Centre team is also launching its exciting new plant-based kitchen to provide delicious healthy meals and snacks, alongside a place to relax and connect.

STEP UP FOR THE RESONANCE CENTRE

The Resonance Centre is looking for teachers, practitioners or events organisers interested in collaborating or hiring out a space. Head to www.theresonancecentre.co.uk to find out more.

If you, a family member, or friend is suffering from mental health issues or physical problems and would benefit from free yoga and therapies, reach out to The Resonance Centre info@theresonancecentre.co.uk

Contact The Resonance Centre - Manchester:

📍 The Resonance Centre, The Old School House, Clayton Street, Manchester, M11 4EA
✉️ info@theresonancecentre.co.uk

The Resonance Centre is a brand new wellbeing hub in Clayton based on connection, community and social inclusion.
Step Up MCR supported One Manchester’s Community Soups across Beswick and Clayton, matching a £4,000 funding pot to make an additional two grants of £2,000 available for community groups!

As well as creating an £8,000 total pot in each area, the partnership with One Manchester enabled Step Up to connect with new community projects to help them develop. The winners of community soups are always decided by the community, and usually hosted in person as an opportunity for groups making a difference to pitch to residents on the projects they’d like to see in their neighbourhoods.

Pd Coaching
Pd Coaching is a Beswick based football and coaching project run by Paul Downing, a Beswick resident with a dream to start Beswick’s first football club.

Pd Coaching provides football, exercise and fitness classes to children from 4-14 years old. With the right support, Paul would love to expand this target audience and offer exercise and sport coaching to all football lovers in the local community, including walking football for those looking to increase their fitness.

This project needs facilities in or near to Beswick to run activities from, as well as storage and funding support.

STEP UP FOR PD COACHING
Join Paul’s coaching community by heading to @pdcoaching_ on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Malawi Heritage UK
Malawi Heritage UK is an Openshaw based organisation promoting integration and cultural awareness through creativity.

The Community Soup grant will support resident, Allan Mandindi, to run his media and digital technology skills sessions that train people to be creative and gain employment with the skills they learn.

The digital and creative sessions involve video making, podcasting, how to create content to be used for social media marketing, video editing and photography.

Sessions are held every Saturday between 11am–1pm at 21 Vincent Street, M11 2FU in Openshaw.

STEP UP FOR MALAWI HERITAGE UK
Find out more about Allan’s work at Malawi Heritage UK on Facebook and Twitter.

Clayton Hall
Clayton Hall Living History Museum will be working with student volunteers from The Manchester College to redevelop its garden pond area.

Learners with special educational needs from The Manchester College (Openshaw Campus) will be supported to grow the space to increase confidence, pride, and build teamwork and communications skills.

The garden is part of the Clayton Hall Living History Museum and provides an educational resource for the community including local schools.

The current small ponds are already popular with visitors and often provide a setting for educational activities themed around nature and biodiversity.

STEP UP FOR CLAYTON HALL
Find out more by heading to www.claytonhall.org

DryWave CIC
DryWave CIC is a creative events and digital organisation promoting empowerment and connectedness to those in recovery from alcohol and drug related issues.

DryWave mentors and guides those struggling with mental health and addiction issues in Manchester through 14 motivational shows per week on peer empowerment, positive mental health tools, community engagement and more. Funding will support DryWave to purchase the equipment needed for its brand new studio.

Ben “Sós” Riley struggled with drink and drugs for years but now identifies as an addict in recovery with a passion for music as a Manchester Artist and Nightclub Events promoter.

DryWave hosted its first event at its new home at The Resonance Centre on 31st July. The line-up was in full force with BABY D, the DJ behind the UK Number One ‘Let Me Be Your Fantasy’ in 1984. Other acts included AWESOME3 as well as home grown Manchester DJs and artists who played to a sold out and bustling event alongside fire breathers, stilts walkers, BBQ marquees and face paint.

STEP UP FOR DRYWAVE
Find out more by heading to DryWave Events on Facebook.

Community Soups have been held online across the latest rounds to enable One Manchester to keep supporting the community during lockdown restrictions.

We received brilliant entries across both areas, and we are delighted to be supporting four fantastic winners with £2,000 each.

