

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

Please pass
this newsletter
on to a friend
to help even
more children

Transport for Libby

First time parents Sarah and Paul were excitedly expecting the arrival of a little girl and couldn't wait to meet their daughter. It was at the 20-week scan they were told part of baby Libby's skull was missing. Doctors advised the anxious parents this was serious and medical teams were unsure what Libby's future would hold.



In January 2012, Libby was born. She underwent endless tests and the small family were eventually given a diagnosis of Walker-Warberg Syndrome; an extremely rare condition causing muscle weakness and developmental delay. Little Libby is one of just a handful of children across the world living with this condition and has a team of medical professionals working with her each day and night.

To enable her parents to transport Libby safely, a specialist pushchair was provided. However, this did not come equipped with any additional accessories, such as a rain cover or sun hood, leaving the family concerned when taking Libby 'out and about', particularly in colder weather. "The pushchair offered Libby the postural support she needed, but taking her out in the wind and the rain simply wasn't an option. We were so terrified she would catch an infection"

React was delighted to help and with these essential accessories now in place, Libby can travel safely and comfortably.

Safe Environment for Jonathan

Scans revealed that Elmer and Desiree were expecting their second little boy. On 31st July 2009 their beautiful son Jonathan was born, but all was not well. Just ten days later, after numerous tests, Jonathan was diagnosed with liver failure and placed on an emergency transplant list.



The family's world turned upside down and they were rushed to a specialist unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital to await a donor.

At just 23 days old, little Jonathan underwent a liver transplant. The family were relieved believing the worst was over, but doctors advised there were further complications. Now aged five, he lives with restricted movement, impaired hearing, a highly compromised immune system and is fed entirely by tube. Jonathan's difficulties mean he is reliant on a wheelchair and specialist seating at all times, with cuddles from mum and dad in between.

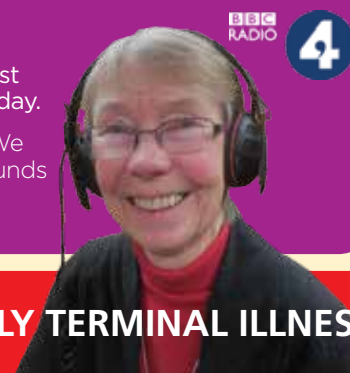
The family home was carpeted throughout which made it difficult for Jonathan's parents to navigate his specialist equipment from room to room. Jonathan's weak immune system has also left him dangerously susceptible to infection and the family knew that more suitable, easy to clean flooring was essential. They discussed their concerns with his Occupational Therapist, who put the family in touch with React.

With hygienic flooring now in place, Jonathan's parents are delighted; they no longer worry about the risk of infection to Jonathan and find it far easier to care for him at home.

BBC Radio 4 Appeal

On Sunday 15th February, Sister Frances Dominica OBE appealed to the listeners of BBC Radio 4 on behalf of React children. Sister Frances has dedicated her life to children's palliative care and founded the world's first children's hospice, Helen House. She remains React's sole Patron to this day.

The appeal was a huge success raising over £25,000 for React families. We are extremely grateful to BBC Radio 4 for this opportunity to raise vital funds and awareness of React's work. The broadcast is available to listen to via React's website: www.reactcharity.org.



BBC RADIO

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Story Time for Sunflower Montessori

React was pleased to spend World Book Day with the staff and children of Sunflower Montessori. The Montessori selected React as sole beneficiary of the day's fundraising, which included a visit from children's author Zella Hunter who treated the children to extracts from her book 'An Elephant to Breakfast'.

A wonderful day was had by all and we were happy to receive £47.20 raised by the children. React would like to thank everyone at Sunflower Montessori for their hard work and support.



Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club

React is delighted to be selected as a Charity of the Year for Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. The club will be holding a number of exciting fundraising events throughout the Captaincy of current Ladies Captain, Bobby Milton, who was kind enough to nominate React as a beneficiary.

So far, Bobby has held a Golf and Bridge Day, where attendees enjoyed both sports along with lunch and a fundraising raffle, and more recently a 'March Hare' springtime event. The Golf Club has raised a fantastic £1,227 to date and with a Mixed Golf Charity Day still to come, is set to raise even more vital funds for React's work.

React would like to thank everyone at Royal Mid-Surrey for their support and generosity.

Night of the Stars

In February, the biggest names of the Bridge world gathered together for the very exclusive Night of the Stars. This fabulous annual event invites Bridge 'Stars', and their generous partners, to play in aid of selected charities and React was thrilled to benefit from this year's event.

