



2024 Half-Year NEWSLETTER



Caring and Sharing Rochdale: Spreading Hope, One Act at a Time!

Dear Friends,

Greetings and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, where we share the most recent news, stories, and opportunities to positively impact our community. With your support, we can keep giving hope, love, and compassion to those who mostly need it.



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Who We Are & What We Do

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Caring and Sharing Rochdale is a Not-For-Profit organization that was established in 2017, dedicated to supporting and empowering migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups within Rochdale Borough (and beyond).



Our mission is to empower marginalized groups by building a Stronger and more Inclusive community through the transformative power of kindness and support. As an organization, we are very keen on creating opportunities for marginalized individuals and groups to thrive, hence we have developed a number of initiatives, activities and programs that are tailored to the needs of each individual.

These include:

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1. Community Support Services

We provide food parcels, supermarket vouchers, and hot meals to individuals and families in need.

We distribute clothing, toiletries, and other essential items to those in need of financial assistance.

2. Education and Skills Development

a. We offer an arts & crafts program called “**Creative Connections**” that is held **every Monday by 10:30 am**. This class equips individuals with artistic





skills (such as sketching, shading, drawing, painting, crocheting, sculpting, knitting), crafts skills (such as creating candles, home decor, bead making, wire works, paper mache) etc.

Some benefits of our arts & crafts class include:

- Encouraging creativity and individual expression through personalized projects.
- Developing fine motor skills.
- Cultural awareness and appreciation.
- Enhancing mental well-being and reducing stress and anxiety.
- Improving social skills and fostering community building.

b. We offer ICT classes for those who have little to no knowledge of digital technology, teaching them the fundamentals of computers and how to use office productivity tools like Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. In addition, they learn how to set up and maintain their email accounts and navigate computer browsers. They also pick up the skill of applying for jobs online. These classes are held every Monday from 12:30pm - 2:00pm.



c. We also offer English speaking classes that help sharpen each individual's speaking, listening, reading and writing skills as well as their vocabulary and grammar, helping them build confidence and imbibe social etiquette. These classes are held **every Thursday from 11:00pm - 1:00pm.**



d. We offer numeracy classes and workshops to improve basic literacy and arithmetic skills, helping participants gain confidence, practical knowledge and enhance employability.

3. Health and Wellbeing Initiatives

A. We offer mental health counselling and support, led by well-trained mental health counsellors, to promote mental wellness and emotional resilience.

B. We also conduct workshops on topics such as nutrition, fitness, and general health awareness.

Our women well-being workshop is held every **Wednesday by 11:00pm - 1:00pm.**

Our elderly befriending group session also holds on the **first Tuesday of every month**



4. Family and Child Services

We organize parenting workshops and provide resources to help parents and caregivers support their children's development.

We engage young people in educational and recreational activities that promote personal growth and community involvement.

5. Community Engagement and Advocacy

a. Volunteering opportunities are available for community members who want to participate in various activities and promote a cooperative spirit. If you're interested in volunteering, **you can stop by our office, give us a call, or get in touch with us via any of our social media channels.**

b. We also partner with local authorities and organizations to address community issues and advocate for the needs of vulnerable people.



6. Events and Outreach

A. We host events such as community fairs, cultural celebrations, and informational seminars to bring people together and promote social cohesion. These include our: Africa Day, Black History Month, Womanhood celebration and Couples' Night celebrations among many others.

B. We reach out to marginalized and isolated individuals to ensure they receive the support and services they need. Our first major outreach was the Covid-19 lockdown outreach in 2020 where we distributed food parcels, groceries, and toiletries to over 700 households for 1 year.



Half-Year Activities What We Have Been Up To !



1. Weston Charity Awards In Collaboration with Pilotlight

We are thrilled to announce that our organization has been honored with the prestigious Weston Award. This recognition is a testament to our dedicated efforts and impactful work in the community. As a charity organization committed to making a difference, receiving the Weston Award highlights the significant strides we have made in achieving our mission and inspires us to continue our important work with renewed vigor and dedication.

2. Couples' Night

On **February 16th**, in honour of Valentine's Day, we hosted an amazing Couples' Night Celebration event. The evening was filled with love, laughter, and great memories. Couples enjoyed a romantic setting with great décor, delightful music, and a carefully selected dinner.

The evening included enjoyable games, meaningful toasts, and a dance floor where couples shared memorable moments. It was a lovely evening spent celebrating love and making lasting memories.



3. Womanhood Celebration

We organised a colourful Womanhood Celebration on **March 23rd** to commemorate International Women's Day. The event honoured the strength, accomplishments, and contributions of women from all spheres of society. Attendees were inspired by empowering speeches delivered by influential women leaders. The event also included a showcase of

women-owned businesses and opportunities for networking and community building. It was a powerful and uplifting evening dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the essence of womanhood.



4. HAF Holiday Activities

In **April 2024**, we hosted a series of exciting holiday activities for Kids, providing a fun and engaging experience for children during their school break. The program included various activities such as arts and crafts, outdoor games, interactive storytelling sessions, and educational workshops. Children had the opportunity to explore their creativity, develop new skills, and make new friends in a safe and joyful environment. The event was a delightful success, leaving the kids with wonderful memories of their holiday adventures.



