



Thank you for 4 incredible years

Creating opportunities and providing support, enabling young people to thrive

2021

£98,400

2022

£140,000

2023

£160,000

2024

£160,000

MAHDLO

An **OnSide** Youth Zone

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



10,106 young people
supported since 2021



79.03% of members
live in the most deprived communities



61,000+ free hot meals
provided since 2021



4,800 delivery hours each year



68% of members reported increased
or maintained mental wellbeing



78% of young people reported
increased or maintained self-
confidence.

TEAM

HEARTFELT THANKS

At Mahdlo Youth Zone, we see every day how the right support, at the right time, can change a young person's life. We are incredibly proud to share with you a snapshot of the some of the stories of young people whose confidence, resilience, and aspirations have grown because of the opportunities they've accessed at Mahdlo. None of this would have been possible without the remarkable generosity of the Dr Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball.

The incredible support over the past 4 years has enabled us to provide life-changing programmes, one-to-one support, and unforgettable experiences that young people in Oldham may otherwise never have had. These are not just stories of activities or attendance; they are stories of belief, opportunity, and young lives transformed.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of Dr Michael Josephson MBE and all who attend the Charity Ball. Together, we are giving young people the chance to discover their potential, build brighter futures and most importantly thrive.

MEET JODIE

Jodie joined Mahdlo as an excited 8-year-old in 2013 and this year moved on from Mahdlo as a confident and independent 20-year-old. Her journey has been filled with growth, new experiences, and some huge personal achievements, many of which have been made possible through the support of the Dr Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball.

One of the major life-shaping moments in Jodie's journey was taking part in the Snow Camp programme. She learned to ski, made new friends, and discovered a confidence she didn't know she had. She also had the chance to go on a residential trip to Andorra something she never imagined doing when she first joined Mahdlo. Being away from home, trying new activities, and stepping so far out of her comfort zone helped her grow in independence and resilience. She came back proud, excited, and much more sure of herself.



"There was a time I was going through more than what a 13 year old should be going through, and Mahdlo helped to bring me back to being myself."

A HOME LIKE NO OTHER

***"I live in a house with my mum and my brothers,
But Mahdlo is my home like no other.***

***From messy paint to music loud,
I finally found a place where I am proud.***

***It's not just brick and cement,
It's a place where I feel happy and content.***

***They see me smile and cheer me on,
Even when I feel like my courage is nearly gone.***

***So when I wheel through the doors,
I'm not just me, I'm something more.***

***I live in a house with my mum and my brothers,
But Mahdlo is my home like no other."***

The poem was written by Francesca who has been a Mahdlo member since February 2023. She reminds us what "home" really means. For many young people like Francesca, Mahdlo isn't just a Youth Zone. It's a place of laughter, encouragement, and belonging; a space where they can dream, grow, and be proud of who they are.



CREATING MEMORIES

Mahdlo was delighted to welcome Sir Gareth Southgate in February 2025. He spent time chatting, laughing, and joining in with activities that have created memories to last a lifetime.

***"I went to a brilliant youth centre, and I saw children from all backgrounds playing, talking and having fun. I don't believe that young people just want to be on mobile devices or online. If we can create the right environments for them they will still want to go and play, and that might be a very important message."** Sir Gareth Southgate.*

SHE BELIEVED IN ME



When I first met my mentor, Jo, I had no idea how much of an impact she would have on my life.

From the start we clicked, spending time together cooking, playing games, and chatting about everything. Jo believed in me, even when I didn't. She helped me see that I could take a different path in life supporting me through ups and downs and always making sure we had a laugh along the way.

We tackled things together that I found overwhelming, such as writing my CV, setting up a bank account, applying for a passport and helping me find work experience. One of the biggest things Jo helped me with was signing up for a dentist - I'd avoided it for years, but she stuck with me until I got it sorted!

I'll never forget my 18th birthday picnic at the reservoir, complete with cake and balloons. Through Jo's encouragement, I gained the confidence to go to a job fair, got an interview there and then secured my first job in a hospital blood lab as a Biomedical Scientist. I've recently been promoted. I'm at college too studying for my Level 3 qualifications, saving for a flat and I've even taken my first holiday abroad.

Looking back, I don't think I'd be where I am now without Jo. Because of her, I've achieved things I never thought possible. I'll always be grateful for everything Jo and Mahdlo did for me and the confidence it helped me find.

YOUNG PEOPLE GIVE JUST AS MUCH BACK

Have you ever asked yourself the question, **why do you do what you do?** Of all the careers to choose, what made you pick the path you're on? For some of the Mahdlo Team, it was never a question.

Michelle Johnson, has been a youth worker for 40 years, 12 of those at Mahdlo, and recently spoke about some of her experiences as a youth worker. "I've worked with countless young people throughout my career, who have all brought me an intense sense of pride.



Many have faced various challenges in their young lives, whether this be a lack of confidence, have taken a wrong turn or experienced trauma some of which most of us can't begin to imagine. Every single one of these young people has shown resilience and strength beyond their years.

As a youth worker, **my job is to create a safe space for them**, to help them build coping strategies, to listen when no one else does, to believe in them when they struggle to believe in themselves. It's not just about getting them through the tough times - it's about raising their aspirations, advocating for them and giving them opportunities to see a future beyond what they've always known. **They give just as much back.**

I recently found myself at A&E with a close relative. I popped outside for a break and to gather my thoughts and a young person I work with was there. She could see how upset I was and without hesitation, she put her arms around me and said, **"Don't worry, it'll be okay."** She reached into her pocket and pulled out a colouring book and a pebble, something we'd used in our sessions to help her cope when things feel too much. She handed them to me and said, **"You need this more than me right now."**

This small, but huge gesture is what Mahdlo is. It's not just a youth centre - **it's a lifeline.** It's where young people find hope, strength and a future.

On behalf of every young person whose life has been touched, and every quiet moment of kindness like this one, thank you to Michael and the supporters of the Dr Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball for making Mahdlo's impact not just real, but powerful.