



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

The Thanks to You Awards 2025

It's time to nominate the exceptional people who have made a difference to people living with and affected by cancer.

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Welcome from our Awards Co-Chairs

The Thanks to You Awards give us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and thank the incredible volunteers and supporters who generously give their time, energy, and expertise to Macmillan. In 2024 we received 84 nominations which were shortlisted to 34 finalists and then 7 winners. On 6 June 2024 we hosted an intimate afternoon tea and award ceremony in Birmingham for the award winners, their friends and family and selected Macmillan staff. It was a special day, and a cherished opportunity to celebrate our volunteers, supporters, and people with lived experience in this way.

We are delighted to share that the nomination period for the next season of the Thanks to You Awards is open from **02-30 June 2025**. Like last year, we have 6 special recognition awards which are outlined in this booklet. It doesn't matter how someone chooses to support Macmillan. If they have given their time, expertise, or experience, we want to recognise and celebrate their contributions.

We want to hear from you

Some truly remarkable stories were told through the nominations we received last year. They demonstrated how the nominees are living the Macmillan values and brought to life the impact they make on the lives of people affected by cancer. We hope this has inspired people to continue to support Macmillan and encourages even more people to submit nominations this year.

We are always thrilled to see nominations submitted by volunteers, supporters, and people with lived experience for their peers. We highly encourage this and would love to see these nominations continue this year.

We invite **you all** to tell us more of these inspiring stories so we can continue to recognise as many people as possible through this awards process.

Without them, Macmillan couldn't be right there for people living with cancer when they need it.

Sue Kirk MBE and Julia Palca
Co-Chairs of the Thanks to You Awards Panel



♥ With Heart Award

This award is for people who have brought their whole heart into their role.

They are:

- Open and Honest
- Considerate and supportive whilst showing compassion, and
- Respect individuals for who they are without judgement.

♥ A little more about our With Heart Value

We have big hearts at Macmillan, but this doesn't make us soft. We want Macmillan to be a place where everyone can be their true self and feel that their voice is valued; never ignored or undermined. We take the time to really listen and commit to an open and honest response, even when the answer isn't what the other person wants to hear. We'll always speak the truth, not with arrogance or cruelty, but with compassion and mutual respect.



With Strength Award

This award is for people who have shown strength in everything they do.

They are:

- Courageous,
- Determined to achieve the best possible outcome for people living with cancer, and
- Give it all they have got.

A little more about our With Strength Value

We put the needs of people living with cancer first, which takes real strength. We're not expecting any one person to be unbreakable — we all have a part to play and together we are stronger. It's about being accountable for our actions and using our courage and determination to achieve the best possible result. This calls for everyone to speak up and sometimes make difficult decisions. We don't do what's easy. We do what will make the biggest difference.



With Ambition Award

This award is for people who have shown ambition to 'stand for betterness'.

They are people who:

- Bring new ideas, skills and knowledge into their role,
- Are innovators and always keen to try new things, and
- Who embrace change whilst striving for better.

A little more about our With Ambition Value

We still share Douglas Macmillan's ambition to 'stand for betterness'. We develop our knowledge and skills, learning from the diverse perspectives, ideas and experience of others. Progress relies on change and we're bold enough to try new approaches, because calculated risks can lead to great things. Success is celebrated and if we fail, we learn from it and try again. We take pride in what we do and are committed to doing it as best we can.



Jenny, Horizon Centre Volunteer

Lived Experience Award

Nominate people with lived experience of cancer, who shape and support what we do in many different ways.

This award is for people with lived experience of cancer who generously give up their time to share their experiences with Macmillan and make a huge difference to not only what we do at Macmillan, but also for other people living with cancer. We want to hear nominations that celebrate their contributions.

Outstanding Supporter Award

Nominate someone who has done it their own way.

This award is for people who have taken their initiative to do something to help Macmillan. Examples include organising fundraising activities, taking on an incredible challenge, raising awareness, or doing something outstanding in their community.

