



Press release

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Northwards announces its charity of the year!

Northwards Housing has named its first ever charity of the year. The housing provider, which manages 13,500 homes in north Manchester, has chosen the Lalley Centre in Collyhurst to support in 2013.

The Lalley Centre is run by straight-talking nun Sister Rita Lee, a qualified and licensed social worker. With a heart-of-gold, Sister Rita provides a helping hand in the heart of Collyhurst, giving one-to-one advice and employment support. The centre also acts as a food bank, distributing much needed help to families in the area. It currently provides around 400 food parcels every month.

Northwards staff voted for the Lalley Centre as their charity of the year after a number of local charities were shortlisted. Money raised from any staff fun days or dress down days will be donated to the centre throughout the year.

Northwards will also be able to help by organising NICE (Northwards Improving Communities and Environment) days to help Sister Rita and her staff. Every employee at Northwards is allowed one day off work every year to volunteer at an event in north Manchester. Previous events have included painting and decorating and mentoring.

The Lalley Centre also acts as a work club and gives support to those looking for employment. Northwards will be able to provide work experience and training to those affected.

Sue Ratchford, chair of the Northwards Housing board, said: "At Northwards, we want to support all our communities to be successful. The Lalley Centre is an invaluable resource in north Manchester and we want to support it to be the best it can be.

"Staff at Northwards picked the Lalley Centre out of a number of local charities, which goes to show how well-respected it is."

Sister Rita said: "I am over the moon that Northwards Housing has selected us to be its charity of the year. It is a great honour to be part of an organisation that is so proactive in north Manchester to create positive neighbourhoods for residents.

"Even before the 2013 partnership, Northwards has always been extremely helpful to the Lalley Centre. From donating food and household goods to leading advice sessions with clients to pitching in to set up our new one-stop-shop, Northwards have always been happy, eager and willing to donate so much positive energy to support local people through our centre.



“I am truly grateful and cannot wait to see what this year has in store and the good we can do together in Manchester.”

ENDS

Photo caption: From left Greig Lees, head of regeneration at Northwards, with Sister Rita Lee and Lucy Powell MP.

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