

Spring/Summer 2022



**The Sick
Children's
Trust**

40 years of keeping families together



Newsletter



40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

40 Fantastic Years

Celebrating four decades of keeping families together in our 'Homes from Home'

Leigha-Mae's Story

"We're just so thankful, the facilities were second to none"

Welcome

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this very special Spring/Summer edition of our newsletter, one that recognises a wonderful milestone for The Sick Children's Trust.

On 23 March 2022 we marked exactly 40 years since the birth of our charity, and we are incredibly proud to have helped over 73,000 families in our ten 'Homes from Home' over the past four decades.



In this issue, we celebrate 40 years of keeping families together, showing how far we have travelled since founding fathers Dr John Pritchard and Professor James Malpas set the wheels in motion all those years ago. You'll find our 40 Fantastic Years feature on pages 6 and 7, as well as our spotlight on Rainbow House, our oldest 'Home from Home', on pages 14 and 15.

We are proud of what we have achieved, and there is so much more to come. In recognition of our 40th anniversary, we're aiming to raise £237,000, enough to support families in all 148 rooms of our 'Homes from Home' for 40 nights. If you would like to support us, see our upcoming events listings on pages 18 and 19.

Thank you for helping us get to this point. We couldn't have done it without your support. Here's to the next 40 years!

Jane Featherstone
Chief Executive – The Sick Children's Trust

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A Step Back In Time

In this special 40th anniversary newsletter, it seems only fitting to start with one of the first families helped by The Sick Children's Trust.



Sheila and Alex Wood were supported at our Rainbow House 'Home from Home' almost 40 years ago, while daughter Lorna was being treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London, some 70 miles away from their family home in Northampton.

After countless nights either sleeping on pull-out beds on the ward or in makeshift rooms in the hospital, Sheila's journey with The Sick Children's Trust began in 1984, when Lorna underwent major surgery in GOSH.

"From the moment I walked into Rainbow House I felt at home", reflected Sheila, speaking to us recently. "Meeting the House Manager, Pat, was like meeting my mum. She took me in and looked after me. I needed a caring friend to confide in and that's what I found at The Sick Children's Trust."

The Wood family – including Lorna, who recently celebrated her 40th birthday – have supported the charity ever since, raising many thousands of pounds to help families facing the same challenges they did all those years ago. Thank you!

You can read the Wood family's wonderful story in full at sickchildrenstrust.org/family-stories



BIG CHOCOLATE TEA is back!



Goey brownies. Chunky cookies. Fluffy sponges. Remember Big Chocolate Tea?

In celebration of our 40th birthday, the sweetest fundraiser of the year is back.

Pick a day in June to host a tea party, cake sale or bake-off and invite everyone you know with a sweet tooth!

Sign up today for support every step of the way sickchildrenstrust.org/bct



The Monigatti Family Story

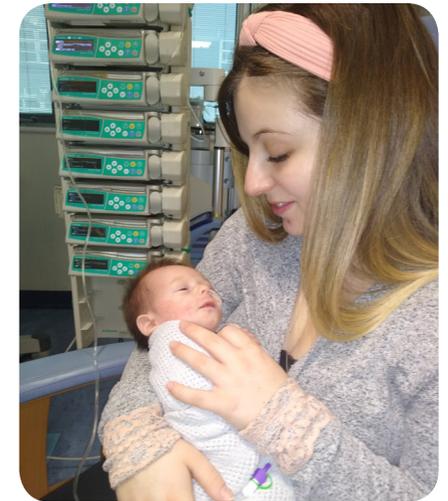
Watching a large number of medical staff gather around my baby boy to resuscitate him was the scariest thing I have ever been through.

We were at Addenbrooke's Hospital, an hour away from our home, after rushing our son, Carter, there ourselves. Eventually the doctors stabilised him, but he was still struggling with his breathing and needed to be intubated and kept on the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU).

There was a chair next to Carter's bed that I was prepared to not move from until he got better. But with parents unable to stay on intensive care wards with their children, this wasn't an option.



As I started to try and work out how I was going to cope with this situation I was told about The Sick



Children's Trust and its wonderful Acorn House.

Without Acorn House Carter's time in hospital would have been so much harder. There was a kitchen, living room and even a playroom so I knew straight away that I could bring Elsie, Carter's older sister, to stay as well when the time was right.

It was our 'Home from Home' for two weeks while Carter recovered, and he's been doing amazing ever since. I really don't know what we would have done without the charity's support.

