

# Big Hearts Community Trust – Making A Real Difference



This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Big Hearts Community Trust – the official charity of Heart of Midlothian Football Club. Since it began in 2006, Big Hearts has raised over £1.5m for community projects and working in allegiance with Heart of Midlothian FC as well as the Foundation of Hearts – the supporters group who aim to buy a controlling interest in the football club in just over three years – Big Hearts purpose is to make a real difference to the lives of those in the community who need help the most.

Big Hearts supports families by coordinating and facilitating meaningful activities where need is identified. The charity's recent new programme of activity has been to focus on Kinship Care Families, a priority group identified with key stakeholders including the City of Edinburgh Council.

If a looked after child cannot remain with their parents, they can be placed by a local authority in the care of family or friends, for either a short or long period of time. This is what is commonly known as Kinship Care.

Big Hearts launched their Kinship Care Programme in October 2015. One of the main strands of this is the Kinship Care After School Club, which is now in its second term and continues to grow.

In 2016, Big Hearts are carrying on their excellent work which includes the growth of their Football Memories group which helps those with dementia and which Big Hearts hope to expand in the year ahead.

This week, Big Hearts has announced the biggest supporter

volunteering initiative ever seen in Scottish football. Those who support Big Hearts will have opportunities to serve their community in many different ways and help deliver a social and cultural change in society through the football club. Big Hearts say this can be in many ways such as sharing a link to the Big Hearts website on social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter or giving time to help the charity across a range of projects. Big Hearts are also looking at an ambitious project of supporting families in times of crisis with some members training as counsellors.

This really is an excellent organisation and a charity which provides invaluable work to the community. If you feel you can help Big Hearts in any way or wish to find out more about the wonderful work they do, you can log on to their website at [www.bighearts.org.uk](http://www.bighearts.org.uk)

You can also email Caryn Kerr at [caryn.kerr@bighearts.org.uk](mailto:caryn.kerr@bighearts.org.uk)