

**Macmillan’s Thanks to You Awards 2025**

**Judging Opportunity Description**

**What are the Thanks to You Awards?**

The Thanks to You Awards are for people who give their time, energy, and experience to support Macmillan and people living with cancer – whether they are volunteers, people with lived experience, fundraisers, or supporters. The Thanks to You Awards gives us the opportunity to say a huge and well-deserved thank you and celebrate their outstanding contributions.

We have 6 award categories which are:

* With Heart Award
* With Strength Award
* With Ambition Award
* Outstanding Support Award
* Lived Experience Award
* Douglas Macmillan Award

For more information on the Thanks to You Awards and the different award categories, please take a look at this year’s [Awards Booklet](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/dfsmedia/1a6f23537f7f4519bb0cf14c45b2a629/21264-10061/Thanks%20To%20You%20Awards%20Booklet%202025).

**Why do we need you?**

The Thanks to You Awards are all about celebrating and recognising the contributions made by our fantastic volunteers, supporters and people who share their lived experience. It’s therefore important that each stage of the program is shaped by these groups of people too. That is why we are asking for your help with this crucial judging stage.

We are looking for volunteers who can support this year’s awards program as a judge. Each judge will be assigned an award category and will be asked to read, assess and score each nomination in that category. This is known as our shortlisting process and will take place in **August**. We will provide guidance and run training sessions before the shortlisting process begins. After the judging period closes, the scores will be collated and the highest scoring nominations from each category will make up the nominations shortlist for each award.

We’re aiming to have as much diversity of thought and experience as possible amongst the judges, so we’re looking for people from a range of roles across Macmillan. We strongly encourage individuals to show interest in this opportunity who have a disability, impairment or health condition, or individuals who identify as Black, Asian or from another ethnic minority background as these groups are currently under-represented at Macmillan.

**Timeframe**

* Nominations will be open from **2nd – 30th June**
* Recruitment of judges will be open from **2nd – 30th June**
* Judges will be selected and offered training in **July**
* Shortlisting will be done in **August**
* A panel will then decide the winner for each of the 6 award categories in **September**
* Winners will be announced prior to the Awards Event which is scheduled to take place on **6th November**.

**What do we expect from you?**

* To have some knowledge or experience of the difference ways people give their time to Macmillan. This could be as a volunteer, fundraiser, supporter, or someone who has shared their own lived experience of cancer.
* Be willing to attend a training session (approx. 1.5hrs) held on a Microsoft Teams call (joining guidance will be provided). This session will outline what to expect as a judge and deliver some light-touch learning.
* To have access to the internet and be comfortable using online systems
* A commitment to maintain confidentiality of nomination details
* To understand the importance of respecting and valuing difference

**Practicalities**

* You will need access to a device with good internet connection as the shortlisting process takes place online, using a system called AwardForce.
* We require an estimated 5 hours of your time for the shortlisting process - it could be more or less, depending on the pace at which you work. This can be spread across the 3-week judging period so you can complete the task at a pace that suits you.

**What you can expect from us**

* All the training and guidance you need to fulfil this task
* A named contact to get in touch with if you have any questions, issues or concerns that may arise
* The opportunity to provide feedback on your experience as a judge

**What’s in it for you?**

* The opportunity to learn more about Macmillan and gain a unique insight into the impact that volunteering, wider supporters, and people with lived experience have across the organisation and for people affected by cancer
* The opportunity to be part of and connected to our special recognition program
* Knowledge that your opinions have shaped recognition at Macmillan

**Extra Information**

If there are any reasonable adjustments that can be made to make this opportunity more accessible for you, for example if you need funding to enable internet access, please do get in touch with us by emailing volunteerawards@macmillan.org.uk