Georgie Monigatti, Carter and Elsie's mum

40 Fantastic Years

The Sick Children's Trust was founded in 1982 by Dr Jon Pritchard, working at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and Professor James Malpas, from St Bart's Hospital. Seeing first-hand how families couldn't stay near their sick children, some sleeping in chairs as there was nowhere for them to stay, they wanted to change things for the better.



A committee was set up to buy and refurbish a nearby house that would allow families to stay together in comfort. This dream became reality in 1984 with the opening of Rainbow House, supporting eight families with sick children at GOSH. 38 years later, our first 'Home from Home'

is still going strong.

Three new 'Homes from Home' opened across the country during the 1990s, with Guilford Street House (1990) becoming our second Home supporting GOSH. Eckersley House at St James's Hospital, Leeds opened its doors in 1993, with Crawford House – both opened by and named after stage legend Michael Crawford CBE, our President since 1987 – supporting families at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle.



The opening of Acorn House (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge), Treetop House (Sheffield Children's Hospital) and Stevenson House (The Royal London Children's Hospital) in the early 2000s allowed us to support as many as 80 families per night.

Our Big Move appeal raised £1.8million to relocate Eckersley House from St James's Hospital to Leeds General Infirmary. The sparkling, 22-room Eckersley House was opened in 2010 by Michael Crawford, with the brand-new Chestnut House – opened by Esther Rantzen CBE, our former Vice President – following in 2012 to support families at The Rosie Hospital in Cambridge.



In our first 30 years, we managed to support over 40,000 families. In the last ten years, helped by the addition of Magnolia House (Sheffield) and Scott House (Freeman Hospital, Newcastle), opened by Alan Shearer alongside Ant and Dec, that figure has risen to over 73,000. With 148 family rooms, we will support thousands more in the years ahead.



Ann Wyatt, who runs Sheffield's Treetop and Magnolia Houses, is our longest serving colleague, having been with us for almost half of our 40-year existence. Ann explains exactly what working for The Sick Children's Trust means to her.

My job is so much more than a job. It is something that I carry with me wherever I go. My family and friends are all involved – my daughters have helped with hosting bun sales and my husband Paul comes to events with me. It is a great charity and I am so proud to work for it. Our 'Homes from Home' really do make hospital life that little bit easier, I see that every day. All families want is to be with their child and that's what we make possible.

Leigha-Mae's Family Story

When Leigha-Mae Stones needed open-heart surgery at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI), mum Stacey Slater and dad Adam Stones felt that expensive hotel stays or lengthy commutes from their hometown of Chesterfield, some 50 miles away, were inevitable. Thankfully, The Sick Children's Trust's 'Home from Home' Eckersley House supported them at their time of need. Dad Adam tells us more.



We knew before she was born in 2015 that Leigha-Mae had some big challenges ahead of her. The 20-week scan at Chesterfield Royal Hospital revealed numerous issues with her heart, which resulted in referral to LGI where they diagnosed numerous conditions, one being a Ventricular Septal Defect, commonly known as a hole in the heart.

Leigha's first major surgery came in May 2017, when she was two. She was fitted with a shunt, a small tube that allows more blood to be circulated around the body,

in Leeds. We were only away for four nights, staying on the LGI's Brotherton Wing, which is run by the Children's Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF). That support was so great, but it did get us wondering what we would do when the major surgery inevitably came.

In August 2021, the day of Leigha's open-heart surgery finally arrived. It proved to be a long and harrowing day. After 13 hours of surgery we were so relieved to finally see her as we had been going out of our minds with worry.

After a couple of days back on the Brotherton Wing, we were given a room at their Eckersley House 'Home from Home', right next door to Leigha's ward. The facility was second to none and the staff, led by house manager Jane, were so accommodating, doing everything they could to support us.

Leigha's mum and I are not actually together, so we took it in turns to use the room. It was worth its weight in gold, especially when I managed to get a photo of Leigha waving at me through her window on the ward from our room at Eckersley House. She thought it was fantastic!

Five months after being discharged, I'm happy to say that Leigha is going from strength to strength, a happy six-year-old who is loving life and getting stronger all the time. We'll never forget how wonderful it was to be so close to Leigha thanks to The Sick Children's Trust.

Read Leigha-Mae's amazing story in full at sickchildrenstrust.org/support-for-families/family-stories



“We're Just So Thankful – The Facilities Were Second To None”

Have a story you could share with us?

