The Sick Children’s Trust

Newsletter

A look inside

Read Isla’s *inspiring story*
Meet our *super supporters!*
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“As the House Manager of Rainbow and Guilford Street, it’s safe to say that there has been a real buzz in the air this year. We’re in the midst of a full-scale refurbishment at both ‘Homes from Home’ so we can offer a more homely and comforting environment to the families who we support.

“Rainbow House is the oldest ‘Home from Home’ at The Sick Children’s Trust. Its doors first opened in 1984, offering support to families with seriously ill children undergoing treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital, six years later Guilford Street House opened. These houses have been a ‘Home from Home’ to over 9,000 families, and they are very deserving of some TLC.

“Out of the two, Rainbow House is undergoing the biggest transformation and the to-do list includes a new kitchen, flooring, vanity units and light fittings in all the bedrooms… just to mention a few! Meanwhile, over at Guilford Street House we are converting one of the kitchens into an en-suite bedroom so that we can support an additional family every night.

“It wouldn’t be possible for us to carry out this vital work without the support of all the generous trusts, foundations, companies and individuals in the local community who have helped fund these refurbishments. On behalf of all the future families who will need our support, thank you. We are truly grateful.

“I can’t wait to show off the results. Make sure you keep an eye on our website, e-news and social media pages to see the finished articles.”

Louise Murray-Hawkes
House Manager of Rainbow and Guilford Street House
Isla was born four months early. Tragically, her twin sister, Esme, didn’t make it, but against all odds, Isla survived. Mum, Ashley Simons, shares her experience of Stevenson House.

"After Isla was born, she was transferred to the Royal London Children’s Hospital for lifesaving treatment which is where she spent the next five months battling for her life and growing stronger each day.

“Having already lost Esme, both my husband, Mitchell, and I found it almost impossible to leave the hospital and travel home each night. It was such a relief when, overwhelmed and emotional, we moved into Stevenson House and I no longer needed to leave my baby alone in London to make the journey home to Basildon.

“The Sick Children’s Trust supported us with free accommodation through the darkest days of our lives. It was such a reprieve to go back to our private room, which had a phone line direct to Isla’s ward. We could make ourselves a homemade meal in the kitchen and watch a bit of TV when we needed to feel like our lives were not in pieces.

“Incredibly, Isla pulled through and we made it back home when she was 138 days old. We can’t thank The Sick Children’s Trust enough for the support they gave us. We have channelled our grief and energy into helping others by providing ‘care packages’ to those who find themselves in a hospital miles away from home.”
All families want is to be together, even more so when their child is seriously ill in hospital at Christmas. Lots of families face long journeys to be by their child’s hospital bedside as they endure times of great uncertainty while their loved ones undergo specialist and often lifesaving treatment. Following the success of our first-ever Christmas appeal in 2017, and the increasing demands placed on our ‘Homes from Home’, we asked for your support once again, so that we could ensure more children in hospital over Christmas would wake up on Christmas day with their family around them. Your response was unbelievable. With such generous support, £16,797 was raised making hundreds of Christmas wishes come true. All 147 rooms across our ten ‘Homes from Home’ were funded over the Christmas period. All thanks to you. On behalf of the families we supported over Christmas and everyone at The Sick Children’s Trust we’d like to say a huge, heartfelt thank you.

There are so many ways to raise money to keep a family together with their seriously ill child. To find out about how you can get involved and fundraise for us this year, head to our website sickchildrenstrust.org or call the team on 020 7638 4066.
Fundraising spotlight

A huge thank you

‘Run for Sophie’ is a group of over 30 members who have made it their mission to raise money in memory of three year old Sophie Pokorny who sadly passed away last summer. We’ve been overwhelmed by their fundraising efforts and, to date, they’ve raised over £22,000. With future fundraising planned, Sophie’s family and friends are determined to do as much as they can as thanks for our support. We’re so appreciative and can’t thank them enough.

