



21 December 2011

Tribute paid to charity which helped local family

The Elsie Norman Fund for Acorn House has presented The Sick Children's Trust with a cheque for £13,420.00 as a thank you for all its help over the last three years.

When Max and Charlotte Norman's daughter, Elsie, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in June 2008, Charlotte and her family spent four months at the charity's 'Home from Home' Acorn House at Addenbrooke's Hospital whilst Elsie was undergoing treatment.

During this time, a friend of Charlotte's, Sarah Vincent, set up the Elsie Norman Fund to raise money for The Sick Children's Trust.

She said: "Charlotte wanted us to help the people that were helping her but fundraising was only part of it. It stopped us feeling so powerless and helped to channel our energy into something really positive.

"The events we organised gave Charlotte's friends and family the opportunity to get in touch with each other and offer mutual support and showed her that people were still thinking about her and supporting her many months into Elsie's treatment."

Charlotte Norman added: "It's hard to believe that it's nearly three years since we landed at Acorn House for our four month stay. The place was a god send for my family, especially because I was seven months pregnant on arrival and Acorn House was baby Innes' first home for those two months.

"Thankfully now Elsie is going from strength to strength but without the support of The Sick Children's Trust I can't begin to contemplate how we would have coped as being together was so fundamental to us getting through. I just hope this money can help it carry on with this very important work as before Elsie was ill I had never even considered the kind of scenario we found ourselves in."

Over the last three years the Elsie Norman Fund has held a range of fundraising events including car boot and table top sales, coffee mornings, cake sales, teddy bear picnics, parties, marathons and donations instead of birthday presents. Elsie went on to have a donor bone marrow transplant late 2008, but has since recovered well.

Lydia Solomon, Community Fundraiser at The Sick Children's Trust said: "We owe a big thank you to the amazing efforts and generosity of Charlotte and her friends and family members. Every pound raised makes a real difference to Acorn House."

Ends

For more information please contact: Sarah Wallace on 020 79318695 or email sarah@sickchildrenstrust.org

Photos ref: Elsie Norman Fund Cheque Presentation

Photo caption: The Norman Family with the staff at Acorn House, Elsie is on the far right.

Notes 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. In essence, The Sick Children's Trust ensures that the very basic of all medicines has a chance to work; family love and support.

To date we have helped more than 40,000 families. To run our 'Homes from Home' we rely entirely on voluntary donations; and need to raise nearly £1million this year to keep them open.

www.sickchildrenstrust.org