



**The Sick
Children's
Trust**

We're here, so families can be together

Autumn/Winter 2023

Newsletter

Oliver's Story

**Stevenson
House an
'amazing
place'**



Organ Donation

Transplant families
campaign to raise
awareness

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Celebrating
our 'Homes from
Home'

Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter newsletter, a chance to learn all about how you're helping us to continue supporting families in our 'Homes from Home' at the most challenging of times.

At the heart of this edition are two inspirational yet very different family stories. Rae and Kane share how Stevenson House came to their aid in 2019 when their premature son Oliver needed hospital treatment, while Jodie and Rich discuss their ongoing stay at our Guilford Street 'Home from Home' while two-year-old Amelia, pictured here with baby sister Blossom, waits for a donor heart.

You can read about our fabulous fundraisers, who have been stellar in their efforts to ensure our 'Homes from Home' can keep supporting families at a time when everyone's finances are feeling the squeeze. From long distance cycling challenges to hula-hooping and everything in between, our Super Supporters continue to amaze.

If you feel inspired by what you read and would like to donate, simply scan the QR code on the back page or visit sickchildrenstrust.org/donate. Every donation helps us keep families with a sick child in hospital together. Thanks for reading!



**Connect with
us on social**



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Cambridge Fundraising Committee

After 24 years of tireless fundraising, the Cambridge Fundraising Committee recently reached an incredible milestone, raising over £1 million in support of our Cambridge 'Homes from Home'.

Thanks largely to their efforts, our charity has two 'Homes from Home' in Cambridge, with Acorn House supporting families with a child being treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Chestnut House serving The Rosie Hospital.

The Committee – which regularly hosts celebrity lunches, evening lectures, afternoon tea parties, garden tours, concerts and more – was formed by Patsy Glazebrook in 1999 to raise money for Acorn House, which was opened a year later.

Following the opening of Chestnut House at The Rosie Hospital in 2012, the two Cambridge 'Homes from Home' have now supported 11,900 families.



In recognition of her work with the Cambridge Fundraising Committee, Patsy recently became a Dame of the Order of St George the Martyr, a richly deserved accolade.

A huge thank you to Patsy and Committee members past and present for everything you have done for us over the past two decades.

AFTERNOON TEA & DANCE

WITH

ANTON DU BEKE



12:30 – 4:00pm

Thursday 15 February 2024

InterContinental London Park Lane

Dig out your dancing shoes and join us on the dance floor with Anton Du Beke as we raise vital money to support families with a sick child in hospital in our ten 'Homes from Home'. Expect spectacular live ballroom performances as well as the chance to learn to dance with Anton. Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea and fizz, a raffle and a show stopping silent auction filled with dazzling gifts to support The Sick Children's Trust.



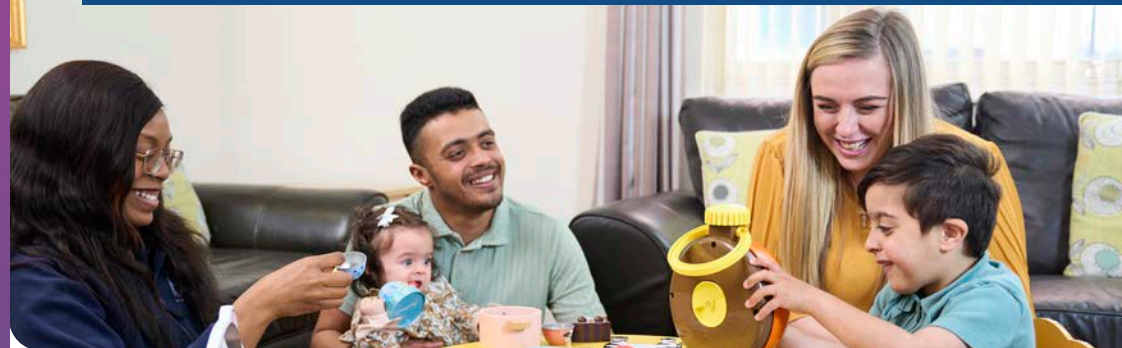
Visit our website for tickets

sickchildrenstrust.org/fundraise/events/



We're here, so families can be together

Oliver's Family Story



Born in 2019 at 30 weeks via emergency caesarean in Ashford, our son Oliver had an issue with his oesophagus, with medical staff unable to pass a feeding tube down his food pipe.

He was taken to the Royal London Hospital where he was diagnosed with a rare congenital condition of his wind and food pipes.

Being stuck in hospital myself, panic set in. How was I going to get to my son? Luckily my partner Kane went with Oliver to London, not leaving his side.

Kane was approached by Imtiaz, a House Manager from The Sick Children's Trust, who offered us a place to stay at Stevenson House while Oliver was in hospital. I joined Kane at Stevenson House four days later, relieved to be staying in an amazing place so close to our son.

