

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

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

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Ted's New Wheels

When Edward, known to family and friends affectionately as 'Ted', unexpectedly suffered a seizure at the age of six, Mum, Frederica expected a diagnosis of epilepsy. He was booked in for an MRI scan, where doctors noticed further complications and Ted was eventually diagnosed with Adrenoleukodystrophy, a rare genetic disorder which damages the membrane of the brain and spinal cord.

Now aged seven, Ted is a wheelchair user, although he can walk a few steps with some support. Very soon he will lose this precious ability and will be too heavy for his parents to carry. Ted's wheelchair is impractical as it cannot handle rough terrains, and its heavy steering makes it difficult for Mum to push for long periods. His parents are trying their best to enjoy quality time together and visit friends and family as much as possible. Following a referral from a physiotherapist, React was delighted to help out, and presented Ted with a Convoid Rodeo Buggy to make travelling and exploring easier. Frederica told us she is "Massively relieved", and the buggy has now seen "over 100 miles!"

As Frederica helps Ted work through his ever-growing bucket list, we are delighted to report, this lovely young man who loves exploring, can now enjoy relaxing on the beach or even visiting festivals - where he sits and dances for hours.



Edward

Jaida's Shower Table

Jaida was born a healthy baby, though after being hospitalised with meningitis at the age of three, which very nearly took her life, she developed the most severe form of cerebral palsy. Although doctors were able to save her, Jaida was left with further health complications, including scoliosis and hip displacement.

Jaida who is now aged 16, has no independent mobility and relies on her retired grandparents, who have cared for her since she was two years old. The family rely heavily on a variety of specialist equipment, which is crucial aid to two elderly grandparents who struggle to lift Jaida manually. When a much-used shower table broke, the family were at a loss with what to do, as there is a two-year waiting list with the local authority for a replacement.

Jaida's grandparents relayed the issue to a physiotherapist, who sourced a suitable shower table costing £2,984. The table will support Jaida's full body weight, is height adjustable, and has 360-degree access. React was happy to help and provide some dignity and relief during shower-time.



Jaida

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

A Barn Dance Extravaganza

React was delighted to be chosen as the benefitting charity at the Kew House School Barn Dance. Parents and teachers came together, for a night of barn-dancing, live music, games, food and drink, all in aid of React children.

The rootin'-tootin' hoedown raised an incredible £5,173.19 and we send huge thanks to the Friends Committee for putting together such a memorable evening, and to parents who generously donated on the night.



Sarah Runs for React

Avid runner and React supporter Sarah McLaughlin took on the ultimate test of endurance, when she competed in this year's Edinburgh Marathon. Crossing the finish line in just over five hours, Sarah's hard work and training paid off by raising a fantastic £879.10 for React families. React sends a big congratulations to Sarah for her wonderful achievement, and sincere thanks goes out to all who donated to her campaign.



University of St Andrews

The University of St Andrews Charity Campaign is made up of some of the most dedicated student fundraisers in the country. Each year, the Committee organises hitchhikes across Europe, fashion shows, bake sales and nights out, to raise as much money as possible for their chosen charities. This year, St Andrews kindly chose React to benefit from their tireless philanthropy, donating £3,750 towards our work in Scotland.

Thank you to all student fundraisers for making such a difference to React families.



SPIFOX Support

SPIFOX are passionate about raising funds for disadvantaged children

across Scotland and React was privileged to be a benefitting charity from their 2022 Glasgow Lunch. The event made its grand return for the first time since 2019 due to coronavirus lockdowns.

Attended by over 800 guests, a splendid day was had by all and React sends its deepest thanks for the incredible £15,000 award, which has provided life-changing equipment for 13 terminally ill children living in Scotland.

Sporting Bears

Sporting Bears Motor Club is a long term supporter of React's work and we would like to say a massive thanks to all members who donated so generously following their return after the Covid lockdowns.

The Club is made up of car enthusiasts from across the country, who voluntarily give up their time to take eager motorheads out for a 'Dream Ride' in all makes of cars, from old classics like the Austin 7 or Ford Model T up to and including supercars like Ferraris and Porsches, all in the name of charity. We are thrilled to be supported by these philanthropic petrolheads once again and wish the Club the very best for next year's events.



St Richard Reynolds Catholic College

Pupils of St Richard Reynolds Catholic College put together an extraordinary fundraising campaign in aid of their chosen charities during Lent: a 12-hour indoor rowing marathon. Led by a determined group of sixth form students, a total of 625 kilometres was rowed in what was a grueling mission, lasting into the early hours of the morning. A fantastic £942.78 was raised for React families and we say congratulations and well done to everyone involved for your endurance and dedication.



