

Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report
September 2024 - August 2025



EQUILIBRIUM
FOUNDATION

Contents

Introduction	3
Making people's lives better	4
Breakdown of sectors	5
How we made a difference	6
Epic endeavours	8
Team charity days	9
Community support team	10
A look ahead	12



Introduction from Sarah Warburton



This year has been a truly remarkable one for The Equilibrium Foundation, defined by generosity, teamwork, and an extraordinary level of support from our clients and colleagues.

Our Christmas Lunches raised a record £20,000, thanks to client donations and the Equilibrium Foundation. The Toy Appeal and The School Coat Charity benefited significantly from this milestone, highlighting the incredible generosity of our community.

We continue to be inspired by the enthusiasm and creativity of our team members. From organising a team-led coffee morning in support of Macmillan, to rolling up their sleeves for team charity volunteer days in the community, their commitment has made a real difference. One of our client managers, Simon Lister and his childhood friend Jon Massey, even swam the English Channel in 12 hours and 1 minute which is truly inspiring.

Every pound raised helps us support the causes and communities that matter most. None of this would be possible without the unwavering generosity of our clients, the passion of our team, and the shared belief that together, we can create meaningful change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Warburton', with a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Warburton

Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

Making people's lives better

£150,923

raised for good causes this year

£1,281,842

raised since 2010

Donations made to over
57 charities

10 x £500

grants were given to local charities as part of our community support scheme



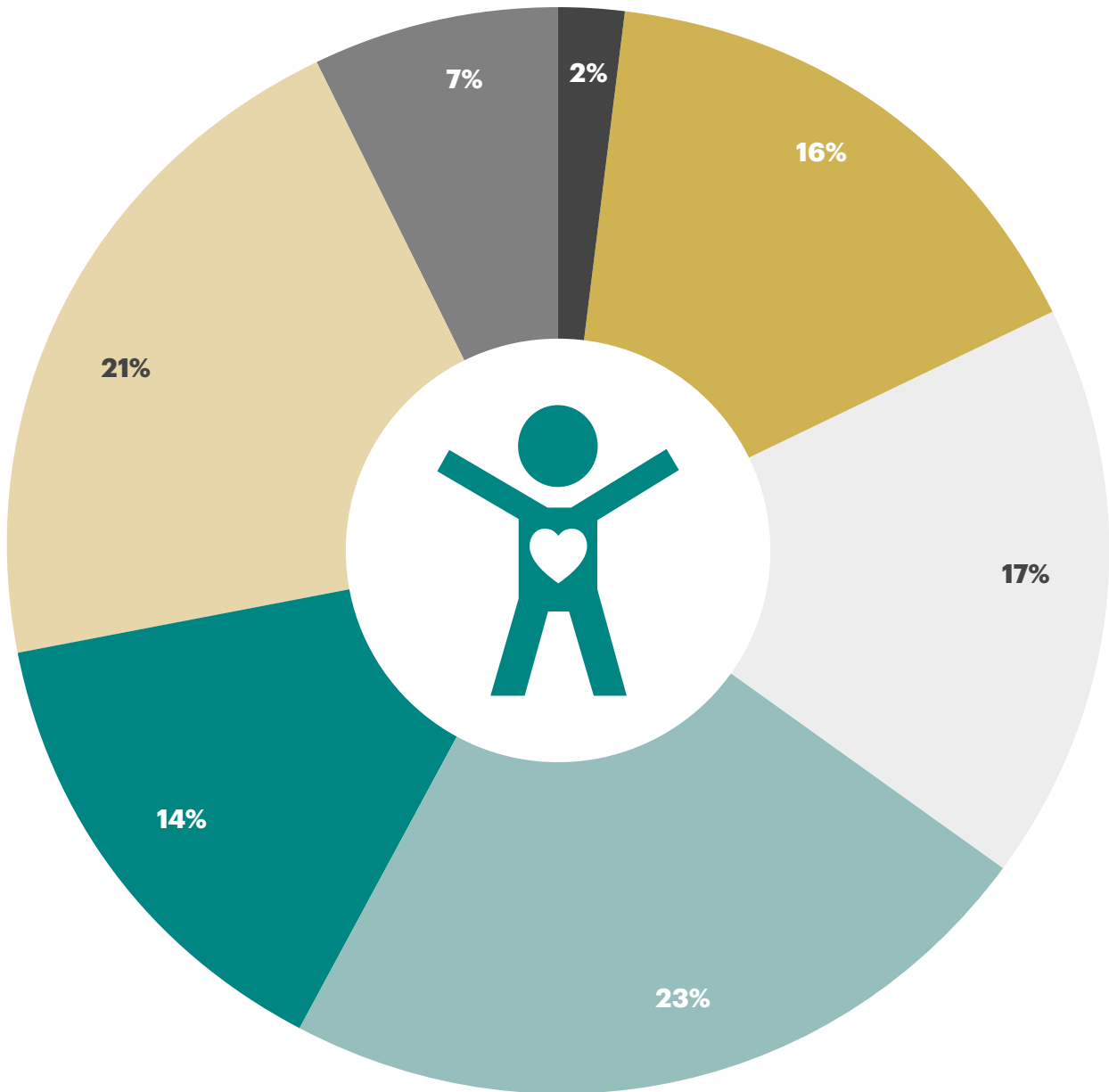
73

charity days were taken by the team

Over 40%

of our team giving through Give As You Earn, securing us Diamond Status again!

Breakdown of sectors



- Animal
- Community
- Education
- Healthcare & research
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Poverty relief
- Sports

How we made a difference

This year, we were privileged to support 57 exceptional charities, each striving to bring about positive change in our community. Here's a snapshot of the difference we've made together:

Championing Youth Potential

RISE UP is a youth employment charity built on lived experience, bold leadership, and a steadfast belief that every young person deserves the chance to achieve independence and success. Their work focuses on supporting 16–30-year-olds furthest from the labour market, including care leavers, those facing mental health challenges, and young people navigating multiple disadvantages.

