

"a growing family"



SUMMER EDITION NEWSLETTER 2018



From the Editor...

As the newsletter goes to press so much is happening. Rachel's chick empire continues to grow and the 300 mm chicks specially designed and knitted to be displayed in businesses on the Great Didsbury Chick Hunt are shown on our front cover, the new website is on its way to completion and we are in the final stages of the upgrading of Francis House to bring it to the same standard as Francis Lodge.

In April, Gill our Director of Care reported to the Trustees that for the first time in our history the number of sick young people on our roll exceeded 500; of these about 350 will use us for respite care during the coming year. If you add parents and siblings, we are supporting over 2000 people through our services - Francis House is certainly a 'growing family.' In order to support the families we need to employ more staff and recruit more volunteers in our support services. All of this needs money and it is thanks to our very generous and committed supporters that we are able to continue this valuable and developing work.

Francis House is fortunate to be in the North West where people are naturally generous and caring. We work hard to make every donation count with over 85p of every pound donated going to the care of the families.

Back to our 'mother hen' Rachel and her chicks, this year's appeal has brought in over 40,000 chicks from knitters worldwide, it has raised approximately £50,000. One example of the hard work of the Francis House family. Sister Aloysius never knew what she had started but thank God she made what she called her 'worthwhile error.'

To all of you, from all our families.
Thank you

David

A new look coming soon for our website

Our website is a useful source of information to a wide range of visitors. People who want to support us, work with us or for us, as well as families who want to find out about our services, can do so via the website.



But, like Francis House, we recognised the need to update our website to ensure today's visitors are catered for by communicating with them as effectively as possible, and allowing them to find the information they need quickly and easily.

As a charity we know how important it is for us to spend money wisely. When we decided to commission a new website, we thoroughly researched and then approached a number of digital companies. Manchester based agency Reason Digital, impressed us with their track record in producing engaging digital work for many charities and social enterprises.

Two key aims of the new website will be to make it easier and quicker for people to donate securely online, and prioritising information for families to make it easily accessible. Months of development and design work are underway and the new site is due to launch in the autumn - we hope you will enjoy using it!

Keeping in touch

New General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect on 25th May 2018.

We reviewed our communication processes including contacting you by email if we have your email address, to ensure that they complied with the new regulation. Our mailing lists are not sold or passed onto third parties. If you receive the newsletter through the post you will not be contacted for any purpose other than the newsletter unless you have consented to be contacted. For more details on how we retain your personal information and your data protection rights please visit our website www.francishouse.org.uk



Massive decisions

The families who come to Francis House often face many life-changing decisions when it comes to the care of their son or daughter. Sam was born with a hole in the heart and Down's syndrome. He underwent heart surgery when he was eight months old.

To the relief of his parents Louise and Guy the operation was a success. As he developed Sam started walking, playing with toys and enjoying ice cream on family holidays.

Two years later he underwent a procedure to measure the pressure in his heart. On administration of the anaesthetic he had a cardiac arrest and suffered permanent brain damage.

"He'll never be able to walk, he can't eat properly whereas before he was eating properly," said Louise.

Sam stayed in hospital for eight months. "It was quite a hard time, we didn't take home the child we took in."

A slow process of recovery began, and years later the family faced further tough decisions. For six years Sam was fed through a nasogastric (NG) tube which passes food into the stomach via the nose.

"We always knew having a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) a tube in the tummy straight into the stomach, would be better and he'd put weight on."

"But we could never make that decision because the last time he had an anaesthetic he arrested. Finally 3 years ago we decided, and he had the NG tube out and a PEG fitted. It is so much better although it was a massive decision for us."

Due to the serious nature of his condition the family were referred to Francis House. Caring for someone with complex medical needs, often for twenty four hours a day, seven days a week can put a huge strain on families.

"Coming to Francis House really does give you that break from caring for your child. I don't think you realize it until you actually come here. You really do need that respite."

"Sam's a really happy little boy, he loves being around people, he loves music, and being out and about. Considering what he's been through and has to go through, he copes with it all in his stride."

"Here he gets all the attention he needs he gets taken out and loves going in the Jacuzzi or the sensory room he does get thoroughly spoilt."

Louise and Sam at Francis House



Open Day visitors

Twice a year in April and November we invite our supporters to come to Francis House to see the incredible work that goes on behind the scenes at the hospice.



Hundreds of people came through the doors of Francis House to meet the care team and tour the buildings. Supporters, volunteers, school groups and businesses, saw at first hand the scale and variety of the facilities all designed with the care and comfort of the children, young people and their families in mind.

Staff from Interlink Recruitment in Manchester were keen to learn how the money they raise helps to make a difference to the lives of families across Greater Manchester. Bethany Johnson explained:

"Visiting Francis House was a fantastic opportunity and I feel very honoured to be invited to see the grounds. It was great being able to see where all our fundraising goes. During my visit it did not feel like a hospice at all."

On show for the first time the new Snoezelen multi-sensory room. Using touch screen technology, the state of the art equipment provides soothing or stimulating lighting and sounds, tactile experiences and gentle movement.

The room benefits children with a range of life-limiting conditions including neuromuscular, metabolic and neurological diseases.

