

# React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

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

React Newsletter  
Winter 2023 • Issue 57

RAPID EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH POTENTIALLY TERMINAL ILLNESS

[www.reactcharity.org](http://www.reactcharity.org)

## Filip's Buggy

**Filip's first seizure at just five months old was initially thought to be infantile spasms, but years later, when displaying signs of poor mobility and autism, Filip was diagnosed with Dravet Syndrome.**

Filip will suffer seizures for the rest of his life and he is in danger of collapsing at any time. Mum, Gabriela knew that a standard buggy could not offer Filip adequate postural support, and as a ten year old child he still had plenty of growing to do. With the help of a social worker, a specialist pushchair was finally identified that will adapt as Filip grows and support him into his teenage years. Gabriela was disheartened to learn these models are very expensive, until the supplier told her about React.

Gabriela told us: *"The buggy from React was a huge relief. It was awarded quickly, and Filip is so excited to be able to spend more time outside."*



Filip

*"We now have the  
freedom to explore"*

Filip's mum, Gabriela

## Give it Away

**Charlotte Grobien OBE is a dedicated philanthropist who has raised millions since setting up her charitable programme, 'Give It Away', over 15 years ago.** Charlotte's support has benefited many React children over the years and we thank her for her most recent 'Pink Envelope' gift which provided a P-Pod seat, specialist walker and sensory items for three children.

*"I support React because they give depth and comfort to so many families caring for children with life-limiting conditions" said Charlotte. "React is very prompt in the way they use donations and I am delighted to have supported this charity and its families for so many years".*



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](http://www.reactcharity.org) or call 0208 940 2575 for friendly advice and support.



Harry

# A New Bed for Harry

**Claire's pregnancy was completely normal, but shortly after birth she realised something was very wrong with her newborn son.** Baby Harry struggled to breathe, and it was not long before doctors realised he had a serious congenital heart defect that later contributed to a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Harry required overnight feeding and was at risk of seizures. By six years of age, after outgrowing a hospital cot, it was clear that Harry would need a specialist

profiling bed to help keep him safe and ensure he was at the correct height for his mum to tend to him. A bed with clear sides allows for easy monitoring should Harry experience a seizure or become tangled in his nutrition line.

Harry's community nurse referred the family to React, and the team were delighted to help. Claire told us: *"I felt completely overwhelmed when the bed was awarded. It's been a tremendous help keeping Harry safe."*

**"The bed is amazing!"** Harry's mum, Claire

## Harroddian School

**Community and charity have always been an important aspect of school life for pupils at Harroddian School, who work tirelessly throughout the year to support causes close to their heart.** The 'Harroddian Youth Philanthropy Initiative' (YPI) sees Senior pupils collaborating together in a six-month long project to support numerous charities. Other events include annual Summer and Christmas fairs, swimathons, non-uniform days, quiz nights and countless additional

activities to raise funds for charity, and they kindly chose React to benefit from their pre-prep art sale. React sends its thanks to all pupils, staff and parents for their unwavering commitment to philanthropy.

If you work at a school who is looking to support a charity, why not put React's name forward and help us reach out to more families in the UK? Please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!



## Ciconi's Support

Ciconi has designed and distributed our newsletter since 2018 and the company kindly chose React as its Charity of the Year for the past two years.

By donating £2.50 for every 1000 items mailed since the partnership began, a staggering £5,521.72 has been raised in total and we send our thanks to all our friends at Ciconi for your generosity and helping React spread word of its service throughout the UK.



# Bath Time for Louisa

**Premature births are a traumatic experience for any parent. When Louisa came into the world, her parents were faced with the real probability that their newborn baby would not survive.**

Louisa's Dad, Lee, explained: *"We are lucky she is with us at all".*

Diagnosed with dystonia, epilepsy and global development delay, nine year old Louisa's needs are highly complex. Whilst she has a plethora of equipment to assist with her care, bathtimes still proved problematic.

Louisa needs to be properly supported when bathed and Dad Lee told us: *"It is impossible to bathe her without help and as a single Dad, this has proved difficult".* With the aid of Louisa's Occupational Therapist, Lee applied to React requesting a specialist bath chair and he was amazed by how quickly we responded: *"I was relieved as I didn't expect to receive the item but React was so quick and efficient".* We were delighted to help Lee and Louisa, and Dad told us: *"Bathtimes are no longer an issue".*



Louisa

**“React’s help is truly liberating”**

Eliza’s mum, Naomi



Eliza

## A Tray for Eliza

**Despite a perfectly normal pregnancy, Eliza’s birth was harrowing for all involved.** Mum Naomi, watched as her little girl was resuscitated and then whisked away to the intensive care unit where, she would spend the first five weeks of her life.

With Eliza diagnosed with severe hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy and later, level 5 cerebral palsy, Naomi has given up work to become a full-time carer and acquiring a range of useful equipment to meet Eliza’s needs has proven difficult. Naomi told us: “The local authority and NHS are limited in what they can provide.”