Roman Dibden, CEO of RISE UP, shared:

“This grant really means the world to us. It’s not just the money – it’s knowing that someone believes in what we’re doing and wants to back us. With this support from Equilibrium, we’ll be able to reach more young people and give them a proper shot at building something better for themselves. We’re buzzing to get started.”



Unlocking Talent

Since 2021, The Equilibrium Foundation has supported **The Bursary Foundation**, who help talented children from underrepresented backgrounds realise their potential.

Beginning with their inaugural group of just 20 students in 2018, we are delighted to support this inspiring initiative alongside other sponsors. We are proud of the part we've played in helping more pupils, who might otherwise miss out, gain admission to leading selective schools across Manchester, Salford, Trafford and, more recently, London, empowering them to thrive academically.

The
Bursary
Foundation
.com

Caring for our elders

Our commitment extends to **Friends of the Elderly**, where our collective generosity has helped reach older people living in difficult circumstances. These grants provide essential items and comfort when it's needed most, improving living standards, enhancing wellbeing, and reducing anxiety and isolation. For many, this support has been truly life-changing.

Yvonne Shearing, Fundraising Manager, said:

"The generosity of our supporters has enabled us to reach older people living in challenging circumstances, providing them with essentials and offering them comfort at a time when they needed it most. We know the grants we distribute are improving living standards, enhancing wellbeing and mental health and reducing anxiety and isolation. For many, this has been life changing. One recent grant recipient told us: 'It feels like all is not lost.'"



Festive Giving

Our client Christmas lunches raised crucial funds for **The Toy Appeal** and **The School Coat Charity**, with client donations matched by the Equilibrium Foundation. This year, we raised £20,000.

The Toy Appeal provides toy sacks to underprivileged children in Manchester and Cheshire, ensuring no child misses out on the joy of Christmas. Beyond financial support, our team volunteered for a charity day, packing thousands of gifts for delivery - a truly rewarding experience that brings hope and happiness to local families.

The School Coat Charity works to alleviate child poverty by providing new school coats to those most in need, ensuring children are warm and cared for throughout the winter months.

Together, these initiatives highlight the tangible impact of our collective efforts, showing how every contribution, from volunteering to fundraising, creates lasting change across our community.