A special mention

Children’s Heart Surgery Fund, which works alongside the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit, has generously donated £30,000 to Eckersley House. This donation, which comes as part of the 2018 three-year £90,000 grant to our ‘Home from Home’, will provide 1,000 nights of accommodation to families with children undergoing heart treatment at Leeds Children’s Hospital, ensuring they can be together.

Last year saw Eckersley House celebrate its 25th anniversary. With the help of Children’s Heart Surgery Fund we can ensure more children are safe in the knowledge that at Eckersley House, their parents are just moments from their hospital bedside. On behalf of everyone at The Sick Children’s Trust, thank you.

If you’d like to find out how you can do great things together, give us a call on 020 7638 4066 or email fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org and we’ll be happy to help.
Our super supporters

We’re touched that eight year old Archie Colman took on the Norwich Inflatable 5k to say thanks after we supported his Dad and Step-Mum at Chestnut House when his baby sister Ellie was born. Over £1,200 was raised from the event. Go Archie!

DePuy Synthes (Johnson & Johnson) have shown immense support for our ‘Home from Home’ in Leeds. From baking delicious home-cooked meals for our resident families to donating gifts in kind to ensure the smooth running of Eckersley House they are always more than happy to lend a helping hand.

Dad Richard Moore made us Charity Partner at his Entrepreneur Business Live event to say thanks for supporting his family in our Cambridge ‘Homes from Home’ when his daughter Lily was born seriously ill. The event raised enough to support a family in a ‘Home from Home’ for five nights.

Maya has raised enough money to support a family for one night in a ‘Home from Home’. By holding a sweet jar competition at her school she raised a fantastic £40.50 and couldn’t wait to share the news with Eckersley House Manager Jane.
Pupils from *Skyswood Primary School* shared their Christmas Wishes in support of our Christmas Appeal. The Year 5 and 6 choir even sang a very special rendition of ‘Stay Another Day’ for us. *Thank you so much* to all the pupils and parents who got involved.

Since hearing about how we supported a friend of the Sheffield and Districts Freemasons, the committee were determined to give something back on their behalf. They’ve raised *£3,000* through various events held over the year… the latest being a sponsored walk.

*Daring employees from Buffalo Partners* took on a ten mile Tough Mudder obstacle course and raised an incredible *£33,800*. Staff nominated The Sick Children’s Trust to benefit from the company’s fundraising drive and we’re so thankful for all the support we’ve received.

*Books 4 Good Causes* have been super supporters for many years by organising regular pop-up book shops in the foyer of Sheffield Children’s Hospital. *Last year they raised over £1,300.* At 50p a book that means they must’ve sold over 2,600!

We love hearing all about what you get up to, so make sure you share your photos with us on social media!
Going above and beyond

Without our dedicated staff and volunteers, who devote hours of their time every year, we could not provide the support we do to families. So it’s time to shine the spotlight on them and say thank you.

Goodbye Christine

Christine Coombes has been the House Keeper at Crawford House for 22 years and in November she said goodbye to her much-loved job. Christine has made a difference to thousands of families with seriously ill children undergoing treatment at Newcastle’s Royal Victoria Infirmary. Thank you so much to Christine for her 22 years of service and dedication.

"Crawford House will always remain in my heart, and if it wasn’t for my limbs telling me so, there’d be no way I’d be leaving. Alongside myself, I know there are so many families out there who carry a piece of it in their heart and will be forever grateful and thankful to the house. It is like a warm blanket wrapping itself around families with seriously ill children in hospital."

The Dean family

Dad Mark went to great lengths to show his support throughout 2018 and we couldn’t be more grateful. Despite running the iconic Virgin Money London Marathon for #TeamSCT and raising an incredible £6,000, he decided he didn’t want to stop there. He then took on a very different challenge in December, standing up in front of 7,000 people with his wife, Poppy, at our Christmas Carol Service to share their story and highlight the importance of our work. Thank you Mark and Poppy!

For more information about supporting The Sick Children’s Trust, please email fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org or call 020 7638 4066.
Daniel’s story

Emily Elliott was familiar with our ‘Homes from Home’ before becoming an Assistant House Manager at Crawford House. Here she tells her story.

