

HOME-START THANET calls out for votes to bag a share of Tesco's bag

Home-Start Thanet is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores awarded to local community projects.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

HOME-START THANET one of the groups on the shortlist.

Based in Broadstairs, we have supported Thanet families for over 30 years by providing a free home visiting service for a wide range of issues that impact parents and their children. A large part of our work is focused on health and well-being, plus empowering parents to grow in confidence and skills to cope with the demands that our children throw at us.

Being a parents is a joy but there are times that a little bit of support and guidance by either one of our staff or a trained Volunteer makes all the difference. We provide weekly visits, where trust and friendship can be built as we support parents to improve family routines, gain new skills in dealing with challenging behaviours and provide a bespoke package of support to improve social and educational development for their children. This has a proven benefit as children prepare to start school or nursery. We understand at Home-Start that the children of today will be the parents of tomorrow!

Are you thinking of volunteering?

We also open our doors to local people who may want to give a few hours a week to make an ongoing difference to other families, so we run regular volunteer induction programmes which offers a robust

training giving you new skills which are then transferable for education or paid employment at a later stage.

Quotes from parents.

“Getting out of the house was hard work, I’ve got depression and anxiety and my son has special needs. His behaviour is unpredictable and he has meltdowns, so it was easier to stay at home. My Home-Start Volunteer has a child with special needs too so she really understands what I am going through and this has meant the world to me. She helped us get out and take him swimming, she was so supportive.”

“Before Home-Start I was always down, I was isolated and wanted to stay indoors. I was around children all the time and needed adult company. Home-Start understand what I am going through. They are helpful, friendly and supportive and it’s good to have another adult to speak to, it’s really built up my confidence.”

Voting is open in all Tesco stores throughout March and April. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

Tesco’s Bags of Help project has already delivered over £43 million to more than 10,000 projects up and down the UK. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups every time they shop. Every other month, when votes are collected, three groups in each of Tesco’s regions will be awarded funding.

Alec Brown, Head of Community at Tesco, said:

“We are absolutely delighted to open the voting for March and April. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists and we can’t wait to see these come to life in hundreds of communities.”

Groundwork’s National Chief Executive, Graham Duxbury, said:

“We’ve been thrilled to see the diversity of projects that have applied for funding, ranging from outdoor classrooms, sports facilities, community gardens, play areas and everything in between.

“We’re looking forward to learning the results of the customer vote and then supporting each group to bring their project to life.”

Funding is available to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Bags of Help initiative is supported by money raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores.
- So far Bags of Help has awarded £43 million to over 10,000 community projects.
- For more information please visit: www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.