

Richard Raja – Raise the bar

From organising hot meals for the homeless to raising funds through bake sales, **Richard Raja, DevOps & Release Manager - Cards Digital**, has been making a positive impact in his local Milton Keynes community for years.

With his dedication to social giving and volunteering, it was with no surprise that Richard was named the winner of the Social Impact category at the CEO Awards.

Richard said: *"I'm really humbled to receive this award, because it's about social impact and a lot of other people have done great things, but really grateful that they've chosen me. I'm feeling proud to be part of the Santander community and Santander family."*

Making an impact >>

Sainath Ravikumar, Head of Cards Digital, Payments CoE, is Richard's manager and the one who put him forward for the award. He explained:

*"Richard has always found a way to support and give back to the local community, taking the lead role in planning, organising and delivering many events for the local charity **UnityMK**." He's supported the charity (formerly known as Winter Night Shelter Milton Keynes), who offer practical and emotional support for those experiencing homelessness, who are at a crisis point or those who need mental health support, for the last eight years."*

*"Richard consistently goes above and beyond, and his actions outside of the office exemplify our **TEAMS** behaviours". In addition to his work with UnityMK, Richard has done a multitude of other activities including organising a blood donation camp, working with Unity Park to donate food to underprivileged families, and has established a new process to host charity events in Unity Place.*

"There's a lot of people in vulnerable situations, and it's individuals like Richard who are making an impact at a grassroots level - which is just crucial. I'm extremely proud, as his line manager, of the work that Richard carries out."

