



Young People
and Children First

National Trustee Week, 2022

Story of a trustee: Margaret Bhatt

Our founders Patsy and John Stone met Margaret Bhatt more than 13 years ago which was around the time that they were setting up our charity Young People and Children First. Margaret had a good understanding of fostering as she had been a social worker during her paid working life and she and her husband Ken had an adopted son and daughter. Patsy and had been foster carers for over 20 years, so both families had experience of looking after children with complex issues.

Patsy and John saw a kindred spirit in Margaret and recognised and valued her wealth of experience so, it became very clear that Margaret would be a perfect Trustee.

With Margaret a part of a strong and determined team of trustees, the charity opened its first house for 16-25 year old care leavers called 'Cornerstone'.

Margaret said 'In those early days, a trustee had a very 'hands on' role and each young resident was linked with a trustee. I spent a lot of 1:1 time with residents, supporting and helping them. I found it so rewarding when some of the those young people went on to University or to a career'.

Naturally as the charity grew all roles, including Margaret's, changed. Support workers were employed and took over the 1:1 support of the young residents. A CEO was brought in to take over the everyday running of the charity from Patsy and John. We employ a fundraiser, an office manager, 3 support workers, a head of support services and 3 live-in supervisors.

We are so fortunate to include in our team 2 patrons and 7 wonderful trustees. Each one generously giving us their guidance, support and an area of expertise.

It is impossible to quantify the impact that Margaret has had on the lives of the young people that have been supported by our charity over the last 13 years. Her experience, her time, her generosity and kindness are admired by us all.

Now, especially during National Trustee Week 2022, we would like to thank all of our trustees for helping us to continue providing the level of service that our founders provided all those years ago.

*read more about Patsy and John's story [here](#)