



Make Them Smile
Children's Charity

Registered Charity No: 1150013

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

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www.makethemsmile.org.uk

Introduction

January 2022

We have produced this newsletter to introduce you to our charity, and to highlight a selection of some of the projects that with the support of people such as yourself, we were able to achieve throughout 2021 and most importantly, to request your support towards the projects we would like to achieve in 2022 and beyond.

A little about our charity, Make Them Smile was formed in 2012 to assist children within the UK that suffer from all forms of debilitating disabilities, illnesses, diseases or are disadvantaged due to being underprivileged or poverty stricken.

During the last nine years, we are very proud to have worked closely with medical professionals, hospitals, social services, schools, other charities, parents, and carers.

During this time, we have been able to assist more than 9,000 children and their families.

We endeavour to improve the quality of life of children and their families by providing medical equipment / medical aids, financial support with things such as hospital travel, white goods, sensory equipment, and respite breaks at our specially adapted holiday homes.

We do not receive any government funding, we must rely on the good will of the business sector, members of the public and organisations such as yours.

Achievements throughout 2021



The last 18 months have been incredibly challenging for everybody, even more so within the charity sector. As with so many other charities, we have been contacted by an unprecedented number of families struggling in these uncertain times, the Covid pandemic has continued to have a devastating impact on so many lives of the families that have been in contact with us.

Our 24-hour emergency phone line that we set up at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 has been a major lifeline to so many families.

We have also encountered a lot more families suffering financial hardships over these past 18 months on a scale that we have never seen before.

The changes to the Universal Credit payments also impacted a great deal on many families.

We have continued to help by way of providing food parcels and financial support towards utility bills.



Throughout this we were able to assist a family to purchase a Snapdragon wheelchair for a 9-year-old girl who was rapidly growing out of her wheelchair. The Snapdragon she now has provides her with the necessary support she requires to meet all her postural needs. This in turn has given her the opportunity to live a much more normal life allowing her to interact with her peers and adults alike with greater ease.

Due to the restrictions brought on by the pandemic, the opening of the Haven Holiday Park was delayed, however, we still managed to provide 83 Families with holidays and respite breaks at our Adapted holiday homes.

We also helped a family to purchase an Innowalk for a young boy who was diagnosed with type 1 SMA. It is the versatility and adaptability of an Innowalk that the family are confident will improve his standard of living.

Our continued collaboration with social services and hospitals alike and have provided funding for hospital travel, funding for accommodation to allow parents to stay near the hospital whilst their child/children undergo surgery/treatment, this would normally be provided by the hospital but sadly, due to Covid this is no longer possible.



We have provided several families with multiple walking aids and medical aids as well as a mobility scooter, an adapted family tricycle, 2 separate outdoor sheds for families to store their large medical equipment that isn't used daily, a stroller and travel system and secured funding for an R V Child Transporter

We have also continued to fund weekly/monthly hydrotherapy sessions.



Every child deserves to open a present from Santa at Christmas. Our ongoing Christmas toy appeal will be ensuring Santa is there for all needy children in the Boston and surrounding areas again this Christmas. (This year Sadly, due to logistics our toy appeal is limited to Boston and surrounding areas)

Projects for 2022



HEARING DOG FOR NICO

We wish to purchase a hearing dog to for a young girl that has become deaf, suffers from Autism, Sensory processing disorder (SPD), Dyslexia, Asthma, IBS and Hypermobility, Severe Anxiety issues and anxiety tics.

When she gets very anxious and overwhelmed it gets her to the point of where she turns mute, especially if she does not know you or you are not a familiar friend or family member.

She has tried to overcome her anxiety problems by enrolling at college but unfortunately to no avail.

With the devastating news she is now deaf the family believe that a hearing dog would benefit her immensely by being both her ears and her best friend. In addition to this, her healthcare workers are certain that a hearing dog would also help with her anxiety issues. Having a hearing dog would benefit her in so many ways and will help put some normality into her young life.

Hearing dogs provide both emotional support through companionship, and practical support by alerting deaf people to lifesaving sounds like the smoke alarm, and important sounds such as the oven timer, baby monitor and text messages.

Their burgundy coats also signal to the public that they are with a deaf person.

Because barking may not be audible by their deaf owners, hearing dogs are trained to use physical contact to alert people to sounds, they will touch you with their paws or nudge you with their nose and then lead you to the source of the sound.