“Crawford House has been a ‘Home from Home’ to thousands of families. One of which is mine.

“Five years ago, I gave birth to Daniel. He was just 25 weeks and weighed the same as a bag of sugar. Daniel had many hurdles to overcome, everything that could go wrong did. For 55 days his Dad and I watched our son struggle and battle for survival, something no parent should have to go through.

“When your child is so poorly, you don’t want to leave their side.

Thankfully, we didn’t have to. There was somewhere to stay within the hospital grounds.

“Crawford House is invaluable for its emotional support as well as proximity to the hospital. I know this from my own experience and because of the families I meet on a daily basis. To talk about what you’re going through with others whose children are in hospital really helps you cope with all that you’re feeling and the thoughts going through your head.

“Five years on, every day I walk into Crawford House I remember how much The Sick Children’s Trust helped my family. As for Daniel, you’d never believe that he was once smaller than his Dad’s hand. He’s a bright, happy little boy who loves reading and doing maths at school.”

We received an emergency call late in the night. Daniel was being rushed into theatre. Because we were just across from the hospital, we were there in an instant.

Emily Elliott, Daniel’s Mum
Get involved with our challenges
Here’s just a selection of events and challenges coming up

The Virgin Money London Marathon
Sunday 28 April 2019
We’d love to hear from you if you secured your own place in the London Marathon ballot and would like to be part of #TeamSCT. You’ll receive support from your fellow runners alongside advice, motivation and plenty of cheer from our team.

RideLondon
Sunday 4 August 2019
Fancy taking on a 100 mile cycling challenge? Why not apply for one of our RideLondon places? With leg-testing climbs and a truly spectacular route, this is a wonderful event for all involved. Go on, challenge yourself in 2019.

Great North Run
Sunday 8 September 2019
Join our ever-expanding #TeamSCT and take part in the world’s biggest half marathon. With over 55,000 runners, the atmosphere of this race is hard to beat. There is something for all the family with the popular Junior and Mini events taking place too.

Royal Parks Half Marathon
Sunday 13 October 2019
This stunning 13.1 mile route takes in the capital’s world-famous landmarks. Join 16,000 others on a run through four of London’s eight Royal Parks. We still have guaranteed places available and would love to hear from you if you’re interested in running for us.

#TeamSCT

Organising your own event?
Whether you’re hosting a pub quiz, bake sale or dress-up day, we’d love to hear all about it! Send us an email to the address below.

To find out more about our challenges, or to apply for one of our places, please email fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org or call 020 7638 4066.
You’re invited
Join us at one of our special events in 2019

The Sick Children’s Trust Golf Day

Friday 20 September
The Addington, Surrey
Team of four: £560

Play one of the finest courses in South East England as you take on 18 challenging holes at The Addington. Join us for an early breakfast ahead of a 9.30am shotgun start, then return to the Clubhouse at the end of the day to relax with a two-course meal and prize giving. Hole sponsorship is also available.

Snowflake Ball

Saturday 30 November
Newcastle upon Tyne
£650 for a table of ten (early bird offer)

We’re gearing up for our sixth annual Snowflake Ball and we’d love for you to be a part of it. With live entertainment, raffles and an auction the evening is all set to be magical. Tickets sold out at record speed last year so make sure you get yours quickly!

Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 11 December 2019
St Marylebone Parish Church, London
£15 adult, £7.50 children

A magical evening full of festive merriment with readings from celebrity guests and mesmerising carol performances, followed by a wine and mince pie reception.

To reserve your place on these events, or to find out more information, please return the enclosed booking form, email specialevents@sickchildrensrust.org or call 020 7638 4066.
Save the date for...

Big Chocolate Tea

May 2019

Whether you’re a baking guru or popping on the pinnie for the first time, celebrate ten years of Big Chocolate Tea with us this May.

It costs £30 to support a family for one night in ‘Home from Home’ accommodation.

Can you raise £300 to support them for ten?

For ideas on how to raise your £300 order your free fundraising pack today. Complete the form enclosed and return it to us in your freepost envelope or email bigchoctea@sickchildrenstrust.org

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