

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

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

Newsletter Winter 2024 Issue 59

www.reactcharity.org

Arthur's Seat

Living with neonatal encephalopathy and developmentally delayed, Arthur is unable to support himself and Mum, Christina was using make-shift seating, consisting of an array of pillows to keep him upright.

An occupational therapist endorsed an application requesting a P-Pod and GoTo seat to provide Arthur with adequate seating, which React was happy to provide. Christina told us: "Arthur continues to develop at his own pace and surprise us. His head control is much better thanks to the seating and he looks happy sitting in his little throne from which he can interpret the world".

"Happily sitting on his little throne"

Arthur's mum, Christina



"It has been a godsend!"

Wilfred's mum, Abbie

Rapid Support for Wilfred

Whilst his twin brother was born healthy, Wilfred was not so lucky and spent months in and out of hospital, where he was diagnosed with West Syndrome.

Now aged three, twin Rupert must take a backseat for attention although parents, Liam and Abbie, do their utmost to arrange toddler activities but Wilfred's care understandably must come first. Wilfred suffers frequent seizures and he is completely deaf. He is developmentally delayed and seating Wilfred comfortably is always challenging because of his extremely low muscle tone. Abbie told us she was astounded by the speed at which the charity came to her aid, and told us: "It has been life-changing, Wilfred instantly went from being miserable to just being a happy little boy who is now more aware thanks to the comfort of the P-Pod. The speed of React's service is amazing and for a mum like me, it is just a godsend!"

Wilfred is doing much better thanks to the equipment provided by React and the seat is taken everywhere with them. According to Abbie: "We even load the P-Pod into the car whenever he has a hospital appointment."

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

John's Mediterranean Mission

There is no limit to the adventures you can undertake through fundraising, and this sentiment was keenly embraced by John Stopford and friends who earlier this year, cycled just under 1,000km along the French and Italian Rivas - all in aid of React families.



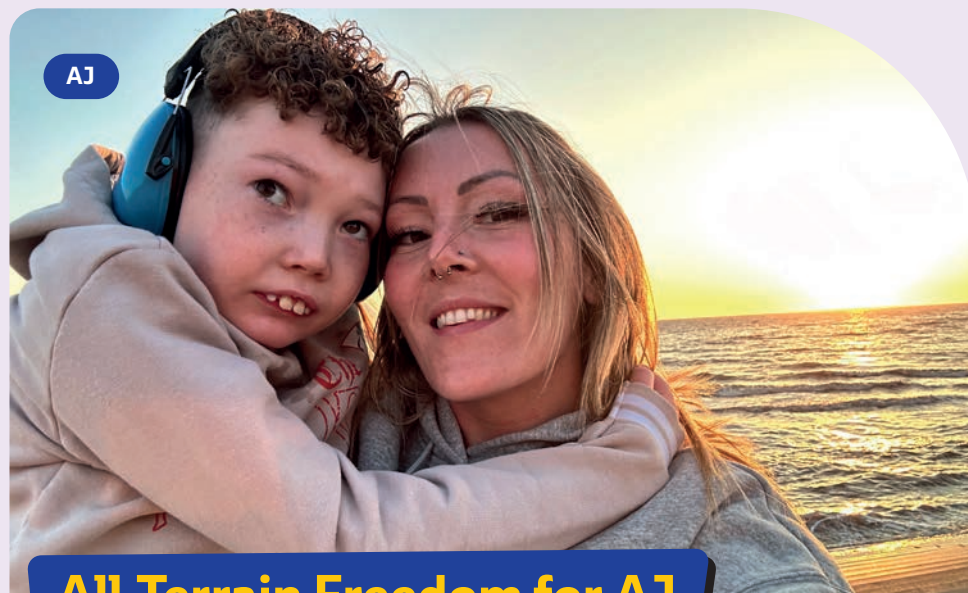
The seven cyclists navigated miles upon miles of coastal paths whilst taking in magnificent scenery and enjoying all the cultural splendor the region has to offer. From Montpellier through to Nice, Monte Carlo, Genoa and culminating at the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the determined group traversed some truly iconic sites and raised a fantastic £13,000 in the process. React sends its thanks to John and co, and to Ninety One for their contribution to the funds raised, which will make a tremendous difference to our families.

