



# UNITAS UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

ROBIN MOSS

As I reflect on Unitas' amazing achievements in 2023, I have two overriding feelings. The first is pride in our incredible young people. Their talents, care for one another and inspiring resilience is a true showcase of the impact of Unitas' work. The second is gratitude to everyone who contributes to Unitas. Our donors power everything we do, our staff and volunteers are totally focused on our young people and our partners locally and nationally enrich our offer in so many ways.

In November 2023, our Trustees selected Stuart Levy to take over from Keith Black as Chairman in February 2024. Keith's total dedication to Unitas, which he has chaired since 2016, has driven Unitas before opening and ever since. In the next Quarterly Update, we will pay tribute to Keith, and I look forward to working closely with Stuart.

Finally, you should have been invited to our first impact dinner, 'Uniquely Unitas', on Thursday 8 February. I look forward to welcoming many of you for what promises to be a very special evening. If you have not yet told us you can attend, or have any questions, please do get in touch.

**Unitas**  
An OnSide Youth Zone

### ANNOUNCEMENT

To support our young people through the winter months, Unitas will provide a free hot meal for every young person on session over the next 3 months!



**ICG**

*For the second year in a row, we are delighted to have received specific funding to offer all young people on every session a free hot meal throughout December, January and February*

# 2023 IN NUMBERS

JAN-DEC 2023

**37,592**  
TOTAL ATTENDANCES

OPEN FOR MORE THAN

**1800**

HOURS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(THATS **50%** MORE THAN SCHOOLS!)

**4897**

FREE MEALS PROVIDED

**72%**

OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE  
ARE FROM THE 50% MOST  
DEPRIVED HOUSEHOLDS IN ENGLAND

**1432**

VISITS TO OUR SUNDAY MORNING  
LIMITLESS SEND PROVISION

**45%**

INCREASE IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE  
ON LIMITLESS SESSIONS

**1784**

VISITS TO OUR COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS

**2920**

TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT HOLIDAY  
CLUB OVER THE SIX SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

**559**

FREE PLACES ON HOLIDAY CLUB  
PROVIDED THROUGH HAF

**350**

TOTAL SESSIONS OPEN IN 2023

# SPOTLIGHT ON A JACK PETCHEY WINNER

ZUZANNA - JUNIORS



Zuzanna is a Junior member and we'd like to celebrate her achievement in winning a Jack Petchey Award for the enthusiasm and kindness she shows at Unitas.

Our youth workers explained why they nominated Zuzanna. "She is a fantastic team player who helps new members settle in. She helps staff clean up after sessions and she gets involved in all activities."

The Jack Petchey Award provides a £300 grant for young people to spend within the organisation they win the award through. Zuzanna chose to spend the £300 award on new equipment for the Health and Wellbeing room (her favourite room at Unitas), and a trip for her and her Unitas friends to visit Kidzania.

Zuzanna talked to us about her journey at Unitas, "When I first started Unitas, I was really shy and I felt closed off because I didn't know anyone. Now I've made good friends here, it's a really fun place to go to and spend time with them. I felt excited that I won a Jack Petchey award because it made me feel special."

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 2023

This was Unitas' second time hosting a Black History Month community event. There were over 200 people in attendance. We had several activities, including three different inflatables for the young people, which they are always excited about. Many young people and staff showed off their talents and proudly performed during the event. Some of our young people also recited poems. We invited African drummers and Ghanaian traditional dancers to perform the Adowa dance. We had a range of performances from steel pan playing to a fashion show where young people came dressed up and represented their countries.

We were honoured to have the Mayor of Barnet attend the event, along with several local Councillors and Unitas Trustees. It was a day of embracing and celebrating black culture within our local community.

This was a really successful event for Unitas, showcasing our rich diversity and we were grateful our community attended and showed their support.



# VISITING THE GROVE

OCTOBER 2023

AMBITIONS EVENT

Thank you to The Grove hotel in Watford for hosting an insightful day into hospitality and generously providing our young people with the opportunity to design and create the perfect dessert, which will be served at our 'Uniquely Unitas' fundraising dinner in February.

The day trip allowed our young people to learn the art of hospitality, tuck into an array of Michelin-star desserts, and enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea. Our young people were also shown first-hand the art of pastry and dessert making.

We at Unitas would like to give a big thank you to The Grove for this amazing opportunity for our young people. Thank you for the warm welcome and the parting gifts.

If you are interested in supporting our employability work by mentoring a young person or arranging a trip to your place of work, please contact Vernon Douglas (Employability Coordinator) ([vernon.douglas@unitasyouthzone.org](mailto:vernon.douglas@unitasyouthzone.org)).



# WINTER WONDERLAND

DECEMBER 2023

On 9 December, Unitas Youth Zone held the second edition of Winter Wonderland, an open community event to celebrate the festive season. Unitas' Winter Wonderland opened its doors for four fun-filled hours and we welcomed 607 visitors of all ages and abilities.

Our youth workers were busy filling every space and room with Christmas-themed fun activities for young people; the sensory room was re-imagined into Santa's Grotto where young people could have their picture taken as well as collect a gift on their way out; and the Rec area was buzzing with stalls, games, and food. The event was a successful send-off of a year filled with great events.



# CELEBRATING CULTURAL FESTIVITIES



## DIWALI

On the 9 November, we celebrated the festival of Diwali. Priti, Sapna and Bhavika (three of our office team) hosted the event, the first of its kind at Unitas!

There was an array of Indian street food and Diwali fried snacks for all staff to enjoy. The activities at the event included henna art, rangoli and a sari-wrapping competition.

It was very special for the staff at Unitas to get to share their Diwali celebrations, get all staff involved and feel invited to express their religious and cultural identities.



## CHANUKKAH

Barnet has the UK's largest Jewish population, and our CEO Robin is Jewish. He was proud to share his religious and cultural traditions with the team in December for Chanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. He lit the Chanukkah candles, shared the story of the festival and then everyone tucked into sufganiyot (donuts) and chocolate coins!



Unitas Youth Zone  
76 Montrose Avenue  
Edgware  
HA8 0DT



An OnSide Youth Zone

[www.unitasyouthzone.org](http://www.unitasyouthzone.org)  
[enquiries@unitasyouthzone.org](mailto:enquiries@unitasyouthzone.org)

Registered charity number 1173239  
Company number 10445685