



# UNITAS UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE  
JANUARY - MARCH 2025



## TRANSFORMING FUTURES

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

MICAH JORRISCH

Everyone at Unitas believes that youth services aren't just "nice to have", they're vital. Thanks to you - our brilliant supporters, donors, and Champions - we've continued to show just how powerful a consistent, safe space can be. From heartfelt Valentine's messages about self-worth to confidence around exploring options for our young people to succeed, the past three months have reminded us of something simple yet profound: when young people know they belong, they thrive.

In March, Unitas proudly joined forces with the other three OnSide Youth Zones for the London Without Limits crowdfunder - raising over £650,000 across the capital! Your donations directly help us keep our doors open for the 3,000+ young people who walk through them each year, providing everything from hot meals to mental health support to career inspiration. With so many youth clubs lost to funding cuts, your belief in our mission makes a world of difference. Thank you.

And it's not just about numbers (though those are impressive too - over 34,000 visits a year and rising!). It's about people. From our Inclusion Coordinator Aaron Paul championing our amazing Limitless programme, to the girls who found confidence on International Women's Day, to our young members discovering their voices, passions, and power. Together, we're not only empowering young people, we're transforming futures.

I hope you enjoy this quarterly update, it's packed with heart, impact and a whole lot of hope. Thank you for being part of the Unitas story.

If you'd like to talk to me more about our work or how you can get involved, please contact me:  
[micah.jorrisch@unitasyouthzone.org](mailto:micah.jorrisch@unitasyouthzone.org)



# UNITAS UNITES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

## LONDON WITHOUT LIMITS

When young people  
know they belong, they  
thrive

For 36 hours at the start of March, Unitas joined forces with three other OnSide Youth Zones across London – Legacy (Croydon), WEST (Hammersmith and Fulham), and Future (Barking and Dagenham) – for the remarkable London Without Limits Crowdfunder.

**The campaign raised an incredible £651,787 to support thousands of young people across the capital. Unitas alone raising over £250,000!**

Since 2019, London's OnSide Youth Zones have supported over 32,000 young people, but continued support is essential to keep these crucial services running. With 30% of London's youth clubs closing between 2010 and 2019 due to cuts in local authority funding, the role of Youth Zones has never been more important.

Here in North London, Unitas Youth Zone has been a beacon for over 3,000 young people each year, offering a safe, inspiring space where they can access life-changing opportunities, from creative arts and sports to mentoring and mental health support.



During the event, we collectively managed to raise a staggering

**£651,787**

However, after the event, the donations kept coming - and we saw the final total reach £686,272!

Micah Jorrisch, Director of Fundraising at Unitas, said:

"We are delighted by the generosity of our donors and the incredible dedication of our Champions, whose efforts have made the London Without Limits crowdfunder such a success. Their support will go a long way in ensuring that young people across London, and especially here in North London, continue to have access to life-changing opportunities."

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our Champions for committing to fundraising for Unitas, as well as all our generous donors. Because of you, we can continue providing vital support, opportunities, and activities that make a real difference in young people's futures. Your contributions help keep our doors open for every young person who needs us.



# Empowering young people, transforming futures

As the largest provider of youth services in North London, we believe every young person deserves a safe place to belong, explore their potential and build a brighter future.

We recently launched our 2024 Impact Report - a celebration of the lives we've helped shape, the futures we've helped inspire and the difference we've made together.

## Our impact in numbers

3,170

Young people  
experienced Unitas

34,559

Total visits

1,371

New members

2,913

Holiday Club  
attendances



That's 50% more  
than schools



Free hot meals  
provided over  
winter



Volunteer hours, a  
value of £47,250



With thousands of young people walking through our doors each year, we provide not just activities but a foundation for growth, resilience, and success. You can read the full report [HERE](#).

## Speaking of impact....

**On Thursday 30 January, Unitas was honoured as Community Charity of the Year at The Barnet Group Community Awards!**

This is Unitas' second win in three years. This award reflects our impact across Barnet, providing a safe, inspiring space for over 3,000 young people annually to discover new passions, build confidence and feel supported. Through initiatives like Warm Hubs, supporting older residents with Age UK and Cadent, and DALO sessions for adults with learning difficulties, we create inclusive spaces for meaningful connections and opportunities for all. At a time when youth services face increasing challenges, this recognition underscores the vital role of Unitas in strengthening communities and shaping brighter futures.



# MOMENTS THAT MATTERED AT UNITAS

## Valentine's Day: Love Yourself Edition

Feb 14 2025



Roses are red, violets are blue, I love myself, and I hope you do too.

Valentine's Day was the perfect moment to remind our young people that the most important love is the one you give yourself.

Our "Love Yourself" event focused on self-worth, confidence, and gentle self-reflection. The youth zone was filled with positivity, music, and heartwarming energy as they enjoyed activities like vision boards, card making, and sweet treats.