Please visit sickchildrenstrust.org/share-your-story

★ Super Supporters ★

As always, our amazing supporters have been busy raising funds to keep families together in our 'Homes from Home', just minutes from their sick child's hospital bedside.

Here are some snapshots of what our Super Supporters have been up to.

★ David Williams

Long-time supporter David ran two fundraising competitions connected to major international rugby events last year, bringing in £182.50 in donations to The Sick Children's Trust. He then followed this by completing a half marathon walk with his wife Tina and friend Zoe. Collectively they raised £390. Over the years David's efforts have raised an amazing £3,175. Thank you.



★ Imogen Haslam and dad Jonathan

Amazing eight-year-old Imogen recently took on the famed Three Peaks challenge, raising a fantastic £1,700 after we supported her family at Chestnut House in Cambridge while little brother John was seriously ill at The Rosie Hospital. Thank you.



★ Ellie O'Rourke and husband Clive

At their wedding in 2021, Ellie and Clive asked their guests to donate to two charitable causes, one being The Sick Children's Trust. Combined with a birthday fundraiser set up a few weeks later by Ellie – whose family were supported when her sister was in hospital back in 2006 – raised £355. Thank you, and many congratulations on your marriage.



★ Janet and Roger Howard

Affectionately known by our Cambridge 'Homes from Home' staff as 'Mr and Mrs Pickles', Janet and Roger Howard raised £800 from the sale of their pickled goods over the Christmas period. They have now been supporting the charity for seven years and are always given the warmest of welcomes at Acorn House. Thank you.



★ Caroline Menday and son Archie

Our Eckersley House 'Home from Home' in Leeds received a fantastic donation of £340.00 from Caroline Menday and her son Archie. Caroline, from Rotherham, first came to Eckersley House 7 years ago when Archie was born with multiple health problems. It was lovely to see them both again and Archie is such a cutie. Thank you.



Anita, Andy and Lauren Cawkwell (and woofs!)

Dad Andy raised an incredible £1,400 by running the Virtual London Marathon after the charity supported his family at Treetop House while daughter Lauren had major surgery at Sheffield Children's Hospital. Mum Anita said: "It gives us enormous pleasure knowing by fundraising we have helped support other families, through this wonderful charity." Thank you.



Tammy Wyatt and dad Howard

Last summer, Tammy climbed Helvellyn with her dad Howard, raising an impressive £1,845 in recognition of our ongoing support for family friends Louise and John, who stay at Guilford Street House while their young daughter Dottie underwent treatment for a brain tumour at Great Ormond Street Hospital. To both of you, a heartfelt thank you.



With the help of so many generous supporters raising over £44m, we have helped over 73,000 families since 1982.

Please head to sickchildrenstrust.org/fundraise/run-your-own to register your activity and one of our friendly team will be in touch.

Brand New for 2022



Our brand new limited edition 40th anniversary merchandise is available from our online shop now.

Use code 'newsletterss22' for an exclusive 5% discount on items from our 40th anniversary collection.

(Code valid until 23.59, 30/06/22)

sickchildrenstrust.org/shop

Through The Decades: Rainbow House

Bought by The Sick Children's Trust in 1982 and, following an extensive renovation and refurbishment, officially opened by Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester in 1984, Rainbow House is our most historic 'Home from Home'.

Supporting families of children being treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London, the grand, four-storey townhouse on Gray's Inn Road welcomed its first family on 28 August 1984.

Since then, Rainbow House has supported approximately 250 families per year, meaning that around 9,500 families with a sick child have been helped. Here are just a handful of moments from Rainbow House's proud past.



Pat Percival, the first manager of Rainbow House, and Dr Jon Pritchard, co-founder of The Sick Children's Trust await the arrival of the first families at our first 'Home from Home'. Marks & Spencer, thanks to the support of company chairman Lord Derek Raynor, provided the furnishings.

Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, meets mum Sheila Wood and daughter Lorna at Rainbow House's official opening in 1984. The Wood family continue to support The Sick Children's Trust to this very day, with Lorna having recently turned 40.



Legendary stage and screen actress Dame Judy Dench (centre) visiting Rainbow House, pictured alongside house manager Pat Percival - who sadly passed away earlier this year - and a young resident of the house.

The Rainbow House noticeboard in 2006, complete with merchandise of the era!



