

2022–2023 Football Season

Thanks to the generosity of the fans of Falkirk FC, the Carers Centre was able to offer free tickets to local carers and their families for Falkirk FC home games for the 2022-2023 season. Below are some case studies and quotes from the carers who benefitted from this opportunity.

Lorraine



Lorraine went to a number of Falkirk FC matches and appreciated the ability to attend the matches alongside their child who they provide care to, as well as various members of their family, allowing for a unique experience at every match.

Lorraine initially worried that their child would not enjoy the match and may struggle to sit for the duration; however, they loved it! Lorraine said, “I wouldn’t have tried in the first place as I thought he wouldn’t sit and doesn’t enjoy watching it on the tv however I was so surprised that he loved it!”.

Lorraine explained that through the generosity of the tickets, they have a new superfan in the home as her son now owns all the strips and jackets and even enjoyed a trip to the pub within the Stadium and he won the competition twice.

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Lorraine also attended the semi-final match at Hampden which was a brand-new experience, and their child was **immersed in the atmosphere**, from the train journey to the camaraderie at the match itself.

It was found that even the walking to the matches themselves was a great benefit to their child who can be a bit reluctant to participate at other times, but they always enjoyed it and experienced the benefits of the fresh air and exercise.

These tickets have created unique memories for Lorraine and their family.



Robert

As Falkirk fans, this was an exhilarating experience.

Robert was identified as a carer after seeing a social media promotion regarding the donation of home match tickets from the Falkirk Community Foundation. After a discussion with an adult carer support worker, Robert and their spouse were supported to register and explore other supports available such as an Adult Carer Support Plan.

Robert and their spouse are caring for their child with various health conditions. Robert's spouse was supported to access tickets to attend a match alongside their younger children who loved the experience. As Falkirk fans, this was an exhilarating experience for the children who made new memories on the day, such as meeting the Club mascot.

Robert explained that these were seen as adventures by the children and the outings to the football have been helpful to the whole family. The ability to get the children out doing something that they enjoy and being part of the community spirit has been valuable to Robert. Robert explained that they are a family of six and **the generous donations assured that they could still see their Club without the financial pressures** currently faced due to the cost-of-living crisis.

What other carers told us:

"Thanks so much this enabled by disabled son and his sister to share a common interest day out."



"Thank you so much for giving us the free tickets. It was really appreciated as it got us out of the house and able to watch a sport we both enjoy. My partner has Alzheimer's but he still likes to watch football and this gave us quality time together. **As pensioners we really thank you Falkirk Football Club.**"

"Many thanks for the opportunity to take one of my other children to the match and get a break from his disabled sister. Really grateful for the opportunity to have time together doing something different."

This was a great family day out and much needed break!

“We had a great day overall (apart from the result) and it was good for both of us to get some time away for a few hours. The catering vouchers were unexpected, but much appreciated... and the steak pies were fab! Thanks to the club for offering these and to the Carers Centre for all the good work they do in supporting us all.”

“We all enjoyed our night at the football, as it's not very often we can all spend quality time together, so we are really grateful for initiatives like this that allowed us to have this.



“My child is quite involved in the club now since we got those tickets to the few games at the beginning, so it opened up a whole new thing for us. To be honest we wouldn't have even attended a game if Carers Centre hadn't given us the opportunity because football games are not in my budget and a lot of our days out focus around our daughter - or don't happen because she can't manage them that day - so do have something just for the boys to look forward too was very nice.”



“The children would like to pass on their thanks for been able to go to the games. They loved every second of it and can't wait to go again. The tickets make a massive difference to everyone that goes.”



“This was a such a good thing – it allowed my child to attend a football match with his father and grandfather. This helped them to make a special memory together before his grandpa passed away.”

“On behalf of my husband and myself I would like to thank FFC for their kind generosity donating tickets and vouchers for home games. He so looked forward to watching live football and being in amongst the Falkirk fans, I was glad this encouraged him to go out rather than sitting watching TV. Thank you once again.”

“Trying to find the time to plan activities is really tough – having a support worker doing it all made this a breeze! We just had to collect the tickets, and the pies were a nice touch.”



“The staff were so friendly, the seats were amazing. We felt so safe and secure there being a family orientated stand. We could then have a good, fun day out as it’s not often you get a place you can go with your older son with ASN and feel so relaxed. It was quality father/son time, and my son had a huge confidence boost from going to the matches.”



“Just wanted to say thank you so much for the football tickets it was good to get my husband out and enjoy an evening at a sport he loves, can't help thinking with him enjoying it so much it was nice to be able to relax with him instead of constantly worrying. Thank you again.”

The names of carers in the case studies have been changed.