The room buzzed with laughter, light, and lots of pink! We saw young people uplift one another, try new things, and leave with more love for the person they see in the mirror.



## Real Talk, Real Futures: Careers Q&A

Feb 13 2025



Planning your next steps after school can be exciting, confusing, and sometimes overwhelming. That's why we hosted a Careers Q&A event, where a panel of our brilliant staff shared their journeys and the many paths available after school.

From university and apprenticeships to jumping straight into the workforce, the panel kept it real. They openly shared their highs, setbacks, and everything in between. It wasn't just about careers, it was about confidence, trusting yourself, exploring options, and knowing that there's more than one way to succeed.

## International Women's Day

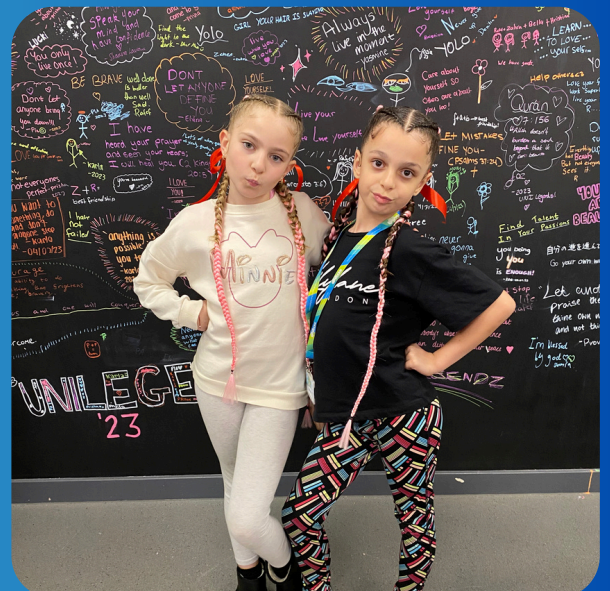
Mar 08 2025



We celebrated International Women's Day with an inspiring, girls-only event to honour and uplift the young women in our community.

With fun, empowering activities like sip and paint, dance, baking and more, we created a safe space where they could be themselves. We even reached out to young women in the nearby park - and the response was amazing.

To every young woman who showed up and believed in herself a little more, we see you, we love you, and we're always cheering you on.





# Get to know Aaron

**What inspired you to become the Inclusion Coordinator at Unitas, and what drives your passion for supporting young people with additional needs?**

I have Cerebral Palsy, Hemiplegia. My lived experience with CP has made me passionate about working with young people with additional needs. Having a first-hand understanding for SEND drives my eagerness to ensure Unitas is a welcoming place for our young people of all needs.

**Can you share a memorable moment or success story from your time leading the Limitless Club?**

A memorable experience was leading the Limitless Holiday Club that had the highest numbers on session since Unitas's opening. To see the growth of Limitless in the last six months has been great to see and long may it continue.

**How has your personal journey with Cerebral Palsy shaped your approach to creating inclusive spaces at Unitas?**

When I look back at my own journey with CP, I think back to the importance of community, not just for myself, but for my mother. It is easy to forget that for many parents are learning how to work well with their children's diagnosis and acknowledging how isolating that can be is crucial. For parents, an inclusive space like Unitas, can be a place of not only for respite, but somewhere parents get to connect with other parents who may be going through similar situations.



Limitless is our dedicated space for young people with additional needs, and under the care of Inclusion Coordinator Aaron Paul, its membership grew by 18% in 2024. Aaron's unwavering commitment to members, families, and carers helps create a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment.

Aaron continues to challenge perceptions—completing ultra-marathons and leading awareness campaigns during Cerebral Palsy Month this March. His resilience and positivity are a driving force behind Limitless.

Thanks to Aaron's leadership, Limitless is more than a programme. It's a place where all young people are celebrated and supported to thrive.



 **babyzone**

**Ages 0-5**



**Calling all parents and carers with little ones! Join us every Thursday from 9.30am–2.30pm (term time only) at Unitas for Babyzone**

**A free and welcoming space full of play, learning and connection. Enjoy soft play, baby first aid, music sessions and more, delivered by a wonderful team who know how to make babies giggle and parents feel supported.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



PRESENTS THE

# UNITAS ABC AND FINCHLEY ABC BOXING SHOW

## SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY

UNITAS BARNET YOUTH ZONE  
76 MONTROSE AVENUE, EDGWARE HA8 0DT



WEIGH IN: 11:00 | DOORS OPEN 12:30 | BOXING STARTS: 13:00



UNDER 16: £5  
ADULTS: £20  
CASH ONLY



[WWW.UNITASYOUTHZONE.ORG](http://WWW.UNITASYOUTHZONE.ORG)