

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

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

Newsletter Summer 2022 Issue 54 www.reactcharity.org

Lewis' Electric Trike

Lewis is an upbeat, resilient young man, who always has a positive outlook on life. Just like any teenage boy, he loves socialising with his friends, going out with his older brother Robert, and walking the family dog. Lewis is living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive muscle wasting disease, for which there is no cure. Sixteen year old Lewis battles with various disabilities every day, but he doesn't let that stop him from enjoying life to the fullest.

Lewis was diagnosed just before his second birthday after his parents, Rebecca and Adrian, noticed their baby wasn't walking or crawling, nor reaching the expected milestones. It was some time before Lewis was mobile enough to ride a tricycle and his family rallied together to buy one that was suitable for him.

Lewis loved riding his tricycle, but as his muscles began to deteriorate further, he found that pedaling and steering the trike was becoming more and more difficult. On speaking to his physiotherapist, an electric trike was suggested as a suitable option but, Rebecca and Adrian were unable to make this costly purchase themselves so, an application was made to React.

Rebecca told us "Lewis is absolutely thrilled with his new electric trike, he loves the independence and his world has opened up again."



Lewis

Anika's Sun and Rain Canopy

When Anika was just 16 months old, she unexpectedly experienced a seizure and, within the space of 24 hours, Mum, Katarzyna witnessed her baby daughter endure 180 repetitive seizure attacks. Doctors were unable to immediately pinpoint what was wrong and Anika was referred to a genetic specialist. After weeks of stress, a diagnosis was finally made; Anika was living with Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome, along with epileptic encephalopathy, hypertonía, and significant global developmental delay.

Anika experiences photo sensitive epilepsy which means she must be protected from bright lights which can trigger an attack. She can become distressed very quickly, and her parents will often take Anika out in her buggy, which helps to keep her calm. When Mum, Katarzyna asked React to provide a rain cover and sun canopy for the buggy, so she could take Anika out in all weathers, we were delighted to help.

Four year old Anika is now always smiling and laughing, her seizures are moderately under control and, when she's not feeling so great, Katarzyna takes her out for a stroll.



Anika

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

Wax On, Wax Off!

During a recent charity fundraising event organised by County Down-based salon Eden Beauty, two brave locals took on the notoriously painful ritual of having their legs, back, chest and underarms waxed, all in aid of React families living in Northern Ireland.

The two waxees, Matthew and Paul, offered guests the chance to pull off a strip of hair themselves in exchange for a £2 donation to React, and local businesses kindly contributed prizes for a charity raffle to top off the evening. After an excruciating night for Matthew and Paul, a fantastic £1,308 was raised and React sends its sincerest thanks to owner Naomi and all at Eden Beauty for such a memorable evening.



Thank You TK Maxx



As part of a programme to support those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the associates from the Kew Retail Park Branch of TK Maxx kindly nominated React to receive a £500 donation from the TK Maxx and Homesense Foundation.

React families have faced overwhelming challenges during the coronavirus crisis, with many needing to shield at home for months because of the risk of infection. React sends its gratitude to all at the TK Maxx Homesense Foundation for helping us reach out to more of those who continue to struggle.

NatWest 2022



We are honoured to be entering a fourth year partnership with NatWest Bank.

Staff have undertaken a multitude of fundraising campaigns in aid of React families, from skydives to branch collections and everything in between, raising thousands of pounds in the process. Nataliya of the Richmond branch has kicked this year's fundraising off with a charity raffle and we look forward to working with colleagues across the bank to assist as many children as possible during 2022.



Newcastle Students Start the Semester with a Bang!

It has been a difficult couple of years for student fundraisers, with Covid cancelling many challenge events and collections. Following the relaxation of restrictions, students of Newcastle University took full advantage and organised a memorable week of fundraising events in aid of our families.

Over the course of just five days, students across the campus took part in a Comedy Bingo Night, Murder Mystery Evening, 'Take Me Out' dating game, pub quiz and even a Battle of the Bands competition. React sends huge thanks to all students involved for their dedicated support.

Supporting Children Throughout Their Lifetime



Reuben

React provides a wide range of equipment for terminally ill children and many of our supporters ask, what happens after an award is made? Can families apply again? What happens when a child outgrows equipment, or their needs change over time?

The short answer is... we can help as often as needed.

React recognises that, in many cases, children will require different equipment aids as an illness develops. Families can apply as many times as they wish, with no time limit in-between and, React will support children throughout their lifetime. One such child is six year old Reuben, pictured above. React has provided multiple specialist items for this young man since his family first approached us four years ago.

If you would like to help children like Reuben, please donate using the form on the back of this newsletter or visit our website at www.reactcharity.org/donate.

Savills Partnership

React is pleased to announce a new partnership with Savills Richmond. Staff are hoping to raise as much as possible for our families over the coming year, through an eclectic mixture of challenge events and fundraising campaigns.