Tough Mudder Triumph!

Emily from South West England, is a children's occupational therapist who recently sponsored a request to React, for motorised arm supports which will bring some independence to a child living with Juvenile Huntington's Disease. Seeing what a difference React's assistance made to the young man's life, Emily was inspired to take on the ultimate test of endurance - Tough Mudder.

Tough Mudder is an event which sees participants wading through 10 foot deep puddles of mud, tear gas and live electrical wires amongst many more terrifying obstacles. Emily signed up to the event with React families in mind and, after successfully overcoming the treacherous course, raised a fantastic £615 for the charity.

Emily said "I was over the moon when React funded the arm supports and ever since then I have been looking to do something, however small, to give something back and support React's good work."



AJ

All-Terrain Freedom for AJ

After a perfect, by the book pregnancy, things quickly took a turn for the worse for new Mum Emily, when Anthony-Jack (affectionately named AJ) was born unresponsive having gone into cardiac arrest just twelve minutes before he was born. The medical team acted fast and although AJ was resuscitated, he continued to suffer seizures. At just six hours old, AJ was diagnosed with Grade 3 Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy, a serious neurological illness. Although Emily felt her world had collapsed, there was one thought in her mind: "Do everything you can to keep him alive." Whilst AJ returned home with Emily, his fight for life had only just begun.

Now aged eleven, AJ suffers prolonged seizures, he is non-verbal and cannot walk unaided. He loves being outside but his wheelchair is heavy to manoeuvre and can only be used on flat surfaces, limiting the family's activity outside the home. An Occupational Therapist recommended a new All Terrain Buggy, which is expensive and unavailable through the local authority, so an application was made to React. Emily said she had never come across any other organisation like React and was astounded by the quick turnaround. Emily told us: "When I received the call from one of the React team I was driving and I wanted to get out of my van and do a happy dance! I knew I could never have afforded that buggy for AJ and I'm so grateful to React."

Glee for Glion

Led by Alina Zurabian and Edward Czarnecki, students from the Glion Institute of Higher Education revived the school's Raise and Give ('RAG') scheme, by planning a number of charity events and getting together to raise funds for React.

Glion is a global educational institution, specialising in Hospitality Education. Banding together with several like-minded, philanthropy-driven students, the charity committee of Glion organised a number of campus-based activities including bake sales and presentations, which raised £410 for React families.

Edward said: "We want to help as many children as possible, as well as setting an example for future students taking over the newly formed Committee". Well done students of Glion, we are sure your inspiration will help many more in the future.





"React's support means we can explore with confidence"

Ava's mum, Sam

Ava

Olivia

Sun-Canopy for Ava

Following a difficult pregnancy and emergency surgery to save her identical twins, Mum, Sam was given an emergency C-section at 34 weeks. Despite a doubtful prognosis, Sam was delighted to welcome daughters Ava and Olivia into the world. Sam told us that the traumatic birth 'prepared her for what was to come.'

During the first few months, Sam noticed that Ava was not moving in the same way as her sister and at just nine months old Ava was diagnosed with dyskinetic cerebral palsy. Now, aged 5, Ava and her family are supported by the local hospice who recommended React.

Lovingly referred to by her family as their 'little vampire', Ava's many medications make her susceptible to sun light so when the canopy for her buggy broke, Ava was without protection. Single parent Sam found it impossible to save for a new canopy while trying to keep within the family budget and turned to React for help.

Sam told us: *"I am exceptionally grateful for the charity's support because we can explore outside the family with confidence. Ava and Olivia are so close, it's lovely to see them so happy together"*.

