Community Stars – Charity Shop

A Helping Hand indeed

To raise funds for its vital work, Hyde & Denton Circuit decided to open a charity shop on Hyde high street in Greater Manchester. Stock is donated by church members and the community, and the shop sells everything from clothing to books and small electrical goods.

One major part of Helping Hand's philosophy is that every item should be low-cost. The shop enables young families to come and buy baby clothes for as little as 30p an item, providing much-needed support to people on low incomes.

Helping Hand also helps give people the chance to learn new skills and experience in the retail environment. From young people starting on their career through to people living with disabilities, Helping Hand has trained over 70 people so far.

With the trainees, volunteers and shoppers, there's always a vibrant atmosphere at Helping Hand, and the shop has become a cornerstone of the community. People enjoy coming along to support the church, even if they are not churchgoers themselves.

> It's down to the people. There are a lot of them, who've devoted an awful lot of time and effort and energy into it and also skill and expertise. It's down to them and they've done a wonderful job.

Harvey Beeley
Executive Manager, Helping Hand

Church details

- Hyde Central Methodist Church
- Hyde & Denton Circuit, Manchester and Stockport District
- Average congregation: 70

What you'll need

- Premises at the right location where people will notice you
- Volunteers to work in the shop
- A steady flow of donated items to sell
- Links with local organisations like Jobcentre Plus

Retail by numbers

- 23,000 items sold in the first quarter of 2018
- Over 70 volunteers trained
- Over 170 people working in the shop during its first 5 years
- Average cost per item just £1.20

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