Visitors are often surprised to hear that less than ten per cent of the children have cancer related conditions.



The new Snoezelen multi-sensory room

Presenter and Key 2 DJ Darren Proctor also came along to the open day before hosting our Summer Ladies Lunch fundraiser held at the Principal Hotel.

Darren spent some time in the chapel looking at the Memory Books and recalled some of his own childhood memories.

"Mum and dad worked so Grandad took me to school and picked me up. We did everything together, my Grandad was my best friend and he was my mentor.

"We spent hours in his garden, planting seeds and growing tomatoes it was just a fantastic bond. When I was with Grandad I felt safe and enjoyed my time with him. Childhood memories are so important and that is what Francis House is all about, making the lives of the children and families as full of as many happy memories as they can."

"Francis House is so incredible not only in what they do for the children and young people in their care, but also for their families by giving them a much needed break."



The Francis House Great Didsbury Chick Hunt

Following on from our hugely successful Knitted Chick appeal, we launched The Great Didsbury Chick Hunt, a fun family activity in and around Didsbury Village.

Working with the local community close to our hospice, and supported by Didsbury Traders Association and Towers Manchester, the windows of twenty shops and businesses were home to a band of giant knitted chicks in the run up to Easter.

The handmade chicks were styled with aprons, fashion accessories and even a violin, to reflect the trades of the local venues that included a cafe, toy shop, medical centre and cheese shop.

Thanks to Maria Dunbobbin of Cheadle Hulme, for knitting every single one of the 30 cm chicks!

Sophie Goodlass, of Gusto Restaurant, said:

"Francis House is on our doorstep in Didsbury so we jumped at the chance to be part of the first ever Chick Hunt. By following the map to find the chicks, people can have fun exploring the village and supporting a great charity."



Colourful maps were available to download and distributed to the venues including Didsbury Library, who also hosted a 'Chick Post Box' to collect the completed entry forms. The chick hunters were asked to fill in the name of each chick and answer a simple question about Francis House to win a prize.

More than 150 correctly completed entry forms were returned and a total of £524 was raised in donations.

The Francis House Great Didsbury Chick Hunt also featured in local and online media sites and magazines, as well as appearing in the Manchester Evening News 'Things to do in the Easter holidays' What's On list.

Scores of supporters also joined in the fun on social media, tweeting pictures of themselves out and about using the hashtag #DidsChickHunt



The Francis House Great Didsbury Chick Hunt will return again next year and we are hoping to branch out to include West Didsbury. If your business would like to get involved please get in touch with Rachel Astill on 0161 443 2200.



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED EVENTS AND NEWS



London Marathon

After months of training, strict eating regimes, lots of early nights and loads of fundraising, team Francis House conquered the grueling 26.2 mile course otherwise known as the Virgin Money London Marathon. This prestigious event attracts over 40,000 runners and we would like to thank Dominic, Vanessa and Dominic for taking part and raising more than £9,000.

If you would like a place in the 2019 Virgin Money London Marathon please contact Julie Williams for an application form – 0161 443 2200 or email julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk

Great Manchester Run

More than 360 of you pulled on your running shoes and took part in the incredible Great Manchester Run. With the sun beating down teams of teachers, shop workers, graduates, office staff, parents and family members, pushed themselves to the limit to raise tens of thousands of pounds for Francis House – thank you!



Chick knitting record

You did it! Our Knitted Easter Chick Appeal has beaten last year's total with 40,219 chicks hand crafted by 745 knitters and crocheters far and wide.

Every knitted chick counts and along with 38,000 donated crème eggs, and chicks sold from 156 venues including 57 schools, you have contributed to raising approximately £50,000 for Francis House!

Candy Craft Club in Timperley knitted a whopping 1,040 chicks and Laure Chambers originally from Hulme, now living in Perth, Western Australia produced 1,084 some from her own spun yarn.



Supporters ranged from Boohoo fashion, Co-op, Allied Bakeries, Oldham's Town Barber Too, King's School Macclesfield and Bury College.

Thank you to each and every one of you for taking part and it's never too early to start knitting for 2019!



Supermarket Support

If you have a spare couple of hours, helping out at one of our fundraising events in supermarkets can help make a big difference.



As our supporter Ann Yearsley recently demonstrated, 'every little helps' and collections soon add up to generous donations. We are lucky to have the support of a major supermarket allowing us a day each month to collect in their stores or offer a bag packing service.

We need willing volunteers to give two to three hours once a month to help us to raise funds. If you would like to get involved, please contact Julie Williams on 0161 443 2200 or Julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk

FREE VALUATIONS

at The Coach & Four
69/71 Alderley Road
Wilmslow SK9 1PA

Thursday 11am - 2pm
19 July, 16 August &
20 September

and every third Thursday of the month to November inclusive
(No appointment necessary)

Do come along with your Antiques, Jewellery, Watches, Gold, Silver, Ceramics & Collectables and meet a Hansons Valuer

Voluntary Donations in aid of
Francis House Children's Hospice



Free Home Visits
for large/multiple items, House Clearance & Downsizing advice

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The Auction Centre, Heage Lane, Etwell,
Derbyshire DE65 6LS
T: 01283 733988
service@hansonsauctioneers.co.uk
www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk
Regulated by RICS



HOW YOU CAN HELP

To continue to provide our services we need to raise 4.2 million pounds per year to keep Francis House and Francis Lodge operating.

