



## **EMBRACING ARTS are named Children's Charity of the Year!**

Faversham-based inclusive children's theatre charity, **Embracing Arts**, were awarded joint **Children's Charity of the Year** at the **2023 Kent Charity Awards** ceremony held on Thursday 21st September in Hollingbourne.

In a glittering ceremony at the Mercure Hotel, charities from across Kent came together to celebrate the 8th Kent Charity Awards. Representatives from the amazing charity finalists and their volunteers and trustees travelled from all corners of our great County to be recognised, thanked and rewarded for their incredible work. The aim of these awards is to showcase the hard work and perseverance that charities undertake to make the lives of others better. There are currently no similar awards in the county and the Kent Charity Awards are open to both small and large charities whether a branch of a national charity or a small community-based charity.

**Embracing Arts** falls into the small community-based category. Founded by actors Sue Appleby & Claire Sundin in 2009, Embracing Arts originated as '**Christmas for Kids**', a festive tour of shows to children's hospices, specially designed for children with additional needs and life-limiting illness.





The charity's small staff of five are driven by a passion to ensure every child can enjoy the magic of theatre, irrespective of whether they can attend a show in a traditional theatre space. Their charity's mission statement is: **"Making inclusive arts accessible for all"**, and they do just that - performing in hospice living rooms, in canteens and bedrooms, in school halls and classrooms, or in the middle of children's wards.

The charity expanded its services in 2020 to delivering workshops in SEND schools and accessible theatre-based parties for children with additional needs. That same year, they relocated the charity's base from SE London to Faversham, where they are enjoying building strong local networks across the county. They work regularly with SEND schools such as St Nicholas School in Canterbury, and with hospices such as Demleza Children's Hospice in Sittingbourne. They hope that this award will bring news of their work to more people across Kent and that local businesses may want to support them in the work they do:

**"We are such a small charity, I never thought we would win as we were up against some much larger organisations! To have our work recognised by these wonderful awards is a huge boost to our small team who work so hard. I hope the award will bring news of our work far and wide across the county, so we can provide arts access for children and families who are so often excluded from these experiences."** - Founder & CEO Sue Appleby



Discover more about the amazing work Embracing Arts does at [www.embracingarts.org.uk](http://www.embracingarts.org.uk)

To find out more about Embracing Arts, or arrange an interview with one of our founders, please contact [media@embracingarts.org.uk](mailto:media@embracingarts.org.uk)

EMBRACING



ARTS