

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

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

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Rebecca's New Accessories

Rebecca has been diagnosed with multiple complex conditions including Cerebral Palsy, Diabetes Insipidus, Hydrocephalus, Lung Disease and a seizure disorder.

Despite her illness, seven-year-old Rebecca is a bubbly little girl with her own personality who enjoys nothing more than completing puzzles at the special school she attends. As her mother was just 17 years old when Rebecca was born, the stress of being so young and having a child with complex care needs was too difficult to cope with and Rebecca's Grandparents became Rebecca's guardians when she was just nine months old. Rebecca cannot sit unaided and is dependent on her Nanny Denise and Auntie Amy for her care needs. Unfortunately, since November, Rebecca's Grandad David has suffered from a total of 13 strokes and also requires care which has been very difficult for the small family.

Rebecca was provided with an adapted wheelchair by wheelchair services to enable her family to transport her and make daily trips easier for all. However, the wheelchair did not come with essential accessories such as a footmuff, rain hood, seat pad and play tray. This equipment made it increasingly uncomfortable for Rebecca and meant that Denise was unable to take her out in adverse weather conditions. The essential equipment was unavailable through local health authorities and beyond the family's financial means.

After searching and receiving negative responses from every source she tried, Denise made an application to React. The family was overjoyed with the simple application process and quick response, and now Rebecca can access her community protected and comfortable.

A Chance to Explore for Zain

Zain is four years old and lives at home with his Mum Hind, Dad Saleh and eight-year-old Sister Lina. Zain is a sociable and active little boy who loves to explore new surroundings and the outdoors, which brings him great pleasure.

Life for Zain can be difficult as he suffers from Chronic Lung Disease and is fitted with a Tracheostomy which enables him to breathe correctly. He also has a hearing impairment and vocal cord palsy. "He had a very tough beginning when he was born" said Hind, "and has a number of health problems, but he is a fighter".

Zain's health problems means it is very difficult for the family to enjoy trips and days out together. Zain loves to explore different places which provide him with visual stimulation and he is very eager to run around and play with Lina. However, due to the family's limited income, Zain's parents find it difficult to take their children on trips away from home, and although they are keen to provide Zain with new experiences, a holiday is beyond the family's finances.

Coming across the React website, Zain's parents applied for a well-deserved break away from the usual routines of everyday life in one of React's mobile homes in Skegness. Soon after sending the application, the family were elated when finding they would be able to go on holiday and Zain could explore the beach which was one of his favourite places to visit.



RAPID EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH POTENTIALLY TERMINAL ILLNESS

Fishing for React

Twelve dedicated anglers from the Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain took to the waters in March and raised a fantastic amount of money for React families. Their spirits were not dampened by the lack of fish and their wonderful display of collection buckets, t-shirts, raffle prizes, and 'soup and rolls' proved very successful, with everyone having a wonderful day in the Spring sunshine. The day was even more poignant, as the club gathered to remember young Ronan, who sadly passed away before the event. Ronan, aged 4, was known to React and was the inspiration for fundraising from the Anglers. We would like to express our sincerest thanks to the Pike Anglers Hull Region 95 Group for their very kind and continued support and we will ensure their efforts go towards helping a young child in memory of Ronan.



Night of the Stars



A Night to Remember with "Night of the Stars"

On the 25th February, Night of the Stars hosted another successful annual bridge night charity event, where professional and amateur bridge players gathered to play the game they love whilst raising money for selected charities. The evening hosted a record 56 players and raised a total of £15,030 for React. This impressive sum will have an incredible impact on families, providing essential specialist equipment to children with life-shortening illnesses. We would like to thank Night of the Stars for their amazing efforts and hard work in hosting another fabulous evening, and for their generous and invaluable support to React.

Forever in React's Heart

Having lived in Richmond for over 25 years, the Baron and Baroness first encountered React through React's Patron, Sister Frances Dominica OBE. Subsequent years have seen the couple host four summer balls in aid of React's work and in June 2012, they jointly accepted the honourable position of React's Vice-Patrons.

We are saddened to report the Baron's passing in the December 2015. His kind-heart and compassion is dearly missed and his generous work with React families will always be treasured.

We take great comfort in knowing his spirit lives on through the support of his wife and together we will achieve much to help React's children.

Baron & Baroness van Dedem



Golden Masquerade Ball Invitation



THE REACT
GOLDEN
MASQUERADE BALL

Please Join Us!

Following the success of four previous programmes, React is delighted to announce this year's Trumpeters 'Golden Masquerade Ball', taking place on Saturday June 18th at Trumpeters House, Richmond, Surrey.

Guests will enter a world of elegance and glamour with an evening of entertainment, dancing and delicious food and wine.

To receive your invitation and booking form, please contact React on 0208 940 2575 or email react@reactcharity.org

We very much look forward to welcoming you on the evening.

A Lovely Lenten Lunch

The parish of St Elizabeth of Portugal Church very kindly supported React through their Lenten Lunches this year, which saw people flock to the church's crematorium for delicious home-made soup and cakes, raffle prizes and friendly company. The afternoon was filled with a joyous sing-a-long, guitar playing and a chance for people to enjoy a scrumptious lunch and raise money for React. Over the five week period, the church was able to raise an incredible amount of £861 which provided nine-year-old Joy with a sensory fibre optics play system. React would like to thank Marion, Susie and everyone involved in the Lenten Lunches for their kind hospitality and very generous support.

