

St John's Centre has been shortlisted for the UK's Largest Diversity Awards

St John's Centre, Old Trafford has been shortlisted for the **Community Organisation (Multi-Strand)** award at the National Diversity Awards 2018.

A total of 24,584 people nominated this year alone and the results are finally in for the National Diversity Awards (NDA), with an astonishing 124 nominees being recognised for their various achievements nationwide.

Community organisations and role models from across the UK will head to the breathtaking Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on 14th September to witness the countries 2018 winners being crowned the best of British diversity.

Amongst those being honoured are freedom fighters, domestic violence campaigners and trans rights activists, all of whom work tirelessly to combat injustice and discrimination in very different ways.

St John's Centre Manager, Christine Aspinall, said, "It's really important to us that St John's Centre is welcoming to everyone in our diverse community, so we are delighted to have been shortlisted for the **Community Organisation (Multi-Strand)** award."

Leading global brand Johnson & Johnson have recently been announced as headline sponsors of the pioneering awards that have paid tribute to over 700 grass roots charities and diversity champions since its inception.

Joining the likes of the Army, Direct Line Group and Nielsen, Johnson & Johnson are listed amongst a host of companies showcasing their support to recognising diverse talent.

Clare Lee, head of Human Resources, Great Britain & Ireland, Johnson & Johnson, said; "At Johnson & Johnson, we are committed to the values of diversity and inclusion that encourage all employees to use their unique experiences and ideas to create a better, healthier world.

We proudly join the National Diversity Awards as a Platinum and Lifetime Achiever Award sponsor. The Awards celebrate "unity" in society and a new generation of role models, and that diversity is about everyone's unique perspective – all backgrounds, beliefs and range of human experiences – coming together.

Through inclusion we create a deep sense of belonging, where people are valued, ideas are heard, and everyone can perform at their best.

Johnson & Johnson believes that a strong diversity & inclusion strategy allows us to benefit from the opportunities presented by a diverse world.

We are committed to excelling in this area because we know that to succeed, grow and innovate, we need our employee population to reflect the diversity of the world we serve."

Designed to highlight the country's most inspirational and selfless people, the NDA's continue to gain endorsements from high profile figures such as Stephen Fry, Sir Lenny Henry CBE and Graham Norton.

Radio 2 presenter and Scissor Sister favourite Ana Matronic will host this year's ceremony alongside television presenter Brian Dowling. Reflecting on the forthcoming celebrations, Ana said; "I'm delighted to be hosting the 2018 National Diversity Awards in Liverpool for the second year in a row. Last year's event was a true celebration of diversity across every area and nothing gives me greater pleasure than being able to be a part of this prestigious event! I can't wait to meet all of the nominees and winners! Liverpool, I'll see you in September".

Previous winners include Huddersfield based Disability Theatre Group Shabang!, disabled body builder James Sutliff and transgender support charity Mermaids.

Paul Sesay, Founder and CEO of the National Diversity Awards added "An overwhelming amount of nominations and votes were received this year, and I know our judging panel had an incredibly difficult task of whittling down the nominees to create an outstanding shortlist.

So many heartfelt testimonies really showcased how these people and organisations are having a profound impact on the lives of others, and I applaud them for their dedication to each specific cause. Congratulations to all of our shortlisted nominees, it is a privilege to recognise your bravery, resilience and courage and I am honoured to share this with the nation. I look forward to congratulating you in person in September".

To view a full list of nominees please visit www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk/shortlist