

# OUR MEMBERS UP CLOSE



## Circular Solutions for Community and Wellbeing

### Merry-Go-Round

Merry-Go-Round supports local families in Glasgow's Southside through its social enterprise and charity shop, selling pre-loved children and baby clothes, toys, books, and equipment.

Not just a one stop shop for 'all things children and parenting' up to 5 years of age, Merry-Go-Round hosts a community led events space within its shop and provides free essential starter packs for families who need them.

The experience of parenting unites people from all walks of life and Merry-Go-Round caters to the diverse communities of Glasgow by listening to their needs, considering the social and political climate, and responding with thoughtful and impactful services.

Stay and Play is one such service, which offers free, soft play sessions for local parents and their children.

*“Free child friendly hangouts are essential during the holidays and weekends, especially when the cost-of-living is so high. A soft play can easily cost £10. That's £5 per child, plus coffee for Mum or Dad. That's simply not affordable for some families, but it's not just about providing a free space, it's about connecting parents to gain peer-to-peer support and build friendships.”*

**Rajkiran Atwal, General Manager, Merry-Go-Round.**

Whilst Stay and Play caters to all, the Carousel Programme is dedicated to families who need a little extra support, including refugee and asylum-seeking parents. The Merry-Go-Play

group aims to provide an inclusive, safe space for these families to come together, make friends and encourage language development. Merry-Go-Round works to remove barriers to isolation so families can integrate into their communities with confidence and improved wellbeing.

Underneath all of its work, Merry-Go-Round focuses on sustainability and community impact.

*“Our shop is the heart of what we do. We're seeing more families, both refugee, asylum and Scottish, needing access to our free support services, sustainable, pre-loved goods and clothes for their children. We are extremely proud of our team who run Merry-Go-Round and provide all that they can for our community.”*

**Rajkiran Atwal, General Manager, Merry-Go-Round.**