We know there are some spectacular people who give their time and passion to these activities. For that, we are grateful and want our supporters to know it all makes a difference.



The Douglas Macmillan Volunteer of the Year Award

Recognising the person or group who make an immeasurable difference.

This award continues our tradition of celebrating a person or group that is exceptionally passionate and committed to helping Macmillan improve the lives of people living with cancer.

For this award we won't receive any specific nominations. Instead, our panel will select the winner from the pool of all shortlisted nominees.

Every nominee is in with a chance of winning this prestigious award. The panel will be looking out for people who:

- bring the three Macmillan Values to everything they do
- make a significant and outstanding commitment to help people with cancer
- demonstrate a passion and dedication to Macmillan and deserve recognition as the overall volunteer/s of the year





Guidelines for nominating

There are a few guidelines we ask that you follow when submitting a nomination:

1. You cannot nominate yourself
2. You cannot nominate someone who has won a Macmillan Annual Award in the previous 3 awards seasons (2020, 2023 & 2024). This only applies to previous winners, not people who have been shortlisted in the past. [Click here](#) to see a list of previous winners
3. If you know someone who is a previous winner that you would still like to nominate for an award, we encourage you to consider putting them forward for one of the external awards that are on offer. To find out more, contact VolunteerAwards@macmillan.org.uk
4. The person or people you are nominating must be a Macmillan volunteer or supporter, and cannot be paid or employed to carry out the activities described in your nomination

Top tips for nominating

1. Are you nominating the person for the right award? Look for the category that is the best fit for the person/people you're nominating and ensure what you've written in your nomination relates to the award category criteria.
2. Before you start, it may help to jot down your nominee's skills, achievements, and qualities. This will help to make sure you include some of the examples you have in mind in your nomination.
3. Have you given details to illustrate the statements you have made about your nominee? Giving evidence using vivid descriptions and statistics helps bring to life what makes their achievements special and the difference their contribution has made.
4. Have you been clear and concise? Making your nomination as precise as possible really is the best way to help your nominee's achievements stand out.
5. If your nominee is part of a local initiative or event, have you described what your nominee does to get involved? The judges and panel may not be aware of what is happening in your area and can only judge based on what information is included in the nomination to make it fair for all nominees.
6. Have you read through your nomination? Ask a friend or fellow volunteer to check it to ensure you don't miss anything important.
7. Has anyone else nominated this person/people already? We encourage you to link up with your nominee's other volunteer managers (if they have more than one) or volunteers and collaborate when writing a nomination. Two heads are often better than one!





The Thanks To You Awards 2024 Winners

How to make a nomination

You can submit a nomination from Monday 2 June to midnight on Monday 30 June.

Making a nomination is very straightforward. Simply follow the link below and fill out the nomination questions explaining why you feel this person should win an award. Make sure you read the guidelines and top tips on pages 10-11 beforehand, and for further inspiration you can also read about previous years' winners and finalists on the [Thanks to You Awards](#) webpage.

Support is available! If you are a volunteer and would like help writing your nomination, please contact your volunteer manager/point of contact at Macmillan who will be able to support you.

Once the nomination period has ended you cannot make any changes to your entry or submit any supplementary information, so do ensure you have included everything in your nomination before the deadline.

Follow this link to make a nomination:

macmillanvolunteer.awardsplatform.com

What happens next

Your nominee will be contacted via email in July 2025 informing them that they have been nominated, thanking them for their contributions, and wishing them good luck in the next steps of the process.

A group of judges will review all nominations to create a shortlist. The judges will include representatives from a range of roles, backgrounds and experiences. The shortlist will be announced in Autumn 2025.

A national awards panel will then scrutinise the shortlist and decide the winner for each category.

If you have any questions about the Thanks to You Awards or making a nomination, please email VolunteerAwards@macmillan.org.uk and one of the team will be happy to help.

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). MAC20138