

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

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

Newsletter Winter 2018 Issue 47 www.reactcharity.org

A New Perspective for Little Jay

When Jay's mother Emma went for her routine 20 week scan, she was told her son would be born with a rare condition, Hydrocephalus. The disorder is caused by excess fluid on the brain and can affect all aspects of health, including mobility.

Now aged two, Jay is a cheeky little boy who loves to explore the world around him and interact with others. However, due to his significant mobility issues his perspective of the world is very much horizontal as he spends the majority of the day lying flat. Jay's Physiotherapist recommended the use of a walker to hold him in an upright position and encourage him to take small steps.

As the walker was unavailable through the Local Authority, his Physiotherapist approached React. Jay can now go outside, chase his big brother, "pinch" the remote from the sofa and play with other children.

Emma said "The walker has made such a huge difference to Jay's life and he is more independent. Thank you so much for the walker React, he loves it!"



Jay

Alba



A Specialist Seat for Alba

Within just 24 hours of birth, baby Alba experienced a seizure, leaving her parents, Roz and Adam terrified. Alba's parents were given the devastating diagnosis that their little girl has a life-shortening illness, Congenital Disorder of Glycosylation – Type D.

Alba, aged two, is at constant risk of having a seizure and choking. Her parents need to be alert and keep close by at all times. Alba is unable to sit unaided and it is safer for her to be propped up as much as possible. Acquiring comfortable and supportive seating has become increasingly difficult.

Alba's Occupational Therapist recommended a specialist seat known as a P-Pod which can be wheeled around the home and provides Alba with the perfect place to relax. The seat is designed for children with complex needs and although offers rigid support, incorporates a soft covering for comfort.

Alba's mother Roz, said "We would have never been able to afford one of these seats for Alba, React has been amazing and it was a huge weight off our minds when we heard the charity was able to help."

Can We Help?

Do you know a child who could benefit from React's help? For rapid, effective assistance our application form is available to download www.reactcharity.org or call **0208 940 2575** for friendly advice and support.

RAPID EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH POTENTIALLY TERMINAL ILLNESS

Kew College

React would like to thank the pupils, parents and staff of Kew College for generously supporting React as its "Charity of the Year".



Kew College

Kew College pupils took part in lots of fun-filled fundraising activities, including carol singing outside Kew Gardens Station and many whacky games and performances at their 2018 Summer Fair.

At the year end assembly, former pupils Ella and Anna presented React with a cheque for an incredible £10,000, representing the total amount raised from all the wonderful events taking place over the year.

Thank you to all at Kew College for your enthusiasm which has made a huge difference to the lives of React families.

London Marathon Runner

Although it was one of the hottest London Marathon's on record, that didn't deter one incredible runner, Laura Hughes, from crossing the finish line in five hours and 59 minutes. In doing so, Laura raised an impressive £2,426.37 for React families.

Thank you Laura for choosing React to benefit from your remarkable achievement.



Laura Hughes

The Longest Day

After learning about React's work, Kai decided to take on the "Longest Day" golf challenge in support of the charity. For 12 gruelling hours in the burning sun, Kai battled on alone and completed four rounds of golf in one day – which equates to an amazing 72 holes!



Kai Stengel

His effort raised an incredible £1,492, along with a few blisters for good measure. Thank you Kai for your fantastic support.

No Beer for a Year!

Last year, Graeme Hatch took on 50 new challenges for his 50th birthday to raise funds for React and two other charities. Some of his highlights included cycling from London to Brighton and back again, skydiving, adorning a glitter beard and giving up alcohol for a whole year!



Graeme Hatch

With the challenge almost at an end, Graeme has raised a fantastic £4,749 so far for his charities, making blood, sweat and tears all worthwhile. Team React sends huge thanks from us all.

A Night in the Sahara – Celebrities out in Support of React



On Saturday 22nd September, React greeted guests to a 'A Night in the Sahara' held in the beautiful grounds of Trumpeters House. Hosted by our Patron, Baroness van Dedem, the event welcomed a number of celebrities who turned out in support of React's work. The evening began with a themed reception followed by a three course meal and guests were entertained throughout the night with desert delights including a belly dancer, vibrant drumming and a live band.

Thank you to each and every one of you who worked tirelessly to make the evening a success.

London to Brighton and the British 10k



Michael Hudson

In May, Michael Hudson took part in the London to Brighton challenge and walked an incredible 100km in just 22 hours, which included a few 'pit stops' to avoid torrential wind and rain. Michael described his remarkable feat as "The hardest thing I have ever done in my life!" Michael raised an amazing £645 for React families on this occasion but he wasn't finished yet!

Once Michael's body had recovered, he was on to the next challenge and ran the British 10K on a blisteringly hot day in July raising a further £150.

The tremendous spirit Michael has had over the summer months is truly inspiring and we thank him for choosing to support React.

Making Memories with Lisa



Lisa

When Lisa was born she showed no interest in feeding but her parents were reassured at the time that this was perfectly normal for some infants. Over the coming weeks, baby Lisa began stretching in a strange and painful pattern. Her parents took her to the hospital where she was immediately admitted.

Lisa was diagnosed with Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia, complex seizures and Global Developmental Delay. Her Father Napoleon said "At first everything was stable, she was a tiny baby and we were just caring for her like you would any newborn. But when she turned three, things started to take really bad shape. Hospital appointments became more frequent and it became clear that we had a child with a severe medical condition."

Lisa's health is incredibly fragile and much emphasis has been put on making as many precious memories as possible. Due to her deteriorating health it is not possible for five year old Lisa to visit the park, and her Community Palliative Care Nurse recommended a specialist swing for the garden.