Step Up’s winners for Beswick are Pd Coaching and Malawi Heritage UK. And Clayton winners are Clayton Hall and DryWave.
What’s Going on in Your Community?

From “no-go-area” to family outing spot

Brad and Bes News on The Philips Park Bereavement Walk for Children

Community reporter and founder of Brad and Bes News, Victoria Thiele, shares her story on the UK’s first children-oriented cemetery.

Philips Park Cemetery nature path helps families grieve.

The bench is made of wood and painted in bright colours, red, blue, yellow, green. A plaque marks it as “Teddy Paws bench”, and indeed there is a teddy paw painted on the asphalt in front of it. Behind the bench, the gravestones spread into the distance.

A sign tells visitors of Philips Park Cemetery this is the starting point of an animal trail. Children can take a piece of paper and a pencil from a box, follow the teddy paws on the path and spot wood-carved animals in the trees. Some stations feature a rubbing post for kids to put their paper on and rub the pencil over, until a picture of the animal shines through. The trail is about 500 metres long.

Gail’s family has a long history with the place. Her grandfather worked on the cemetery and lived in the Clock House for a peppercorn rent. Gail visited him as a child, but did not see herself in his shoes until years later, when she saw the building was now abandoned, derelict – and for sale.

In 2008 she bought it with her partner Rob and founded the Friends of Philips Park Cemetery. A statement from the group says the cemetery had been a “no-go-area” full of crime and vandalism for a while. Thirteen years later, it is impossible to walk an inch on the path around the gravestones without coming across her work.

With the support of the twelve group members and over thirty volunteers, Gail refurbished the Jewish section and added 96 missing markers, “so everybody has got one now.” She placed a crucified Jesus in the foundation of a former chapel in the Catholic section. The remains of another chapel now contain a memorial garden with an ashes scheme. Together with local historians and experts, Gail has set up memorial stones for workers who died in the Bradford Pit or in service of the nearby fire station.

Of course, the work is never done. On a tour through the 43 acres of the cemetery, Gail points out all the small and big jobs left to do: Jesus needs washing, summer flowers need planting, the patch around a water tap needs to be redone. How many hours does she put into this alongside her full-time work for the NHS? She laughs: “A good few.”

Apart from time and dedication, these projects need funding. Gail says the Rainbow Garden cost £8,000, the butterfly statue £500. A small amount of money comes in through donations and events, but the main source of income is council grants. In 2011, Friends of Philips Park Cemetery received £50,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund, which made a lot of changes possible.

Money makes the work go on: The difficulty of getting funding

STEP UP FOR BRAD AND BES NEWS AND PHILIPS PARK

Read more on the story by heading to Brad and Bes News on Facebook or joining the Friends of Philips Park Cemetery Facebook group.
Manchester Settlement has also opened a new community gallery space within the new Roundhouse Community Hub.

The gallery space is available for the display of a new community art projects every month. Groups can contact Manchester Settlement about hosting an exhibition or arts project free of charge, along with a having a launch event in the Settlement’s café space.

The first exhibition has been provided by Ensemble Manchester who promote education in all aspects of French African culture. Ensemble’s ‘Unity and Community in Football’ project received Heritage Lottery Funding to educate the young African people, especially those of Cameroonian origin, into the rich history and culture of Cameroon. In order to do this, they decided to focus on the Cameroonian football which received international attention following the relative success of its National Football Team, known as the Indomitable Lions.

The New Roundhouse can also provide spaces for the development and delivery of community activities. Established and new community groups focusing upon food, culture, education, wellbeing, crafts exercise and much more are currently working from the centre.

Thanks to the work of incredible local volunteers, the Roundhouse Pantry in Openshaw has been supporting over 350 people every week since it opened the doors this year!

The Roundhouse Pantry is a food membership project supporting families in Openshaw with a full weekly shop for a fraction of the cost.

Food parcels include fresh fruit and veg, bread, milk, cereal, canned food, meats. Food parcels can be changed to suit dietary requirements on request. Other necessary items may be available such as toiletries, nappies, or household supplies.