Night of the Stars saw 'non-experts' playing alongside some of the leading international Bridge players, including current and former members of the England teams. The evening was a huge success raising an outstanding £11,158 for React families. This impressive sum will have a real and visible impact on React's work and we are extremely grateful to all at Night of the Stars for their generosity.



Richmond Running Festival



React is a proud partner of Richmond Running Festival 2015, one of London's most exclusive running events. The aim of the festival is to provide a fun event for the whole family and includes Kew Gardens 10k, Visit Richmond Half-Marathon and NIKE kids miles races. The day will also include Richmond Fitness expo and a music festival.

React would like to thank Richmond Running Festival for their support and wishes all participants the very best of luck for the day! If you would like to run for React please contact Katrina at react@reactcharity.org or call 020 8940 2575.

U-Kew-Lele

React has been fortunate to benefit from the support of community-based band, U-Kew-Lele. The band perform frequently and have been involved with ukulele tuition for children in their local area. They have also recently recorded their debut album and generously donated a percentage of the sales to React.

U-Kew-Lele has already raised a fantastic £650 for React families and continues to perform, sell albums and offer kind support to the charity.



Rhys Out Riding with the Family

Eight year old Rhys lives at home with mum, dad, brother Connor and sister Megan. He has chromosome 13q deletion and global developmental delay, causing issues with motor skills and decreased balance and mobility.

Rhys is a lively little boy who loves nothing more than listening to music and playing outside, especially in new environments. He enjoys time spent outdoors with his family, but Rhys is a vulnerable child and needs constant supervision as he has no awareness of danger. He wanted to cycle with Connor and Megan, but Rhys' complex needs make riding a standard bike impossible.

Rhys' Occupational Therapist trialled him with a WEEHOO iGo Trailer, which can be attached to the back of a parent bike and comes with full postural support and harnessing to keep him safe whilst riding. The trailer is not



reliant on Rhys pedalling, as it is pulled by mum or dad, but it does allow him the option, meaning he can improve the muscle strength in his legs. For Rhys it feels as though he is propelling himself and he is one of the family.

Although Rhys' father is in full time employment, this equipment is costly, and at over £300 the trailer was simply more than they were able to afford. Fortunately, Rhys' Occupational Therapist assisted them in making an application to React. We were delighted to help, and mum wrote to tell us how the trailer has already had such an important impact on Rhys' life; "I just want to thank you so much for providing this trailer for Rhys. It has made such a difference and we can now enjoy a more active and healthy lifestyle as a family".

How YOU Have Helped Owen & Amelia

It does not always take a huge sum of money to make the difference to the life of a React child and this year, React supporters made a real difference to two children, with Specialised Slings costing under £300, here are their stories;



Eight year old Owen has Menkes Disease. He is a wheelchair user and entirely dependent on carers for all day to day activities, including his parents and a dedicated team of nurses. His family were finding it increasingly difficult to move and change Owen when in public until Owen's Consultant suggested contacting React, which the family did, explaining "The sling would make a huge impact for us. Simple things like changing Owen's clothes outside of the house can be very difficult, and this sling would make life so much easier."

Little Amelia is seven years old. She has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy, and lives at home with mum, dad and older brother Harvey. Amelia was provided with equipment at home to help the family care for her, including a hoist for transfers. Unfortunately however, the family did not have access to any portable equipment. As Amelia grows and becomes taller and heavier her parents struggled to manoeuvre her safely when out and about, concerned about causing injury to her or themselves. Amelia's Physiotherapist assisted the family in making an application to React.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, React was delighted to be able to assist both families. Owen and Amelia both now have access to portable slings which have greatly improved their quality of life. Upon receiving their sling, Amelia's mother wrote; "Thank you so much for helping us. We can now lift Amelia safely and with dignity when we are away from home."

Family Holidays Together

Baby James was born with a rare, degenerative disorder affecting mental development, skeletal development and, as the condition progressed, his organ function and physical abilities. However, it was not until James was four months old that doctors advised the family their little boy's condition was far more serious than anticipated. It was then a diagnosis of Hunters Syndrome was given.

James now aged 12, lives at home with his father, brother Jack and sister Erin. The whole family is looking forward to a React holiday at one of the charity's nine mobile homes later this year.