5. Africa Day

On May 23, 2024, we proudly celebrated Africa Day, honoring the rich culture, heritage, and unity of the African continent. The event featured vibrant performances, traditional music, and dance that showcased the diverse cultures of Africa. Attendees enjoyed various art exhibitions and storytelling sessions that highlighted the continent's history and contributions to the world. The celebration also included inspiring speeches and discussions on the importance of unity and progress in Africa. It was a joyous and enlightening day, celebrating the spirit and beauty of Africa.



6. Visitation from Ghanaian Delegates

We had the privilege of having a team from Ghana visit our organization on **June 13, 2024**. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for cross-cultural exchange and collaboration. The Ghanaian delegates engaged in insightful discussions with our team, exploring mutual interests and sharing best practices. The activities for the day included a thorough tour of our facilities, lectures on our projects, and interactive sessions focused on building partnerships.



7. CAS Project Showcase

Our organization's innovative and impactful work from the first half of the year was proudly showcased at our annual Projects' Showcase on **June 25, 2024**. The event featured a series of presentations, interactive exhibits, and demonstrations of our key projects. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with project leaders, learn about our achievements, and see firsthand the positive changes we are making in the community. The showcase was a lively and informative event, celebrating the hard work and dedication of our team and served as a source of inspira-



8. Refugee Week

During Refugee Week, we partnered with Sheba Arts to host diverse events celebrating refugees' resilience and contributions to the community. These included art exhibitions, live performances, storytelling sessions, and interactive workshops. These cultural activities fostered empathy and creativity, reinforcing our commitment to supporting and uplifting refugee communities.





Volunteer Spotlight: Appreciating Kazy

Our volunteers at Caring and Sharing Rochdale are the foundation of our organization. Their relentless passion and selfless dedication allow us to reach out and truly impact our communities. In this edition, we are thrilled to shine the spotlight on one such extraordinary individual: Kazy.

A True Community Champion

Ever since he joined our volunteer team two years ago, Kazy has been a pillar of support. His passion to give back to the community he loves led him to start Caring and Sharing Rochdale. We had no idea at the time how big of an impact he would have.

Kazy has stood out from the beginning due to his excitement and readiness to take on any challenge. Whether he's giving food packages, setting of the space for workshops or just lending a sympathetic ear to someone in need, Kazy takes great pride and care in all he does. He is well-liked by volunteers and recipients alike because of his positive attitude and reliability.

One of Kazy's standout contributions has been his leadership in our weekly Food Distribution Program. Under his guidance, this program has expanded significantly, reaching more families and ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry. Kazy's organizational skills and ability to inspire fellow volunteers have been instrumental in this success.

When asked about his experience, Kazy said, "Volunteering with Caring and Sharing Rochdale has been incredibly rewarding. Seeing the smiles on people's faces and knowing that you've made a difference in their lives is a feeling like no other. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this wonderful community."

We are profoundly grateful to Kazy for his invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication. His hard work and generosity are a source of inspiration to us all. As we publish our half year newsletter, we couldn't think of a more fitting individual to honor.

Thank you for being an inspiration to us all!

Join Us in Celebrating Kazy

We invite all our readers to join us in celebrating Kazeem's remarkable achievements. If you see Kazy at our next event, be sure to say hello and thank him for his incredible work. Together, we can continue to build a caring and supportive community.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday

- Creative Connections
(10:30am-12:30pm)
- ICT Session
(12:30pm-2pm)

Tuesday

- Tea & Chat
(10:30am-12:30pm)
- Adult Befriending Group Sessions
(11am - 1pm, every first Tuesday of the month)

Wednesday

- Women Workshop - Well-being, Ladies Exercise, and Mental Health
(11am-1pm)

Thursday

- Refugees and Asylum Seekers Drop-In
(11am-2pm)
- ESOL Class
(11am - 1pm)

Friday

- Numeracy Skills Empowerment Class
(12pm - 2pm)
- Girl's Sessions
(3pm - 5pm)

Saturday

- Friends of Shamwari Monthly Socials
(1:30pm - 3pm)
- Men's Session
(1pm - 2pm)

Upcoming Activities

Summer Holiday Activities For Kids
July 30, 2024 - August 23, 2024

Collaborate for Change Conference
September 12, 2024

Black History Month Celebration
October 24, 2024

Staff and Volunteer EOY Party
December 2024





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Ways to Get Involved

You can support our mission by:

Donating: Your contribution enables us to continue our vital work in the community. Visit [this link](#) to make a donation today.

Volunteering: Join us in spreading kindness and making a positive impact. Visit [this link](#) to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

Spreading the Word: Follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#)) and share our posts to raise awareness about our cause.

To Get Involved



Scan Here

Partner Spotlight:

We are grateful for the support of our partners who share our commitment to making a difference. This month, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mama Health and Poverty Partnership, Friends of Shamwari, Rochdale Town Hall, National Lottery] for their continued collaboration and generosity.



Sporting=Equals



Adult Learning
Within Reach



Stay Connected:

Keep up-to-date with our latest news and initiatives by reading our newsletters. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Caring and Sharing Rochdale mission. Together, we are making our community a better place for all.