

## Red Bags Full of Joy

The holiday season – a time when joy should sparkle like freshly fallen snow, and excitement should bubble like a pot of hot cocoa! But, let's face it, life isn't always a sleigh ride, and many families find themselves struggling during this special time of year. Families can find themselves treading through tough times, especially when the magic of the season is in full swing. However that's where our incredible "Red Bags Full of Joy" initiative steps in, like Santa's elves, we are on a mission.

The genesis of the NB4CC, The Red Bags Full of Joy has at its core a community of big-hearted folks, all coming together to create a sprinkle of magic for those who might need it most. We truly believe that even the smallest acts of kindness can create waves of joy that touch us all. We're all about crafting "Red Bags Full of Joy," Santa-approved parcels of happiness that families in need can unwrap.

Imagine our Elves Workshop – think of it as the epicentre of cheer, nestled in Annbank Village Hall. It's practically the North Pole's cousin, buzzing with energy and fuelled by the determination to make this world a brighter place, one "Red Bag Full of Joy" at a time. We're on an incredible journey, and our mission is as simple as a wish on a shooting star: to deliver as many of these delight-filled bags as humanly possible. Because when we come together, it's not just about presents – it's about wrapping hearts in the warmth of community and making holiday dreams come true.



## CAN YOU HELP?

1. Choose gifts for the Red Bag. Focus on an age group and choose all the gifts to be suitable for that girl, boy, teenager or vulnerable adult.
2. Select gifts that will bring a sparkle to the eyes of those opening the bag on Christmas Eve and focus on the magic that the gifts contained within can bring. You can choose pyjamas, a cuddly toy, a toy such as lego or a doll, toiletries, a storybook, a colouring book and stationary, hot chocolate and sweets and hats, gloves and scarves. Our elves will sort all the bags before they are given out to families.
3. In a similar way you can focus on gifts for a teenager or vulnerable adult, which can be smelly sets of perfume and aftershave, hats, gloves and scarves, candles, a handbag, a football, board games or any item which will have that, "WOW" factor.



## CONTACT Us:

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# NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN



Red Bags Full of Joy

## ONCE UPON A TIME...

In the heart of Annbank, a small village in Ayrshire, Scotland, with a big giving spirit, a young girl named Tygan, asked a genuine heartfelt question, which sparked a flicker of kindness that would soon illuminate the lives of countless children she had never met. With a ripple effect that has grown into a tsunami of generosity, the Night Before Christmas Campaign (NB4CC) continues to grow and it's dedication for helping those in need remains unwavering.

From the Annual Red Bags of Joy Appeal to the year-round 'Baby to Teen Shop' and the South Ayrshire School Clothing Bank, this extraordinary charity embraces the spirit of giving 365 days a year. Their impact relies on the incredible donations they receive from their supporters, enabling them to make a difference in as many lives as possible.

It was November 2015 when a 12 year old Tygan, innocently asked her mum, Jodie McFarlane - commonly known as the Head Elf, - "Do all children receive a Night Before Christmas Box like I do?" Her mother, with a heavy heart, explained that not every child is as fortunate as she is, and many go without any gifts during the holiday season.

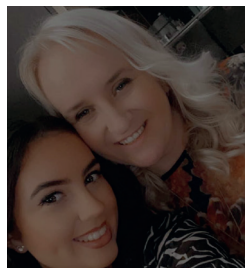
Moved by this revelation, Tygan couldn't bear the thought of other children missing out on the magic she experienced each Christmas. Determined to make a difference, she implored her mum and gran, Isabella McFarlane, to help her bring the same joy to children in their local community. In that moment, the Night Before Christmas Campaign was born. With limited time and boundless enthusiasm, Tygan, Jodie and Isabella collected and distri-

buted ninety boxes, each filled with love, gifts and the spirit of Christmas.

The overwhelming success of their efforts in 2015 fuelled Tygan, Jodie and Isabella's ambition to extend their reach beyond the borders of Annbank and Ayrshire. Joined by their friends and family they embarked on a mission to spread the Christmas spirit throughout South West Scotland. Their shared passion attracted the support of numerous individuals and organisations who believed in their cause, enabling them to surpass their targets and distribute an incredible 593 boxes of hope. That number has skyrocketed to over 6,000 bags full of joy in 2022, however, the need has also grown in that time and the team is determined to reach even more families in 2023.

However, their encounter with the harsh reality faced by the homeless during a cold November morning in Glasgow provided an eye-opening experience. Witnessing the plight of those sleeping rough on the streets, they knew they had to do more. Motivated by compassion, they began collecting backpacks for the homeless and took the profound decision to register as a charity, solidifying their commitment to their mission.

The story continues and you can be part of it.



Jodie McFarlane &  
Tygan John



Isabella McFarlane

## THE STORY CONTINUES.. BABY TO TEEN

Baby to Teen has been set up as a branch of NB4CC, by one of the original elves, Karen Watson. In 2021 Siobhan Brown MSP merged South Ayrshire Baby Bank into 'Baby to Teen.' Baby to Teen helps families through individual referrals from Health Visitors and Local Authorities. Our shop not only sells products for babies, children and young adults at affordable prices, but also encourages reuse of items that still have plenty of life left in them for someone else to enjoy and make use of. The shop aims to:

1. To relieve poverty within South Ayrshire by sourcing good quality new and pre-loved products to families in need.
2. To promote greener living by up-cycling products and therefore reducing the amount of waste.
3. To build long lasting relationships with local authorities, health visitors, food banks and schools to support local families in need.
4. To promote Baby to Teen in the local community to encourage donations of items.



South Ayrshire School Clothing Bank started back in 2015 by Nicola and Alan Cramond and now works in partnership with NB4CC. Referrals for uniforms come in via trusted 3rd parties ie: Social Workers, Charities and they let us know what's needed and we select the items and deliver.

Since 2020, we have been working closely with local Primary & Secondary schools to set up hubs with uniforms within the schools - this was so important as it means we are reaching the young people who aren't under the care of social work/charities etc but they still need help with uniform. Our aim is to promote pride, dignity & self-esteem in children from families experiencing financial hardship; by providing new School Uniform and other essentials for the school day.