Following a full refurbishment in 2019, The Sick Children's Trust Ambassadors Anita Dobson, Sian Welby, Chrissie Johnston and Tim Downie were on hand to help with the re-opening.

Rainbow House has:

- 8 family bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- a bone marrow transplant flat
- direct telephone lines to hospital wards in all bedrooms
- a fully equipped communal kitchen including a dining area
- a communal living room including play facilities (not open at present)
- a laundry room (including washing machines and tumble driers)



Are you up for a challenge?

We've got a host of challenges throughout the year, whether you're a runner, cyclist or daredevil, there's something for you.



Scan here

Running

We have places available for:

- London Marathon
- Great North Run
- Royal Parks Half Marathon

Nightrider

Why not take on the challenge of a charity cycle and pedal through London's streets under moonlight.



Trekking

We've partnered with Discover Adventure who organise breathtaking treks in the UK and overseas.



Skydiving

Calling all adrenalin junkies! Don't miss out on the adventure of a lifetime at an airfield of your choice.



Need a cheer squad?

If you're already doing your own challenge and would like to join #TeamSCT please get in touch with us for more information.



To sign up for a challenge or to find our more, scan our QR code or email fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org

40 Years In Numbers

A lot has happened in the 40 years since Dr John Pritchard and Professor James Malpas founded The Sick Children's Trust in 1982. Here are some of the facts and figures to show just how far we have travelled.

10

We started with just one 'Home from Home', Rainbow House in London, and now we have ten homes helping families from across the UK.

73,000

We've supported over 73,000 families in our 'Homes from Home' since we were founded

£44m

Thanks to all our amazing supporters, we've raised £44,485,846 over the years to support families with a sick child in hospital.

34

Our wonderful President, Michael Crawford, has supported the charity for over 34 years. Our 'Home from Home', Crawford House in Newcastle, is named in his honour.

As a charity, The Sick Children's Trust relies on public donations to keep doing what we do best, which is supporting our families. It costs us £40 to support a family for one night. Please help us in our attempt to raise £237,000, enough to support families in all 148 rooms of our 'Homes from Home' for 40 nights, by donating at sickchildrenstrust.org

Events Calendar

Your incredible support has helped us reach our 40th birthday! If you want to raise money for us in this very special year, here are some upcoming events to whet your appetite.



There are plenty of ways to help raise vital funds for our 'Homes from Home'. To find out how to register for these events and more, visit sickchildrenstrust.org/events

Big Chocolate Tea – 1 June 2022

It's back and bigger than ever! Host a tea party or bake sale to celebrate our 40th birthday. It's the most delicious way to raise vital funds and keep families together when they need it most.



London Nightrider – 11 June 2022

Not your usual night out! Cycle past London's iconic landmarks under the night sky while raising money for The Sick Children's Trust.



40 Years, 40 Skydives – 20-21 August 2022

Calling all daredevils! Fancy throwing yourself out of a perfectly good aeroplane for a brilliant cause? In celebration of 40 years of The Sick Children's Trust, we're looking for 40 thrill-seekers to take on a tandem skydive.



The Great North Run – 11 September 2022

Known for its amazing atmosphere, find out why the Great North Run is rated by many as the world's most famous half marathon by hitting the course and raising vital funds for The Sick Children's Trust.

Royal Parks Half Marathon – 11 October 2022

Take on the 13.1 miles through four of London's beautiful Royal Parks; Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, and The Green Park, all for The Sick Children's Trust. You will also run past some of the capital's historic landmarks such as Buckingham Palace and the Royal Albert Hall.



Run Your Own Fundraising Event

Register on our website now and we'll send you the fundraising materials you need as well as provide you with support, hints, and tips to ensure your fundraising is as successful as possible. If you need some inspiration, check out our fantastic A-Z of fundraising ideas here: sickchildrenstrust.org/fundraise/a-z/



Visit sickchildrenstrust.org/events to see all of our upcoming events.



Please
help us keep our vital 'Homes
from Home' open by becoming a
Friend of The Sick Children's Trust
- scan the QR code below

£5 will help to pay for the cleaning of our 'Homes from Home' ensuring a safe environment for families.



£10 will help us provide pillows, duvets and sheets so parents can have a comfortable night sleep.



£15 will go towards paying for our 'Homes from Home' front line staff, so they can support families when they need it most.



Any amount that you can give will be truly appreciated and will go a long way to supporting us to keep our 'Homes from Home' open.



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