Epic endeavours

supported by The Equilibrium Foundation

Braving the Channel

One of our very own client managers, Simon Lister, and his childhood friend Jon Massey, took on the swim of a lifetime to cross the English Channel. Their journey personified true endurance and an unwavering resolve to never give up, even when faced with formidable challenges. Through grit, determination and teamwork, they achieved their ambitious goal and also shone a light on the importance of perseverance. Their efforts have not only inspired others but also raised an incredible £12,000 for **Andy Man's Club**, helping to support men's wellbeing in our community.



Stride by stride

After running his first marathon at the age of 74 less than four years ago, esteemed client of Equilibrium, Peter Boulton, donned his trainers once again to run the 2025 TCS London Marathon to raise funds for a cause close to his heart, **The Christie**. Peter's preparation was marked by unwavering determination and despite the many hurdles in the lead up to the big race day, he remained positive and steadfast in his mindset. Peter ranked 46th in the 75-79 age category and became a Guinness World Record holder as one of 56,640 finishers on the day. Peter's endeavours raised over £6,000.



Team charity days

At Equilibrium, our unwavering dedication to giving back lies at the very core of our ethos. We proudly underscore this commitment by granting every member of our team three paid days each year to volunteer, enabling them to champion causes close to their hearts and create meaningful change for those in need. Whether team members choose to support a charity they have a personal connection with or join one of the team volunteer days led by our passionate charity champions, every opportunity is tailored to inspire real impact.

This inclusive policy not only nurtures individual engagement and strengthens our community bonds, but also ensures that volunteering is truly accessible to all. By empowering our people to invest their time, talents and enthusiasm, we foster a genuine sense of purpose and unity across the organisation.

Moreover, Equilibrium amplifies the difference made by donating £100 for each employee who volunteers, reinforcing the positive outcome of their contributions. Over the past year, we organised 16 volunteer days supporting 10 distinct charities. In total, we dedicated an impressive 507 hours to voluntary service, demonstrating the powerful ripple effect of collective action.



Community support scheme

Our community support scheme provides grants of up to £500 to charities based in the North West every six months. Here are this year's winners...

Contact

Blackburn Blind Sports

Boaz Trust

Toms Trust

Just Ice-Poynton

Active Hope Ltd

Little Green Sock Project

Elite Community Hub

Her Place Charitable Trust

Mcr Mens Health CIC

Her Place Charitable Trust

"The money donated will go towards supporting families that access our community share hub, that provides school uniform and baby supplies. Our community share hub is expanding and we are always in need of donations."

– Kate Blakemore, CEO



Manchester Men's Health

"This grant enables those that attend to have the chance to develop their creative writing skills, by coming together each week, with others at The Well Being Centre, Old Trafford, Manchester and learning from published writers. The workshops will be accessible to anyone, as the overall aim is to improve health and well being. Many people will benefit from this grant. Thank you so much."

– Tony Sheppard, Lead Practitioner





Elite Community Hub

"We are incredibly grateful to the Equilibrium Foundation for their generous support. Without organisations like them, we wouldn't be able to create the lasting impact we strive for. This grant will enable us to continue and expand our boxing initiatives, equipping our community with the skills and opportunities they need for a brighter future."

- Kallum Wallbank, Project Manager



A look ahead

We look forward to commencing our partnership with The Centre for Social Justice Foundation (CSJ Foundation) because it embodies a shared commitment to empowering grassroots organisations across the North West. The Equilibrium Foundation's strategy of supporting small, community-rooted charities complements the CSJ Foundation's mission to tackle poverty at its source.

Together, we amplify the voices and impact of local groups, ensuring that their real-world insights and achievements inform and influence national policymaking. This approach is especially significant in Greater Manchester and the wider North West, where our deep local connections have demonstrated that small charities are not only able to address immediate community needs, but also drive broader social change. By backing these organisations, we help them deliver essential services, foster long-term opportunities, and ultimately contribute to national reform from the ground up.





EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION

Registered charity number: 1136933

Head Office

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue,
Handforth, Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 3DF

Chester Office

19a Telford Court,
Chester Gates Business Park,
Chester CH1 6LT

0161 486 2250
askus@equilibrium.co.uk
www.equilibrium.co.uk

