

**Business should do more, says Liverpool legend**

LFC Legend and sports pundit Phil Thompson has called for successful businesses to invest more in their local charities and communities. The former club manager, who is a patron of Merseyside charity Nugent Care, says local firms have an obligation to support vulnerable people in their communities as, a simple change could mean it was them needing the help and not their neighbour.

Nugent Care is one of Merseyside’s oldest charities. As patron, Thompson hosts a series of events throughout the year, including a Golf Classic held on 18 May 2017. It’s a day for local businesses on Merseyside and the North West to join the sports star for 18 rounds of golf, while helping to fund Nugent’s work with vulnerable adults and children.

One of the businesses that supports the Golf Classic is Barclaycard, who have a base in Kirkby, where Phil grew up. In the current climate, Phil says, it’s vital business offers this kind of support.

“We know there are loads of charities, each fighting for the same thing. For me, Nugent is so close to home, one of the oldest charities on Merseyside helping those who need it the most in our communities. There are people striving to make ends meet and Nugent helps at every age, from children through to old age. As businesses become more successful, they should invest more in their local community to support charities like this to do what they do.

I call it the ‘Sliding Doors Spectrum’. You might have caught the train and been able to have a good life, making money and being able to feed and support your family. But we should never get ourselves into a situation where we forget those who might have missed the train, old school friends, neighbours and people living within our own communities. It’s vital that local businesses, a local lad who’s succeeded, supports those who need it most in their hometown”.

Marie Reynolds Head of Nugent Caritas Community says, “We’re lucky to have a patron such as Phil who dedicates so much of his time to supporting our charity and the work we do. Fundraising has to be more creative, more fun and we need to build those connections with the business community. The Golf Classic is the ideal opportunity for a firm who may not know about Nugent but is interested to support our work in the community to learn more, and to meet a Liverpool legend while they’re at it”.

The Golf Classic will be held at Houghwood Golf Course on Thursday 18 May.

**Notes to editors**

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**Nugent** offers a diverse range of support to adults and children in Merseyside through our schools, care homes, community and social work services and social enterprise. We work at the heart of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. We strive also to generate interest, awareness and an understanding of the issues they face and the impact of this on our wider communities.

We support on average 6,000 people each year. We are a major employer in the area, employing 650 staff and supporting 350 volunteers and we advocate on issues of justice and fairness.

**We aim to:**

· Care, educate, protect and inspire those in need.

· Be an employer of choice.

· Be an advocate: A voice for the voiceless.

The origins of Nugent date back to the 1800’s and the pioneering work of Father James Nugent (1822-1905) in relation to child welfare, relief from poverty and social reform. His work continues through Nugent and we are the social welfare arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool.

More information about our work and our services can be found at [wearenugent.org](https://www.wearenugent.org/)