We spent three traumatic months at Stevenson House, with Oliver dealing with various operations, obstacles, and setbacks while in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We were thrilled when Oliver was discharged, but a complication stopping him breathing while eating meant another operation and lengthy stay. We contacted Imtiaz who again came to our aid, putting us back in our old room.

Living with other families that were going through similar situations helped all of us. Knowing each other's stories, they all became like family to us.

Rae and Kane, Oliver's mum and dad

Read more about
Oliver's story

[sickchildrenstrust.org/
family-stories](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/family-stories)

Milestone Moments

A year after we celebrated 40 years of supporting families with a seriously ill child in hospital, two of our 'Homes from Home' and one very special member of our incredible house staff reached landmarks.

Thank you, Ann

Our amazing Magnolia and Treetop House Manager, Ann Wyatt, recently celebrated a personal milestone, having been with The Sick Children's Trust for 20 years. Our longest serving staff member, Ann is an integral part of our charity and a huge support to families who have a seriously ill child being treated at Sheffield Children's Hospital. A post about Ann's remarkable service on our Facebook page sparked numerous wonderful tributes from those touched by her kindness at the most stressful of times.



“I don't know what we would have done without Treetop, Ann, and the team. They are an amazing support.” **Diane Ford-Simms**

“Congratulations! Ann is the loveliest person!!”
Kate Cottingham

“What a wonderful lady. I'll never forget your support xx” **Helen Elizabeth Stapleton**



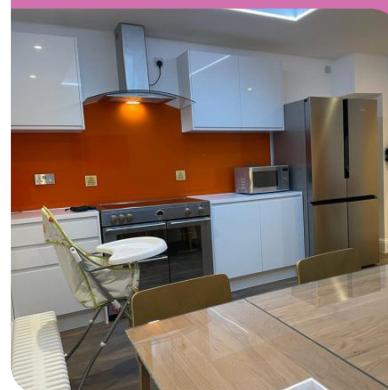
Eckersley House reaches 30

We had a fantastic time celebrating Eckersley House's 30th anniversary recently, being joined for the occasion by families past and present as well as supporters and even staff from Leeds Children's Hospital. With face painting, tombola, raffles, and an abundance of tea and cake, it proved to be a wonderful day for everyone involved, including House Manager Jane McHale and her amazing team. Since 1993, Eckersley House has supported over 12,000 families with a seriously ill child being treated in Leeds, something we are incredibly proud of.



20 years of Stevenson House

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Stevenson House, our 'Home from Home' supporting families at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. After opening its doors in 2003, an extension in 2011 saw Stevenson House grow from 12 to 16 rooms to allow for even more families to be supported. The 20th year of Stevenson House –



run by Imtiaz Pathan, our brilliant House Manager - was marked by a wonderful gesture from world-renowned construction company ISG, who fitted a brand-new kitchen complete with new units, induction cooker, fridge-freezer and more. The refurbishment ensures that families staying there can continue looking after themselves in the best way possible for many years to come.

Amelia's Family Story

With four of our ten 'Homes from Home' supporting the families of children awaiting transplants, The Sick Children's Trust is a proud supporter of the NHS's Organ Donation Week campaign. The 2023 edition took place in September and featured several of our transplant families. Jodie Woolford, whose two-year-old daughter Amelia is currently waiting for a donor heart in London, kindly shared her story.

Amelia was just one when she was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a type of heart failure, last June. It was devastating news for both me and Rich, Amelia's dad.

On 30 October 2022 after four months of slow deterioration, Amelia was sent to Great Ormond Street Hospital, over 100 miles away from our home in Chippenham. Since 1 November, Rich and I have been staying at The Sick Children's Trust's Guilford Street House 'Home from Home', which has been the most incredible lifeline for us.



I was seven months pregnant when I arrived at Guilford Street House, so always knew I might end up having the baby in London. Our second daughter, Blossom, arrived two days before Christmas. She is now nine months old and has never been to our home in Chippenham – Guilford Street House is the only home she has ever known. She absolutely loves it here, and the staff adore her.

“This has really eased our money worries”



As well as keeping us close to Amelia and providing a wonderful place to look after our baby, Guilford Street House has been an absolute godsend for Rich. He is a postal worker and has been transferred so he can continue working while all this is going on. This has really eased our money worries, as while the 'Home from Home' is free, we still have bills to pay back home as well as food, clothing, and everything else here. I honestly do not know what we would do without this place.

It is so hard to think that another child must pass away so others like Amelia, who can only receive a child's heart, get their chance. I think one person passing away saves seven other lives, so it is vital people think about organ donation, even though it is incredibly difficult to do so.

With Amelia permanently on the ward, we are just trying to live life as best we can, raising our kids like we would do at home although in a very different environment. We cannot thank The Sick Children's Trust and their wonderful staff enough for everything they do for us.

Jodie Woolford, Amelia's mum

Would you like to share your story?

Please visit
[sickchildrenstrust.org/
share-your-story](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/share-your-story)

★ Super Supporters ★

Our wonderful supporters help to keep thousands of families together every year, just minutes from their child's hospital bedside and we can't thank them enough.