Parcels with five days of food are priced at:
- £5 for single person
- £10 for a family of 3
- £15 for a family of up to 6
- £20 for a family of 6+

The Roundhouse Pantry is now accepting more families to sign up for weekly food parcels. To find out more, visit www.manchester-settlement.org.uk

STEP UP FOR THE ROUNDBOUSE PANTRY

The volunteers at the Pantry are seeking more drivers to help them continue their brilliant work. To become part of the volunteer team, head to manchester-settlement.org.uk/about-us/join-our-team

Manchester Settlement
Roundhouse Pantry

Call 0161 9741300
1328-1330, Ashton Old Road, Manchester, M11 1JG

New Community Gallery Space at the Roundhouse

Volunteer Drivers Wanted

Distributing Food Parcels to Families in North East Manchester

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS
Healthy Me Healthy Communities (HMHC) has successfully applied for funding from Manchester City Council to run an 18-month project aimed at supporting older people in the local area. The Older People’s Neighbourhood Support (OPeNS) programme is a Manchester wide initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of our older community members. HMHC have been running an OPeNS programme in Hulme, Moss Side, and Trafford since September 2020 are delighted to be expanding the success of this work into Clayton.

Sam Sin has been recruited as the OPeNS Programme Manager in Clayton to work with residents to create new activities and support the development of existing community groups in the local area. Sam says:

“This is a great opportunity for local residents to get involved from the beginning. I can support with training, applying for grant funding, and recruiting and mentoring volunteers who are keen to help too.”

Sam will also be supporting a brand new Community Grocer from The Centre on Barrington Street. The social supermarket is an opportunity for people on local incomes to shop on a budget! Members pay £2.50 and they will leave with a bag of shopping worth around £12. The Community Grocer will also offer affordable toiletries and volunteers will be able to signpost you to support services for issues such as health, finances, housing and wellbeing.

Sam adds “We will be offering basic cookery skills sessions and training opportunities for people to want to work as community food champions. Keep an eye on www.HMHC.co.uk for updates and our social media pages for news on events and opportunities to get involved.”
ThickSkin Theatre and Step Up MCR Present Walk This Play: Monuments

Celebrating the monuments big and small, the people that built the buildings from the ground up and that keep the beating heart of the area alive.

We’re thrilled to have recently launched our audio walking play, Walk This Play: Monuments, produced by the fantastic team at ThickSkin Theatre for audiences in and around Ancoats.

Monuments guides you around the Ancoats cobbles, old and new, asking you not to overlook the buildings and the communities that make the area unique.

The FREE audio play launched on Sunday 30th May at Cutting Room Square in Ancoats. We were accompanied by wonderful partners- including ThickSkin, Canal & River Trust, Buzzin’ Sounds Recording Studio, The Wellbeing Bistro, and The Resonance Centre.

ThickSkin joined us with live music, a photo gallery of Ancoats, and a recorded dance piece featuring locations from around the walk. We also had some fantastic food thanks to The Wellbeing Bistro and The Resonance Centre.

Monuments is still available until October 2021. Simply download the ECHOES app, plug in your headphones and press play.
Calling Local Businesses

Step Up for Ancoats & Beswick and Clayton & Openshaw

There are lots of ways your business can make a meaningful contribution to the local community— from volunteering time, lending skills, and donating or loaning goods and services.

If your business has the skills, resources, knowledge or space to give to community-led projects, complete our online form and we’ll match you to the perfect project.

Just head to: www.stepupmcr.org/business

Principal Partners

We are seeking Principal Partners to regularly support Step Up’s activities. By becoming a Principal Partner, you can help us build a sustainable place based giving model that gives more power to communities.

In return for supporting us, we can offer:

– A co-ordinated and efficient way of giving locally
– Partnerships and networking opportunities
– Brand promotion through our newspaper, website and social channels
– Monitoring the impact of business investments in the community
– Training for your staff to get involved as local mentors

Get in touch to arrange a chat:

📧 hello@stepupmcr.org
Join the Step Up MCR tribe and help your community thrive!

There are infinite ways we can all use our energy, skills and resources to benefit the community.

Get in touch if you’d like to support a local project by giving your time, skills, knowledge- or anything else!

✉️ hello@stepupmcr.org

Other Ways to Give

Our community fundraising campaigns need your support, but you can also help us from home!

Raise FREE donations for Step Up MCR every time you shop online through easyfundraising. Head to easyfundraising.org.uk and search Step Up MCR to donate as you shop.