



## Carolyn Harris MP

**When this community comes together magical things happen, so, to the amazing people who supported Everyone Deserves A Christmas 2022, I want to give a special thank you...**

This year, we had more demand than ever for our Christmas hampers. In past years, we wouldn't get requests for help until December, but when we were receiving requests as early as May, we knew 2022 was going to be a real struggle to reach those who needed it most. The cost-of-living crisis was causing parents in our communities to choose between heating and feeding their children and putting toys under the tree, a situation unthinkable and unacceptable in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain. So, I made a few phone calls and assembled the South-Wales Avengers to ensure that we could reach as many families as possible. With the help of Julie James MS, Stephen Kinnock MP, Jeremy Miles MS and Sarah Wells-Jones of NPT's Team Around the Family, we were able to make this year's EDAC the biggest ever. We gave out 800 hampers, reached 2000 families across Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot and Aberavon, and it was all thanks to our amazing local communities.



### EDAC 2022 Launch, Dec 3rd

The launch was magical as the good people of Swansea flooded the market to hear Mal Pope, Bronwen Lewis and Valley Rock Voices' perform their beautiful rendition of 'Away In A Manger'. Throughout December our fabulous local artists performed the song at choirs and even on TV, helping the track reach number 26 on the heritage charts. Thanks to Nationwide match funding and the generous donations made by ADS, Principality Building Society and members of the public, the launch raised an amazing £2400, helping EDAC 2022 kick off with a bang!



### Bucket Collecting at the Swans and Ospreys, Dec 10-11th

In the weeks building up to Christmas, our teams across the South Wales community were buzzing around collecting donations. We were so grateful to the public who donated chocolate and sweet treats for us to put in our hampers – especially the Glyncollen students for their generous donations!

Across the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we were bucket collecting at the Swans and Ospreys games. We were so grateful for Santa lending us his little helpers from Birchgrove and Pentrehafod schools, they were amazing and we couldn't have done it without them.





# Carolyn Harris MP

Member of Parliament for Swansea East

## A surprise from Michael Sheen and The White Curl

Halfway through December I got a message from an organisation out of the blue saying they wanted to support Everyone Deserves A Christmas. The White Curl tell me they produce prints and calendars for fans of Michael Sheen to purchase and the funds go towards causes Michael supports. This year Michael chose us. I went to bed hoping for the best and overnight our Just Giving page shot up by £2000. I was and still am, astonished. People from around the world had done so much good for our little corner of the world without knowing it. In the end they had raised over £8000 and helped make the Christmas of so many here a little brighter.



## The finale! Packing and Delivering Hampers and Dinners

Our prep for delivery week got off to a rough start as we were left high and dry by food providers for our hampers. Thanks to a true Christmas miracle, Castell Howell and Bidfood come to the rescue and we were back on track.



Hamper packing and deliveries took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bay Studios and the local community were out in force. We had help from PCSOs Claire and Ffion from SWPS and the Valley Rock Voices ladies. Our local sports teams provided indispensable muscles with the Swans Foundation and Ospreys in the Community. The Swans even brought some of their star players to help pack and the Ospreys brought down their icons Paul James and James Hook to help deliver. We had help from amazing volunteers from the WRU, Principality, Coastal Housing, Hygrove Homes, Derwen, Brilliant Solutions, LCV, ADS, Westacres, Morganstone, Budget Carpets, HM Land Registry and AB Glass. Rasoi very generously fed our volunteers with delicious curry and even helped Santa deliver a hamper to Nadia when his sleigh broke down!



I am honestly blown away by just how many local businesses and organisations came down to help pack and deliver, so please do not be upset if I forget to mention you, you know how appreciated you all are!

To end off, our very own Emma and the lovely team at Mecca cooked Christmas Dinners for those who needed it. To everyone who made this happen, thank you. You are the backbone of our community, and I couldn't be more grateful,

Carolyn