That's how we roll!

React was honoured to be chosen as the benefitting charity for this year's exhibition bowls match between Mid-Surrey Bowling Club and the Dennyside Bowling association.

After a day of bowling in the glorious sunshine, a dinner was held at the Mid-Surrey clubhouse where React's Head of Fundraising gave a presentation, followed by several raffles, auctions and collections by attendees to raise funds for React children. A very impressive cheque for the total amount of £2,800 was then presented to React at the end of the evening. We send our sincere thanks to all participants on the day for your kindness and generosity.

A Fitting Tribute

David McMullin pushed himself to the very limit when he took on the 2024 Delamere Half-Marathon in Cheshire – having never participated in any organised running event and with no prior training!

Whilst the challenge was bold, David's intentions were noble as he decided to run as a tribute to father-in-law Mark, who passed away this summer. Mark was a committed fundraiser of children's charities and David took on the run in aid of React, in honour of Mark's generous character.

Remarkably, David successfully completed the entire course - though he could barely walk by the end! Having originally set a modest fundraising target of £250, David smashed his goal and raised a fantastic £1,457. We send our sincere thanks to David and all who contributed to his campaign in memory of Mark.



Basic Essential Aid for Zayden

Although doctors saw nothing unusual, Emma-Jane had an uneasy feeling during her pregnancy. Zayden's birth was challenging but when he arrived, it was immediately clear to Emma her baby had serious health issues.

Zayden was diagnosed with Down Syndrome at birth, which then became linked to lung and heart issues, requiring multiple surgeries to close a hole in his heart. Zayden has continued to battle on with numerous health problems and the prognosis remains

highly uncertain. In spite of this, Emma-Jane told us: *"Zayden is a fighter who is always sociable and will speak to everyone"*.

Now at school, seven year old Zayden is loved by all, from school chums to dinnerladies he warms all hearts. Emma-Jane is a single mother with two other children and affording even basic essentials can be a challenge. When Emma-Jane learned of React's work through the local hospice, she promptly applied for much needed clothing, which we were delighted to provide.



Zayden

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 _____ 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; Barclays Bank, George Street, Richmond, TW9 1JU; Account Number: 00886556; 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 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.

Winter 2024

NatWest

React's friends at NatWest have generously supported React since 2019 and we are thrilled to report that the Richmond branch took on a second successful Charity Walk through Richmond Park. The team raised a hugely impressive £1,005 and we send our heartfelt thanks to all.

Sporting Bears

The wonderful members of classic-motor enthusiast club Sporting Bears, made a generous donation of £500 to be used towards helping React families in Scotland. On behalf of the charity's Scottish families, React sends its gratitude to all the Bears for your kind support.

Brentford Dock Residents

React sends its congratulations to the community-driven residents of Brentford Dock, who were presented with the Hounslow Community Star award for their commendable fundraising efforts in aid of React families. 'The Dock' has raised over £3,000 since it began supporting React in 2018 and we are grateful for all their good work over the years.

Waitrose

React is grateful to all Waitrose stores for their support through its 'Give a Little Love' scheme, which has raised a fantastic £2,750 over the past year. A big thank you to all Waitrose Partners and customers who participated.

Raleigh Road United Church

Thank you to the parishioners of Raleigh Road United Church who kindly donated £500 towards our work. React appreciates the support of all churches and community faith groups who take the time to raise vital funds for our families.

Richmond Bridge Club

Members of Richmond Bridge Club kindly chose to support React through various events and donations throughout 2024, and we send our sincere thanks to all who have contributed over the past year.

Kentown Wizard Foundation

React is delighted to announce the Kentown Wizard Foundation has kindly agreed to fund the purchase of four mobile homes. React prides itself in offering a week's holiday to all our families, which is given completely free of charge.



Donate online today
www.reactcharity.org



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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.