Quantum Stretto Powerchair (Powered Wheelchair)



We are looking to help a family purchase a quantum stretto powerchair for their 13-year-old son who developed a Medulloblastoma which is a high-grade brain tumour that starts in the lower back part of the brain, called the cerebellum. The cerebellum is involved in muscle coordination, balance, and movement.

He has been treated at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and was an in-patient for several months having received intensive treatment alongside therapy. As a result, ataxia developed as well.

He is now home and making progress with regular access to both physiotherapy and occupational therapy in the community setting. He will, however, continue to have longer term difficulties relating to his mobility. He can walk very short distances with support, but he is not able to walk independently due to being unsteady and at risk of falls. He has reduced core stability and difficulties controlling his arms and legs.



His movements lack fluency and control impacting on all areas of daily living and has had to become dependent on others for many aspects of care, despite making improvements and progressing well. He has been assessed by a local wheelchair service within his area, however, due to not having an adapted home they are not able to issue/supply a powered wheelchair as he does not meet the criteria. He has been assessed with a powered wheelchair which allows him to confidently access the local community and his school environment with greater ease and more confidence. He can operate the powered chair safely which increases his overall independence. He is not able to self-propel in a standard wheelchair due to fatigue and reduced muscle strength, so a powered chair is his only means of independent mobility outside of the home.

Having a quantum stretto powerchair would increase his self-esteem and sense of wellbeing as it would provide a much-needed opportunity to develop his confidence accessing the local community safely. The family are also in the process of arranging a wheelchair adapted vehicle (WAV) through Motability and are keen to have support with funding this powered wheelchair so that they can ensure the vehicle they chose is compatible.

Please help him to reach his potential and enable him to be the teenage boy he needs to be, due to him having reduced mobility and ataxic movement the quantum stretto powerchair would have a huge impact on his life.

The cost of the chair is £7055.10

You can find more information regarding all our projects on our website: makethemsmile.org.uk

If you feel you can help or would like to donate to any of our projects, you can do this by bank transfer direct to our bank account or at any Lloyds Bank, our details are

Sort Code 77-72-25 - Account number 40723568

or alternatively, by visiting our website: www.makethemsmile.org.uk and click on the **donate** button.



We would like to build a sensory room for a young boy who has congenital heart disease, dysmorphic features, nonverbal autism and has Asperger's syndrome. At only 8 weeks old he needed and underwent open heart surgery. In addition to his heart surgery, he has also had to undergo plastic surgery on his feet three times and still requires more. He has many sensory issues, he is nonverbal and therefore finds it very hard to communicate, he doesn't eat or drink resulting in him not getting the right nutrients, he is now due to have a gastrostomy to put a feeding peg into his tummy to which the family are desperately hoping that this will help. As he is nonverbal and cannot communicate, it is impossible for him to explain what he wants or needs, in turn this causes him to become very frustrated causing him to have meltdowns. On an average day, he has 7 plus meltdowns, causing him to self-harm and harm others. He has great difficulty out and about and he doesn't like loud noises etc.



A sensory room will be life changing for him and his family. Sensory play helps children to develop their senses, encourages problem solving and can build nerve connections in the brain. Sensory stimulation also engages different areas of the brain, helping children absorb and retain more information. Mum is hoping, that Having his own sensory space away from his 5 other siblings will help him start to communicate. As there is limited space inside the property, we need to purchase an outbuilding. The cost of the sensory room (including outbuilding) will be approx. £3000.00

Holiday Homes Refurbishment

Sadly, due to more pressing commitments we made the difficult decision not to replace one of our holiday homes for the 2022 season and instead, to refurbish the holiday homes that we already have, this will provide a greater, more pleasant experience for the families using them.

One of the holiday homes will be having the lounge seating re-upholstered, and the mattresses, duvets, and pillows renewed.

The other holiday home will be having the carpets replaced, new kitchen units, the wet room refurbished, and the small appliances replaced in addition to the mattresses, duvets, and pillows renewed.

The bookshelves situated in our holiday homes have become increasingly popular with families reading books and taking them home for enjoyment.

Not only does reading increase a child's vocabulary, but it also helps to de-stimulate a child ready for bed or a calm peaceful moment. It also can help to build strong bonds between siblings and caregivers.

Donations of books or a contribution to provide more children's fiction books for those to enjoy would be greatly appreciated. We estimate that approx. £200 per annum is spent to provide children's reading material for our holiday homes.