Michal's Gravity Chair

Michal was diagnosed with epilepsy on his fourth birthday, and just six months later he was confirmed with CLN2-Type Batten disease. Nothing could have foreshadowed such a life-changing prognosis, as Michal appeared to be born a healthy child, who was meeting all the expected development milestones. Once an energetic and talkative toddler, Michal's health began to seriously deteriorate week by week, and the epileptic attacks became stronger and more frequent, which has been heart-breaking for his parents to witness.

Now aged seven, Michal has lost all physical skills, and is in continuing cognitive decline. He is unable to walk and uses a hoist and wheelchair for mobility. However, the wheelchair that was given to him by the local health authority was not providing the support he required, and he became distressed and irritable. Following a recommendation from an occupational therapist, a Gravity Chair was suggested to Mum, Katarzyna.

The gravity chair has a soft exterior, and creates both support and comfort for the user. With Katarzyna relying on low-income benefits, and unable to afford the Gravity Chair herself, React was delighted to step in.

Katarzyna told us "It was the most wonderful news as it would have otherwise been extremely hard to afford the chair that Michal needed so badly".



Michal

Elizabeth and her New Trike

Elizabeth, or 'Betty' to her friends and family, spent a great deal of her infant life in and out of a GP's surgery. Six months after being born, her Mother, Jen, noticed

Betty was irritable, and that she had a number of neurological symptoms. After a number of tests including a CT scan, Betty was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive Brain Tumour at the tender age of seven months. Her diagnosis resulted in multiple surgeries, intense chemo and radiotherapy, all of which took a toll on her general health. Betty is partially deaf, fed via a gastrostomy tube and, she has limited mobility.

Now aged five, Betty's lack of mobility means she must be strapped into chairs or hoists - which often unsettles her. This five-year-old girl, lacked independence, and she was frustrated that she could not mobilise independently. Jen, sought the advice of a physiotherapist who recommended a specialist trike. The trike encourages Betty to become more mobile, allowing reciprocal movement of her legs, which, in turn, helps Betty to improve her posture.

Costing over £1,000, the trike was far beyond the family budget and so they turned to React, who was happy to help. Betty can now engage in many activities, and enjoys a new found freedom when exploring the world around her.



Elizabeth

Storage for Myla

Just 24 hours after Myla was born, her parents were told their daughter had a serious cardiac issue. Mum, Claire, already noticed that Myla wasn't feeding well, and her small body appeared to be swollen. Myla was immediately transferred to a specialist children's hospital, where she underwent numerous open-heart surgeries, and remained in intensive care.

When Myla came home, at three months of age, she was accompanied by numerous amounts of supplies required for her care. The family home was soon overflowing with medical equipment, such as stoma supplies and feedings aids, and Myla's parents were running out of space to store the essentials safely. Following a recommendation from their community nurse, Claire applied to React and we were more than happy to provide a garden storage shed.

Although Myla will need further cardiac surgeries in the future, she continues to thrive, and this 14-month-old toddler is consistently surprising her parents with her strength and determination.



Myla

Give a little love

React is proud to be supported through Waitrose and Partners' charity campaign, 'Give a Little Love', which began during the pandemic and has raised a fantastic £2,144 over the past year. Our sincere thanks go out to all participating stores, and to the customers who kindly donated to the campaign during their weekly shop.



OR COLLEAGUE SO MORE PEOPLE CAN HELP REACT CHILDREN

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. *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.

Remembering Joan Rundle

React pays tribute to Joan Rundle, a much loved member of the community who held React close to her heart. Joan's unwavering dedication to charitable and voluntary causes impacted the lives of many, and we send our heartfelt thanks to husband Ed and their children, who kindly instructed mourners to donate to React in lieu of flowers. Joan's warm heart and generous spirit will be remembered by us all.

Natwest

We are delighted to thank the staff of NatWest, who continue to fundraise for React families and send sincere gratitude to all, following the most recent in-branch raffle which raised a fantastic £1,104.

Avenue Club

Members of the Avenue Club at St Luke's Church raised an impressive £488.11 during a recent coffee morning held in aid of React families. We send our thanks to all attendees who kindly donated.

Worshipful Company of Curriers

React thanks the Worshipful Company of Curriers for the generous award of £1,500, which has provided a specialist trike for a child living with a rare chromosome disorder.

Three Peaks Challenge

A big congratulations goes to Kate Holtzer, who took on the 'Three Peaks Challenge' and summited Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis all within 24 hours. In doing so, Kate raised vital funds for React families and we thank her for her tireless endurance.

Lbox Communications

React gives a special mention to Lbox Communications, for kindly distributing our summer newsletters free of charge and raising vital awareness amongst the general public.

Mid-Surrey Bowls Club

A huge shout out goes to the members of Mid-Surrey Bowls Club following their charity match vs Dennyside, which raised a fantastic £2,600. React is sincerely grateful to all competitors and volunteers who worked so hard to make this event possible.

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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.