



PRESS RELEASE

Scunthorpe Climbers Reach New Heights

Eleven strapping young guys from Scunthorpe hope to have raised over £2,500 for The Sick Children's Trust by climbing the highest mountain in Britain - Ben Nevis!

The team organised by Simon Ingram, reached the summit at 1,344 metres (4,406 ft) above sea level, after a grueling 3 hours climb. Simon says 'this was by far the hardest thing I have ever done! Getting to the top was demanding...but no one told me that coming down is even harder! But just thinking about how many families we will be able to help with our sponsorship money kept us all going...one step at a time!'

Simon decided to organise the climb after his family benefitted from the support of The Sick Children's Trust. In March last year Simon's daughter Lauren, who was just 4 years old at the time, was rushed to intensive care at the Sheffield Children's Hospital. Lauren had contracted an infection which affected her bowel.

Simon and his wife Joanne were by her side at all times, but being miles away from home meant they were not getting the rest they needed at this frightening time. They were offered a room in Treetop House, The Sick Children's Trust Home from Home based on the top floor of the hospital, and Simon says 'it was a godsend!'

Each room at Treetop House has a telephone which links directly with the children's wards, so parents can be contacted day or night. This enabled Simon and Joanne to catch some much needed sleep, spend some time with their son Jack, eat home cooked meals and speak with other families away from the wards – safe in the knowledge they could be back by Lauren's bedside within minutes. Simon says 'when you have a seriously ill child, it's easy to forget about yourself. But it's important at a time like this to keep your strength up and the Home from Home enables you to gather your emotions in privacy.'

After 4 tense days in intensive care, and a further 6 days in hospital, Lauren was finally given the all clear and the family returned home.

Simon and his team of climbers would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored their climb, he says 'with their support we can help even more families stay together when they need each other most.'

The full team of climbers included; Simon Ingram, Martin Tokelove, Mark Short, Steve Strong, Paul Skerratt, Ian Brown, Chris Wilson, Andy Briggs, Craig Horner, Jamie Brooks and James Welsh.

If you would like to help raise money for The Sick Children's Trust, contact Claire Luckhurst on 020 7791 2266 or email Claire@sickchildrenstrust.org

Note to editors:

The Sick Children's Trust runs seven Homes from Home at major hospitals around the country where families can stay free of charge, for as long as they need whilst their child is undergoing treatment. There is a growing demand for our 'Homes from Home' as children must increasingly travel long distances to get the specialist treatment they need. To date we have helped more than 30,000 families. To run our 'Homes from Home' we rely entirely on voluntary donations; we need to raise nearly £1million this year to keep them open.

www.sickchildrenstrust.org

June 2008