Our holiday homes provide respite breaks and holidays for 90 to 100 families each year.

Social and Educational

We believe it is fundamentally important that all children suffering from any form of illness, disease or disability or are from disadvantaged backgrounds should be equal in having the chance to learn and understand about their culture, history, and future.

We also feel that children and their Families who are going through these stressful and traumatic experiences need a break from their normal day to day routine.

For these purposes we propose to organise excursions that will include trips for educational, therapeutic, respite and recuperation purposes.

Listed is a small sample of some of the places we intend to send them:

London planetarium - History and science museums - Horse riding - National heritage sites - Eden project - Tower of London Zoos - Horticultural projects - Sea-life centres and Adventure experiences

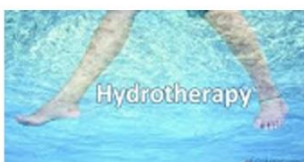
To fund a family day trip or respite break including travel, food and expenses will range from £250.00 to £500.00.

To fund a group day trip including travel, food and expenses will range from £750.00 to £1,500.00.

To fund a group week/weekend for an educational or adventure programme including accommodation, travel, food, and expenses will range from £3,000 to £5,000.

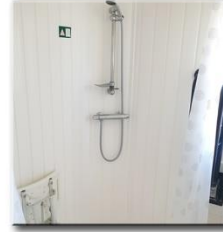
Ongoing Projects

Continue to fund hydrotherapy sessions



Hydrotherapy is a form of physiotherapy which makes use of the natural buoyancy, heat and resistance of water to help bring about a number of therapeutic effects. This can be a great way to provide a fun and engaging environment to help stimulate a child's recovery. Hydrotherapy can be used to treat all the main areas of physiotherapy including musculoskeletal, neurological and respiratory conditions.

Ongoing Projects



Providing Respite/Holidays

A short break away is often key for the survival of family relationships during the roller-coaster ride of childhood illnesses, for this reason, we feel it is important to give families the quality time together that they need, away from hospitals, doctors, and treatment, during the covid-19 pandemic, this has never been more so.

Our holiday homes are situated at Haven's Golden Sands Holiday Park, Mablethorpe We can now provide respite for between 90 and 100 families each year. (When not in lockdown). The Park has amenities to suit all ages whether rain or shine, it is wheelchair friendly throughout and are within proximity to all the amenities. Our holiday homes are well equipped with the following: Wheelchair access ramp, Hoist in Main Bedroom, Adapted Wet Room, Lowered work surfaces, lowered light switches and sockets, Wheelchair access to each room, Extra wide sliding doors, fully accessible throughout, Central Heating, Double glazing, External Electric sockets for charging electric wheelchairs.



Updates

An update on some of our previous cases and comments from a few of the families

Cordelia, Jareth & Sienna

"To everyone at make them smile, I cannot thank you enough for the gift of our Autism support dog, "Bear" for my three children. Bear came to live with us at the beginning of November after nearly 12 months of intense training. Bear has made such a difference to all our lives, not just the children's. After such a horrible year and all the setbacks the children have faced, it is so hard to express just how better our lives are now. Thank you"



Oscar

"The braille you kindly gifted our family has allowed Oscar to become independent in his learning. He is able to switch on, load the paper and type all by himself. His braille skills have gone from strength to strength earning several progress certificates from his visual impairment teachers. The braille has not only allowed him to increase his typing skills but also his reading skills, Oscar can now fluently read braille. Your gift has given Oscar so much freedom and it has been incredible seeing him achieve. We cannot thank you enough for helping, it has without a doubt made a huge difference to Oscar's life."

"I hope you all know, how priceless, and wonderful, you all are. That by donating time, energy, and just some love. You HELP!!! You help us, the families, who truly need it."

"Thank you so much for the loveliest phone call earlier, you truly made our day. I do hope I have not made you cry and want to thank you personally for your kindest words."

"I personally cannot thank you enough"

Pass on our deepest thanks to Tony for making our trip to GOSH much less stressful!"

"I just wanted to once again thank you, for your wonderful support, in helping my beloved Son"

"I couldn't let this time of year pass without thinking of your and Tony's kind generosity towards my family earlier this year. I just wanted to drop you a line to update you on the children, once again express my sincere thanks, and wish you both a relaxing holiday season."

"Thank you so much for making our holiday happen"