Community engagement is an integral part of Savills' ethos and funds raised during the partnership will be used to buy specialist equipment for React children.

We give tremendous thanks to all at Savills for choosing to support our work.



Mohammed's Car Seat

Eleven days after he was born, following check-ups and a number of meetings with healthcare professionals, Mohammed was diagnosed with stage 4 chronic kidney disease. Mohammed had started to lose weight at an alarming rate, and despite the midwife trying to reassure Mum Foyzia, they both knew something was wrong, and a trip to the GP was arranged immediately.

Foyzia took Mohammed to the hospital following a GP's recommendation, where he was given a blood test. Doctors were shocked to see very little blood in the syringe, which then prompted a scan. Both Doctors and Foyzia were puzzled, until a scan made clear that Mohammed was missing a kidney, and that his remaining kidney was severely damaged. The hospital admitted him straight away for further tests where he remained for three months.

Mohammed and his family now regularly travel to many hospital appointments, to keep a close eye on his condition. It was during one of these journeys, the family were victims of a terrible car crash, which completely destroyed Mohammed's car seat. Mohammed desperately needed a new car seat to travel to his appointments, and with nowhere else to turn, the family were referred to React. Mohammed can now travel safely to his many appointments, and despite his illness, he always has a smile on his face. "Everyday he is fighting, thanks to the support that he has been able to receive over the years".



Mohammed

Samuel's Corner Seat

Two-year-old Samuel was born premature at just 33 weeks; this immediately raised red flags for his survival. Samuel's breathing was very unstable and he needed medical intervention from the start.

Despite the medical team's best efforts, Samuel's health continued to worsen, and he was transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Following a number of scans, doctors discovered serious issues with Samuel's heart and a referral was made to a genetic specialist. Following two lengthy months of tests and, his worried parents not knowing what was wrong with their baby, Samuel was finally diagnosed with partial Patau Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder.

Over the next few months, Samuel's development faltered, and parents Robert and Jana found that Samuel struggled with balance. He would often fall over and his concerned parents sought advice from an occupational therapist at their local hospice, who recommended a 'floor seater'. This specialist seat allows Samuel to sit upright independently, giving him the postural support and the stability he requires.

Since receiving the seat from React, two-year-old Samuel has come so far, and he has made so much progress. "He is a lot more confident and interacts with his toys, and he is now even beginning to crawl around. The floor seater has been so helpful in developing his core strength, and the whole process of applying to React was simple. It is so good to know Samuel can receive the right support he needs".



Samuel

React Holiday

The KCNT1 Mutation is an extremely rare genetic illness that affects only three people in the world, and 20-month-old Frankie is one of

those three. Mum, Kirsty spent five long months in hospital sitting by her baby's side, at a time when most new parents are enjoying this exciting new stage and dreaming of the life to come.

For Frankie and his family, each day is filled with medical regimes and hospital appointments, and a trip to the GP is a common occurrence. Mum, Kirsty had never considered a family holiday, but when a local hospice recommended React, suggesting the family apply for a React Holiday, Kirsty was intrigued.

Attracted to a holiday home, located on a beautiful sandy beach in Porthcawl, Wales, Kirsty contacted React. Following a short application process, a reservation was made and the family was packed and ready to go. Frankie and his two siblings, Connor and Sophie, adored the selection of children's activities and the change of scenery.

Kirsty told us "We didn't realise how important a holiday was, and the chance to be here together as a family. It was brilliant to escape the everyday stresses of life back home, free from hospital appointments and feeling just like any other holiday-maker".



Frankie

OR COLLEAGUE SO MORE PEOPLE CAN HELP REACT CHILDREN

Latest News

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. React will provide basic, essential aid and equipment that is unavailable from any other source. 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

£500 £250 £100 £50 £25 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.

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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.

Catholic Women's League

Following their kind recent donation, React sends sincere thanks to all at the Catholic Women's League for continuing to support our important work.

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Once again, the pupils of St Mary's C of E Primary School chose React to benefit from their annual Craft Fair fundraiser. We send huge thanks to all pupils of Year 6 for their hard work and for raising an impressive £200.

Thank you Jo!

Seasoned marathon runner and school teacher Jo Taman, is picking up her running shoes again and taking on several competitive races this year, all in aid of React families. Thank you for your support Jo and we wish you the very best of luck!

Kew Village Market

Kew Village Market is a monthly event run entirely by volunteers with all profits donated to good causes. React would like to thank the Committee and market-goers for donating a generous £333, which was put to good use assisting our families.

Canon UK

The team at Canon have kindly supported React for a number of years, through their annual Charity Golf Day and, this year was no exception with a fantastic £430 raised in the first event following Covid lockdowns. A big round of applause goes out to all involved.

Freemasons

React is privileged to receive support from several masonic chapters and we would like to send a special thanks to members of the Star of Stoneleigh Lodge, Pride of Surrey Chapter, Grosvenor Chapter and Wantsum Cork Lodge for their generous donations.

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.

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