



When my son, Jon, aged 15, was diagnosed with Chron's disease in June 2008 we stayed at Stevenson House for two weeks, whilst he was admitted at The Royal London Hospital.

Due to the nature of Jon's illness we couldn't travel long distances so knowing we could stay over at the house when we needed made all the difference. In particular, when we had an early Monday morning appointment, coming in from Kent the traffic at that time is always a nightmare, so on many occasions, Stevenson House let us stay the night before. This meant we could relax as a family in the 'Home from Home' and do our regular Sunday night activities, such as watch TV together.

Jon had never been in a hospital or even ill before, so he was really anxious about it, but being so close to him at all times was a real comfort to all of us, but especially Jon as he was reassured that we were right there if he should need us.

As Jon is an only child, all our attention was focused on helping him to feel better and although it was an extremely stressful time, this was lessened by the fact that we had the support from Stevenson House and its team to help us through it.

I really don't know how we would have coped without Stevenson House over the last year. It gave us a sense of normality away from the wards. Its cosy living room and communal kitchen reminded us what family life is like after being in the hospital all day and meeting and talking with all the other parents showed us that we are not alone; it was wonderful to have others to share our experience and fears with who were going through the same thing.

The House Manager Joan in particular went above and beyond for my family. During one of our stays I got ill with a chest infection and Joan took me to the hospital and stayed with me during this time. She also brought things to Jon whilst he was in hospital and collecting his prescriptions when my husband and I couldn't. I can not think her enough for the kindness she, and The Sick Children's Trust has shown my family.

Since leaving Stevenson House, we have been actively fundraising for The Sick Children's Trust and hope to raise awareness as well as funds for this great charity.

Trudy, Jon's Mum