Working alongside the Palliative Care Team, React provided a specialist swing to give Lisa new fun experiences outdoors. Napoleon said, "Having Lisa has made us more appreciative of life and for everyone who has donated to React, from both Lisa and all our family, I say God bless you."

A Trike for Anton

21, holes in his heart and Meconium Aspiration Syndrome. His devastated Mum Marsha was told her beautiful boy was the sickest infant on the ward.

Anton spent most of his first year in hospital where he was further diagnosed with Pulmonary Hypertension and Marsha juggled her time between staying at the hospital and home to care for her other son, Shamari. Marsha reflected on this challenging time "The stress of leaving one son so I could care for the other was so difficult and I remember feeling very unsupported at the time. Anton's Dad was also juggling work and sleeping at the hospital so I could rest at home. It has been a challenge from the start. I give thanks to React, who brought joy into our lives."

Four year old Anton loves to join in with activities typical for children of his age and likes trips to the local park with his mum and older brother. A Physiotherapist recommended a specialist trike to provide him with an inclusive and fun way to exercise outdoors and build up his muscle strength. Following a referral, React provided Anton with his own special bike, giving him the independence and enjoyment he craved.

Anton's Mum said, "When I told Anton a trike was being delivered his eyes lit up and he was so excited when it was wheeled to the front door. Going to the park with his trike is much more fun and less isolating for Anton than being stuck in his buggy. He can play with other children more freely. We keep the trike in our hallway and he is constantly letting us know he wants to go out on it."

Within just two hours of birth, baby Anton was rushed to the intensive care unit and a team of ten doctors desperately fought for his life. Anton was diagnosed with Trisomy



Anton

Support for Piper

Whilst eagerly anticipating the arrival of their baby girl, parents Claire and Richard were given the devastating news that their baby would be born with brain deformities. Doctors could not predict if Piper would survive the birth and, if she did, the prognosis was bleak.

Despite the odds, when Piper was born she surprised everyone. Not only did she survive, after a total of 166 days of hospital care, she was finally allowed home. Mum, Claire reflected on the difficult time, "I have no idea how we coped in those days, I was expecting to be home within a week. It was such a struggle managing the care of our other children and I honestly don't know how we did it."

Now aged two, Piper is a happy child although she still needs lots of care and is unable to sit independently, spending much of the day lying flat. This impacts greatly on her development and, like any child her age, she wants to be active and play with her toys. Piper's Physiotherapist recommended a 'GoTo Seat', which is a lightweight postural seat that provides comfortable support. The highly versatile seat holds Piper securely and provides the ability to sit upright. Her seat has been fitted with wheels so that Piper can now scoot around the home chasing and playing with her brothers and sisters.



Piper

Latest News

JustTextGiving™ by 

You can donate by Text too! You can donate between **£1 - £10** by texting **REACT12** and the amount to **70070**. It takes just a few seconds to help so many families.

The Norman Family Trust

Our sincere thanks go to the Norman Family Trust for their most recent award of £1,000 which has had a significant impact on the lives of React families living in Cornwall.

Help for Health

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to 'Help for Health' for awarding £2,283 to provide vital, essential equipment to families living in East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.

Richmond and Kew Quilters Exhibition

The Richmond and Kew Quilters have kindly chosen React to benefit from their quilt exhibition in October. A big thank you to all who have worked so hard over the year to produce such stunning pieces which will benefit many.

The Petersham Charity of the Year

The Petersham Hotel has kindly selected React as its charity of the year and will donate £1 for every Afternoon Tea. We urge readers to treat themselves to some delicious sandwiches, scrumptious scones and pastries and, in doing so, support React's important work. To make a booking for your Afternoon Tea, please visit www.petershamhotel.co.uk.

Durham University

React would like to express its appreciation to the Charities Committee of Durham University for their generous award of £529 to assist React families in County Durham. React would like to say a huge thank you to all at Durham University for choosing to support React families once more.

Fourneaux de France

Two brave colleagues Candice and Steven cycled from London to Paris, covering an incredible 290 miles in just four days. They raised £665 for React families and we express our thanks for their tremendous journey.

Sainsbury's Cake Sale

Sainsbury's staff at the Friars Stile Road branch put their baking skills to the test and treated customers to an impressive bake sale in aid of React. We express our thanks to all staff and customers who contributed to the event which raised £128.

React 

Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness

Registered charity no. 802440 (UK) SC038067 (Scotland)

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

St Luke's House
270 Sandycombe Road
Kew, Richmond
Surrey TW9 3NP

Tel: 020 8940 2575

Email: react@reactcharity.org

Website: www.reactcharity.org



Your Gift Is Urgently Needed

React is a unique charity responding to the needs of children in the UK who are living with potentially terminal illness. Our aim is to help families give their children the best quality of life possible in the short time they have left. Whatever you can give will help. **Thank you.**

Please complete your name and address details below to enable us to reclaim the tax on your donation and keep you in touch with our work.

YOUR DETAILS

Your title and full name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____ Date _____

Please remove me from your database

YOUR GIFT TO REACT

Please accept my gift of

£250 £100 £50 £25 £10 Other £

I enclose a cheque 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 ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date _____

If you would prefer to transfer directly to the charity bank account, please see React's bank details below.

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH A REGULAR GIFT!

By making a regular gift you will ensure more children live with comfort, dignity, and the opportunity to participate in life as fully as possible.

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 _____

Bank Details

Please pay REACT Account Number: 00886556; Barclays Bank, George Street, Richmond, TW9 1JU; Sort Code 20-72-33

MAKE YOUR DONATION TAX-FREE

REMEMBER TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION!

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 has asked us to remind you if you pay less Income Tax/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount 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.