Here is a glimpse of what our Super Supporters have been up to recently.



Kevin and Matt completed the Norwich 100 cycle, raising a fantastic £700 for our 'Homes from Home'. We supported Kevin's family when his grandson was in hospital.



Six-year-old Jack completed a 5km inflatable assault course challenge, raising an amazing £2,900 in the process. Jack wanted to thank us for supporting his family while his cousin, Lewis, was undergoing treatment at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

After supporting the parents of Evie Carey at Acorn House, the Risby Singers Club raised a brilliant £522. The donation was delivered by Beverley, Evie's grandad.



Dottie Rees and her mum Louise dropped off this fantastic donation of useful household items to our Guilford Street House. We've supported Dottie's parents several times while she receives treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Jessica Watkins hula hooped every day for 30 days to raise a brilliant £92 for Eckersley House, where we supported her family while her brother, Riley, was receiving treatment at Leeds Children's Hospital.





In September, Maia completed her first Mini Great North Run, raising an incredible £410, accompanied on the 1.2km course by mum Alix, our Scott House Assistant Manager.



Our 80 fantastic #TeamSCT runners hit the streets of Newcastle for the world's biggest and best half marathon. They collectively raised over £48,000 for our 'Homes from Home'! A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



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



Long Ride Home



Nine riders embarked on an epic challenge in June, with the Long Ride Home team cycling to all ten of our 'Homes from Home', covering a staggering 370 miles in the process.

Led by David Plane, who we supported at Stevenson House while son Brody received treatment at the Royal London Hospital in 2015, the team started their journey in central London before visiting our homes in Cambridge, Sheffield, Leeds, and Newcastle.

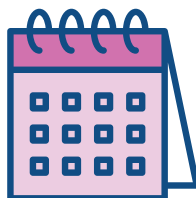
Joined by Jack Bloy, Jon Bloy, Tim Burdett, Steve Cook, David Ferguson, Mark Goudy, Ollie Newman and Graeme Savill, David's team raised a sensational £44,367.

Generous donations came from headline sponsors Project One London and IMed Consultancy as well as Deliver Media, Kiasu Workforce, Buckinghamshire orthopaedic hand surgeon Andy Hacker and even stage and screen legend Michael Crawford, our president of 35 years. A huge thank you to David and the whole team and to everyone who donated.



The Long Ride Home will return in 2024, so if you are interested in taking part please email fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org

Events Calendar



Help raise vital funds for our 'Homes from Home' by taking part in or by joining us at one of our events. To find out how to register for these and more, visit sickchildrenstrust.org/events or email fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org

Together at Christmas – 6 December 2023

Join us for our annual star-studded Christmas carols service at the beautiful St Marylebone Parish Church, London. This magical event will include traditional carols, musical performances, and readings by celebrity guests. This year's line-up includes Alice Beer, Tim Downie, London Show Choir, The Toffee Bear Choir and Christina Johnston.



Skydive Weekend – 11-12 May 2024

Soar 10,000 feet above the ground, at speeds of up to 120mph in a tandem skydive. Embark on the adventure of a lifetime, while also raising money to help support families with a seriously ill child in hospital.



Long Ride Home - June 2024

Our Long Ride Home cycling event is back! Choose to cycle from London to Newcastle in five days in our 'Long Ride Home' event or for those who want even more of a challenge, cycle the same distance in just three days in our Long Ride Home Ultra.



Clay Pigeon Shoot - 12 June 2024

Our inaugural Clay Pigeon Shoot takes place in the grounds of the stunning and historical Swinton Estate. The clay pigeon shoot is a great day out and is open to everyone from absolute beginners to experienced shots.



Golf Day hosted by Anton Du Beke – 26 June 2024

Back by popular demand. For the second year running, our golf day will be taking place at the stunning Bocket Hall Estate in Hertfordshire, hosted by Anton, who is a golfing enthusiast, and Ambassador for The Sick Children's Trust. Enjoy 18 holes of golf followed by a gourmet BBQ.



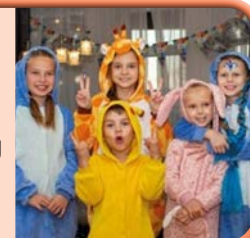
Dog Jog Virtual Challenge

Get fit, spend time with family and have fun with your four-legged friend. You can do 5km or any distance you like to raise vital funds for us. Complete your challenge whichever way suits you best – whether that's a brisk walk, a jog, or a run. It's your challenge so do it your way!




Pyjama Party

Tell your child's nursery or primary school about our Pyjama Party where children (and teachers!) get sponsored to wear their favourite night-time attire during the day. Please visit our school page on our website to sign up



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/



**Help
us to continue supporting
families in our 'Homes from Home' by
becoming a Friend of The Sick Children's
Trust. Please 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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Registered Charity Number: 284416



**The Sick
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**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**