St Elizabeth of Portugal Lenten Lunches



Stimulation for Suzanne

At three months old, Suzanne was a healthy, bouncing baby girl and her parents Susan and Mark saw no cause for concern. However, she suddenly started to make sporadic movements with her arms and legs and her parents became concerned. Suzanne was immediately referred to hospital and after running tests, doctors found the cause of Suzanne's odd movements; she was diagnosed with Lissencephaly.

Lissencephaly, which means smooth brain, is a rare brain formation disorder resulting in a lack of development of the brain's folds and grooves. Children with Lissencephaly generally have significant developmental delay, and now aged seven, Suzanne is unable to walk or talk and is completely dependent on her mother and father for her care needs.

Early after Suzanne's diagnosis, Susan and Mark were handed a React leaflet at their local hospice and since 2009, React has been able to assist with equipment vital to Suzanne's care, thanks to donations made through generous supporters.

"We are always over the moon every time we are given a positive response from React. The application is so quick and simple and not like other applications where lots of pages and information is needed" says Susan.

Suzanne is a happy little girl who enjoys nothing more than playing in a sensory room where she becomes very vocal and happy, fascinated by the lights and sensory equipment provided. After seeing how much joy and stimulation the sensory room provided, Suzanne's parents were eager to give her the same experience in the comfort of their own home. An application was made to React for a light sensory pack and the family was ecstatic with the positive response and opportunity to give Suzanne something she loved so much.

On the Move

Donna was so excited when expecting her second child and could not wait to meet her. The pregnancy was smooth and at full term baby Jessica was born. However, Jessica was unable to breathe properly and after tests, little Jessica was diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay, Cortical Blindness, Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy.

Jessica, now aged five, cannot walk, talk or see and needs assistance for all activities of daily living. Despite her complex condition, she is a delightful and shy little girl who loves listening to music and interacting with her family. Her Mum is her full-time carer and older brother Josh is also very helpful, assisting around the house, when Donna is busy.

As Jessica is immobile, the majority of her day is spent sitting or lying down, which causes lack of movement in her muscles and hips, resulting in discomfort and further problems for her. Jessica's Physiotherapist recommended a specialist trike, which would encourage Jessica to move and strengthen her muscle tone significantly.

Donna said of React's application process: "The response was so quick which is what you need and is vital as when you have a poorly child, anything can happen".

The specially adapted trike has given Jessica a new lease of life and she loves using it around her house, to stretch her legs when she gets tired of sitting. The family also enjoy visiting their local park, where brother and sister race around happily together.



Karl



Karl's Comfortable Bed

Nine year old Karl lives with his Mum Stacey, Dad James and little Sister Erika. He has a diagnosis of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Chronic Lung Disease and a Gastro-oesophageal reflux. For Karl, this means living with severe pain throughout the day and night which is heightened by any form of movement, particularly bending and stretching.

Karl finds it extremely difficult to climb in and out of his bed each night causing great distress to both he and his parents. Along with his physical difficulties, Karl has been diagnosed with Autism and as such, struggles to understand his limitations leaving him frustrated and upset.

The family spoke with Karl's Senior Physiotherapist who trialled him in an adjustable bed with tilt function. The bed met his needs perfectly allowing him to get in and out with ease, not only minimising the discomfort of bending but also giving him a greater sense of independence. However, although both Karl's parents are employed, equipment of this specialist nature is extremely costly and was unfortunately far beyond their financial means. They approached React who were delighted to assist, mum Stacey wrote "Thank you for providing my son's bed. This has already helped to reduce the pain he was experiencing and we cannot thank you enough for such a quick response."

Your Gift Is Urgently Needed

React aims to give children with life-limiting illnesses 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 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 in the past four years. 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 if you pay less Income Tax/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS OPPOSITE.

Latest News

JustTextGiving™ by **vodafone**

You can now donate between £1 - £10 by texting REAC12 and the amount to 70070.

It takes just a few seconds to help so many families.

Fundraising Galore!

The West London Immigration Enforcement Office has been very busy these past few months, raising a generous sum for children with life-shortening illnesses. Holding a charity food sale and completing a 10K run just weeks apart amongst other events, their inspirational fundraising pursuits have seen them raise a fantastic £2,539.50 for React families. Their incredible support, hard work and effort has been monumental and we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Paul and the team at West London Immigration Enforcement Office for making this incredible donation possible.



CIBC

On the 31st March, React was invited to visit CIBC UK along with two other charities to receive a very generous cheque totalling £30,000. CIBC's Miracle Days and fundraising events such as golf days, bake offs and balloon releases have had a huge impact on React and we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all at CIBC UK for their incredible support over the years.

Run for Team React

Are you interested in running for charity this year? Join team React at the British 10K on Sunday 10th July and get fit, have fun and raise money for terminally ill children. Places are still available, so dust off your running shoes and sign up now. If you would like to know more, please contact the React office at 0208 940 2575 or email us at react@reactcharity.org.

The Worshipful Company Of Curriers

The Worshipful Company of Curriers has been a valuable supporter of React's work for many years and providing funding for a number of families in need of vital equipment. Their generosity and goodwill has allowed React to say 'yes' to more terminally ill children in need of assistance. React would like to thank all Livery companies for their kind and continued support.

React

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802440 (UK) SC038067 (Scotland)

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.

