



August 2022 Update

Achievements so far in 2022



Quantum Stretto Powerchair (Powered Wheelchair)

We have now purchased a quantum stretto powerchair for Zoltan who developed a high-grade brain tumour.

He was 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.

His movements lack fluency and control impacting on all areas of daily living and had to become dependent on others for many aspects of care, despite making improvements and progressing well.

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 the powered chair is his only means of independent mobility outside of the home.

Having the quantum stretto powerchair has increased his self-esteem and sense of wellbeing as it has provided a much-needed opportunity to develop his confidence accessing the local community safely.



Hearing Dog for Nico

We have purchased 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. Having a hearing dog will now 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.



Cruz's Sensory room

Cruz now has his sensory room, he is 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 when he is out and about and he doesn't like loud noises etc.

The sensory room has been life changing for Cruz 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.



Continued

Butlin's

We are both pleased and proud to be welcoming our first family to our new Respite/holiday home at Butlins Skegness, the Breda Nagle respite holiday home, along with our two respite/holiday homes at Haven's golden sands in Mablethorpe will allow us to provide holidays and respite for approximately 150 families each year. All are wheelchair friendly and have been adapted to suit people with a wide variety of disabilities.

Butlins offers a unprecedented range of entertainment to suit all ages, it is wheelchair friendly and everyone can enjoy all it has to offer.

Skegness is where the Butlin's story began. Founded in 1936 by Billy Butlin, it was the UK's first-ever holiday camp and is just as popular now as it's always been.

Butlins is situated on the Lincolnshire Coast, 20 miles from Lincoln, wondering why Billy Butlin chose this specific spot? That would be because of the beach! Skegness is home to one of the UK's finest Blue Flag beaches, with an endless stretch of award-winning golden sand.

Take your pick from the high ropes, climbing wall, go-karts and freefall. And when the weather's not playing ball? There's loads to do inside including laser tag, bowling, arts and crafts and, of course, the huge Splash Waterworld. Renovated in 2018, the pool features nearly 3000 square metres of fun, with high-speed flumes, racing rapids, a pool for tots and a winding vortex slide that sends you spinning into a giant bowl.

Along with our two holiday homes at Haven's golden sands at Mablethorpe, we can now provide respite and holidays for up to 150 families each year.



For the first time, this year, we have managed to hold three family fun days so far, this is where we have brought families together to share their experiences and advice, where they can offer help and support to each other, and advise and in some areas, educate us too.

in addition to the vast knowledge these parents have managed to share with each other, it was an opportunity for the Children to have a fantastic day out too.

Unfortunately due to logistics, we have been confined to hold the events in Lincolnshire, however, we are actively trying to organise a wider network.



We have continued to provide items such as, equipment storage sheds, Strollers, laptops, hydrotherapy, sensory rooms and sensory toys, physiotherapy, hospital accommodation, hospital travel costs, food, clothing and financial support.

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



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

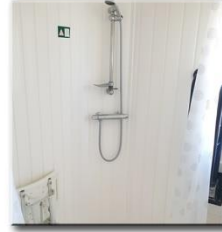


Hydrotherapy is a form of physiotherapy which makes use of the natural buoyancy, heat and resistance of water to help bring about a number of therapeutic effects.

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"

Make Them Smile

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