James and his family took their first React holiday some years ago, when his father Vernon came across the React website. He had longed to take the family away to a new environment where James would feel included, and where Vernon could be sure he was safe and secure, but suitable holiday options were hard to come by. James' challenging behaviour and regressing condition meant that safety was an absolute priority. Thankfully, the hustle and bustle of the holiday parks is absolutely ideal and James, along with his brother and sister, enjoys mixing with other holiday makers.

The family has enjoyed and benefited from a number of React holidays and James' favourite place is always the swimming pool where he, Jack and Erin can splash about together. Dad, Vernon, told us 'Thank you React for raising our spirits. There is plenty to look forward to and knowing our holiday is organised and possible for the summer is just fantastic. For a week we are a normal family and that is a wonderful feeling.'



OR COLLEAGUE SO MORE PEOPLE CAN HELP REACT CHILDREN

Your Gift Is Urgently Needed

React aims to give children with life-limiting illness the best quality of life possible in the short time they have left. Whatever you can give will make a difference to a family struggling to give their child the best they can. **Thank you.**

YOUR DETAILS

Please complete your name and address details below so that we can reclaim the tax on your donation (see below) and also to keep you in touch with our work.

Your title and full name _____
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____
 Email _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

YOUR GIFT TO REACT

Please accept my gift of

£250 £100 £50 £25 £10 Other £

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to React OR please debit my MasterCard/VISA/CAF Card/Debit Card (delete as appropriate)

Card number _____ (Security Number) _____
 Start date ____/____/____ Expiry date ____/____/____ Issue no. (if present)
 Signature _____ Date _____

If you would prefer to transfer directly to the charity bank account, please use the following details: Account Name: React, Account No: 00886556, Sort Code: 20-72-17

REMEMBER TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION! (SEE BELOW)

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH A REGULAR GIFT!

If you would like to give regularly to React, why not set up a standing order? It helps enormously to be able to count on regular income and also reduces costs.

Please pay REACT £ _____ each month/year (delete as appropriate)
 Starting on _____ (please make this date one month from now) until
 further notice and debit my account number
 Bank sort code
 Name of account holder _____
 Signature _____
 To the Manager (bank name and address) _____

 _____ Postcode _____

Please pay REACT Account No. 00886556; Barclays Bank, George Street, Richmond, TW9 1JU; Sort Code 20-72-17

REMEMBER TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION! (SEE BELOW)

Make Your Donation Tax-Free

I would like React to Gift Aid this donation and all donations I have made since 6 April 2003. I am a UK tax payer and will tell you of any changes in my tax status or address. *giftaid it*

The Inland Revenue have asked us to remind you that you must pay an amount of income tax and or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that REACT reclaims on your donations (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS OPPOSITE.

Latest News

JustTextGiving™ by Vodafone

You can now donate between £1 - £10 in only 10 seconds by texting REAC12 and the amount to 70070. It takes just a few seconds to help so many families.

Join React at the British 10k

React needs YOU! Join Team React at the **British 10k on Sunday 12th July 2015**. Keep fit, have fun and raise vital funds to support React families. React has places available and would love to have you on board - No experience is required. All you need is a pair of trainers and off you go!

To reserve your place, please contact react@reactcharity.org or call 020 8940 2575

The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers

The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers has supported React for a number of years, and we were delighted to be presented with a very generous £1,500. This sum was put to immediate good use improving the quality of life for terminally ill children.

Hanwell and Northfields Rotary Club

React would like to thank Hanwell and Northfield Rotary Club for their wonderful £1,000 donation. The charity was pleased to meet with the Rotarians and is grateful for the commitment they have shown to React families. Are you a Rotarian or member of another community group? Your support could make all the difference and we would love to hear from you!

React Jazz Night

On 26th November, React pays tribute to the Jazz era by holding an event at The 606 Jazz Club in Fulham. The evening will commence with a hearty American-themed three course meal and end with live sets from Lianne Carroll and six-piece band Samara. To receive an invitation please email react@reactcharity.org or call 020 8940 2575.

Worshipful Company of Curriers Trust

The Worshipful Company of Curriers is a valued supporter of React's work and the charity was grateful to receive a most generous donation of £1,355. React is appreciative for the support of all Liverymen and would like to thank them for making this donation possible.

Takeda UK Ltd

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React provides urgent basic essential aid to families whose child has been diagnosed with a terminal or life-threatening illness. Any donation you make will be used to maintain or improve a child's quality of life in the weeks, months or years left ahead. Thank you.

