

# Make Them Smiles Children's Charity

Registered Charity No: 1150013



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#### Issue 4

### Achievements throughout 2022

#### Sensory Rooms and Sensory equipment for Multiple Children

What are the benefits of sensory rooms? Children gain access to appropriate sensory stimulation and their body responds appropriately to their stimulation. Sensory rooms can enhance learning through occupational therapy (OT), which engages different areas of the brain, leading to information retention. Time in a sensory room helps children with their visual, auditory, and tactile processing, as well as fine and gross motor skills. By providing a sense of calm and comfort, sensory rooms help children learn to self-regulate their behaviours, which ultimately improves focus. Sensory play can help to strengthen brain development, enhance memory and ability to complete more complex tasks, as well as helping to improve hand to eye coordination

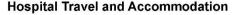


#### A quantum stretto powerchair

A quantum stretto powerchair for Zoltan who developed a high-grade brain tumour.

He can operate the powered chair safely which increases his overall independence as he was not able to self-propel in a standard wheelchair due to fatigue and reduced muscle strength.

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.



Sadly, one of the fastest growing request for assistance we are receiving, is from families having to take their children to hospital appointments. We are regually contacted by Hospital care workers and other organisations for assistance. The requests range from train fares, Fuel allowance, car parking and accomodation for overnight stay expenditure.

The incredible rise in the cost of living just adds another anxiety to the family's already stressful situation.

#### Cost of Living Help, Support & Advice

We have continued to support families by providing food parcels, financial support and practical help & Advice. 2022 saw a great increase in families approaching us for help.



#### Computers and workstations for multiple children



We have supplied computers, printers, and workstations for numerous children.

What is the importance of education?

It helps children become better citizens, get better-paid jobs, and shows the difference between good and bad. Education shows us the importance of hard work and, at the same time, helps us

grow and develop. Therefore, we can shape a better society to live in by knowing and respecting rights, laws, and regulations. Education can also lead to more accurate health beliefs and knowledge, lead to better lifestyle choices and to develop skills and greater self-advocacy.

Education also helps to improves skills such as literacy, develops effective habits, and may improve cognitive ability.

#### **Hearing Dog**

A hearing dog for Nico, a young girl who is deaf and Suffers from Autism, Sensory processing disorder (SPD), Dyslexia, Asthma, IBS and Hypermobility, Severe Anxiety issues and anxiety tics.

Nico's hearing dog will now benefit her in so many ways and will help put some normality into her young life.





#### New Holiday/Respite Home at Butlins Skegness

We have now opened our third Respite/Holiday home. Named the "Breda Nagle Holiday Home" it is situated at Butlins Skegness in Lincolnshire. Like our other respite/holiday homes it is totally wheelchair friendly, it has wide door frames, lowered switches, sockets, cooker and sink, it also benefits from a fitted wet room and has a ramped decking for wheelchair access.

It comes with all the benefits and entertainment that Butlin's has to offer. With this new home we are now able to offer respite and holidaybreaks for between 135 to 150 children and their families each year.



#### Paratreker Trail wheelchair for a horticultural project

We also purchased the Paratrekar Trail wheelchair complete with harnesses for the horticultural project that provides space and services for children to learn about plants, it also offer services for all children inclusive of those at a disadvantage in some way in society.

The project caters for children who are mostly neurodiverse with additional needs that visit from several areas including Torquay, Paignton, Brixham and Plymouth

This enables disabled children to now have the opportunity to connect with the land, learn about the environment and help sustain their natural world which is invaluable and a treat to see.



## We have also proivided many children with electric/manual Wheelchairs, Strollers and Medical Equipment







## We continue to support and provide Hydrotherapy & Physiotherapy sessions for multiple children





#### In addition:

We have also assisted with funding towards a house adaptation for a young girl with a genetic disorder, which has caused profound and multiple disabilities.

Supported a forest and a horticultural area at a school in Boston.

Provided a large selection of disability equipment, items such as lifting hoists, walking aids and travel systems.

Supplied Multiple Beds and mattresses.

We have also continued to provide food parcels and aided with utility bills as well as telephone help, advice and support.