A community nurse recommended Naomi apply to React and when we provided an activity frame for the second-hand P-Pod she’d sourced, the family were amazed by the quick turnaround.

When Eliza is in respite care or is travelling outside the home she uses a specialist buggy. However, the NHS cannot provide additional items such as rain covers and hoods which are, again, another costly expense.

Eliza has limited dexterity and her care team recommended a specialist tray to fix to the buggy to keep sensory items within her reach and, help to improve fine motor skills. So the family called on React once more. React was happy to provide both a tray and thermal cover to keep Eliza snug during the winter months. Naomi informed us: *“I have found React’s help empowering, and we are very grateful. Being able to get effective assistance can be overly complicated and React’s service is quite liberating”.*

## Wedding Gifts

**What better way is there to celebrate the union of love than to give back to those who need it most?** This was the wish of Georgina and Chris when they tied the knot earlier this year, and asked guests to donate to React in lieu of wedding gifts.



© Howell Photography

*“Chris and I are incredibly fortunate and have everything we need. We wanted to celebrate our wedding by raising funds for our chosen charities. I chose React as I was so impressed with the work they do, particularly as I work for a small charity myself and know how difficult it is to keep running costs low and still have such a huge impact! I’m really delighted the fundraiser has done so well and we truly had a wonderful day.”*

React sends congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the happy couple who raised a fantastic £737.

## Loreburn Bridge Club

**President of Loreburn Bridge Club in Dumfries, Sandra, very kindly chose React to benefit from the Club’s charity bridge night for React.** The event was held in honour of local boy Seth, who lives with an extremely rare chromosome disorder called Mosaic Tetrasomy 18p. Club members decided to donate the proceeds to React in recognition of the charity providing Seth with a specialist seat.

A total of £584 was raised for React and the charity sends its sincere gratitude to all members for their compassion and generosity.



Qasim

**“React has brought us peace of mind”**

Qasim’s mum, Aisha

## The Importance of Flooring

**At just seven years old, Qasim was diagnosed with Sandhoff Disease when his mother Aisha noticed that he was becoming unsteady on his feet which led to the occasional fall.**

Aisha initially had no idea how sick her son was and she was completely overwhelmed when a consultant gently explained Qasim had a rare progressive disease, affecting nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

The wheels of government systems move slowly but the family were eventually housed in a council property to accommodate the mobility that followed. But the home came with just bare floorboards and although

Aisha knew cheap carpeting would offer a temporary solution, this in turn would hamper Qasim’s wheelchair which requires a smooth surface to glide efficiently. Seeing the cost of hard flooring, Aisha knew her purse strings would not stretch that far and she didn’t know where else to turn until the family’s hospice social worker referred her to React.

Aisha told us *“The new flooring has made so much difference – Qasim can still walk a few steps around the house and his wheelchair glides easily on the hard surface, React has brought peace of mind to our whole family.”*

## 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.**



Donate online today  
[www.reactcharity.org](http://www.reactcharity.org)

### 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

Card number

Security number (last three digits on the reverse of the card)

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

Starting on   /   /   until further notice and debit my

account number             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.

The Inland Revenue has 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.

*giftaid it*

## Latest News

### Holy Cross School

The Year 8 pupils of the Holy Cross School kindly chose React as part of their 'First Give' campaign and we send our sincere thanks to all for their valiant fundraising efforts and kind donation made at the end of term.

### Charlie Bigham's

In addition to supplying top-tier readymeals, Charlie Bigham's is committed to giving back to the community and React thanks all at the company for their generous donation, which has been put to good use helping our families.

### Patrick's Marathon

React sends a huge shout-out to Patrick Garrett, who ran the Richmond Marathon in aid of the charity in the autumn at a very respectable pace, raising funds for React in the process. Congratulations Patrick and the React team wishes you a well-earned rest!

### Arsenal Foundation

A big thanks goes to the Arsenal Foundation for their generous award of £2,114, which was used to assist terminally ill children living in North London. React deeply appreciates the Foundation's support and for raising awareness of our work in the local community.

### Venture X

Thank you to co-working platform Venture X, for choosing React as their 'Charity of the Month' and raising money for our families. Over the course of a month, 20% of all proceeds from the office coffee machine were donated to charity and React is grateful to all coffee-drinkers from the Venture X team for contributing to the total raised.

### Thank You Karolina

Yorkshire-based Karolina Holewinska Suchanek, whose son Oskar lives with chronic kidney disease, very kindly held a fundraiser for React on her birthday and raised an impressive £205. React sends its sincere thanks to Karolina and all those who donated to her campaign.

### Takeda UK Ltd

The production and distribution of this newsletter was made possible by a generous grant from Takeda UK Ltd. React thanks Takeda for its kind support.



# React

Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness

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Website: [www.reactcharity.org](http://www.reactcharity.org)

**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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