Regular donations provide us with ongoing income that enables us to plan for future needs. So we are asking as many of you as possible to consider a regular weekly, monthly or annual gift. You can do this by completing and returning the Standing Order request on this page to Pauline Armitage, Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA or by going to our website and emailing us a standing order. You can also ring Pauline on 0161 434 7252 and she will do the work for you.

If you are a UK tax payer please also sign the Gift Aid Declaration on the reverse of this slip and return it along with your Standing Order Request.

STANDING ORDER

FRANCIS HOUSE FAMILY TRUST REQUEST FOR STANDING ORDER

To the Bank Manager

Date

Branch Address

Please charge Account: Sort Code

Account No

**Pay to: Yorkshire Bank, The Chancery,
Spring Gardens, Manchester, M2 1YB
Account No. 68170373 Sort Code. 05-05-73**

The sum of £

Commencing on

and thereafter on each succeeding

Ending on

Name

Address

Signature

Date

Please return to Pauline Armitage at Francis House
Registered Charity No. 328659

Name of Charity

Details of Donor: Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

I wish the charity to treat: (please tick as appropriate)

☐ the enclosed donation of £

☐ All donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please let us know if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and or capital gains

Signed

Date

GIFT AID

We are most grateful to everyone who has already completed a Gift Aid Declaration. To date over 2500 supporters have signed up to the scheme.

We are able to claim 25p for every pound donated.

If you are a UK taxpayer and haven't already signed up please consider completing and returning the slip overleaf, no donation is too small to be gift aided.

If you are planning a special occasion - wedding anniversary, birthday, christening etc and wish your guests to make their gift a donation to Francis House, we can supply small gift envelopes and cards to be sent out with your invitations.

We can only claim gift aid if the donors pay UK tax and we have their name and home address.

Please phone Pauline on 0161 434 7252 or email: pauline.armitage@francishouse.org.uk if we can help.

Howard House

The Manchester College and parent organisation Learning Training Employment (LTE) Group has named their Wythenshawe site Howard House in honour of former student Kirsty Howard.

Kirsty's family were VIP guests at an unveiling ceremony of a plaque announcing the new name of the recently-refurbished site to guests from the community, staff and Wythenshawe and Sale East MP Mike Kane.

The LTE Group has recently invested over £1.5m in upgrading the facilities at Howard House, to house over 160 staff.

Kirsty, who died in 2015, made a huge impact as a fundraiser for Francis House, raising millions of pounds.

Despite being born with a rare heart and lung condition, Kirsty endured many operations and inspired countless people with her bravery and determination.

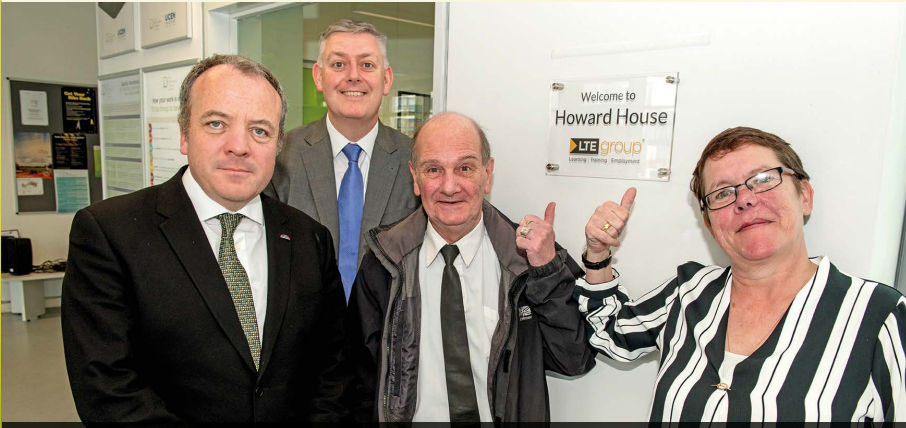
Francis House was named LTE Group's charity partner of the year, and kick-started their fundraising efforts by entering a team in the Great Manchester Run.

Chief Executive John Thornhill said: "The Manchester College is incredibly proud to have supported Kirsty in her studies and we're honoured to name the building Howard House, to reflect her connection to us and the local area.

"Kirsty was, and continues to be, an inspiration to many in Manchester and she remains a fantastic example of the values which we encourage in our colleagues, students and learners."

Naming the building Howard House and fundraising for Francis House is a wonderful tribute to her memory.

Thank you to the LTE Group and thank you to Kirsty and her family.



Mike Kane MP, John Thornhill CEO LTE Group, Steve and Lynn Howard

Can your workplace support Francis House?

The support we receive from local businesses helps to make a huge difference at Francis House. We are always keen to team up with new organizations of any size. Whether you can take us on as your chosen charity, sponsor an event, raise funds as a team or make a one-off donation, we'd love to hear from you.

Choose Francis House as your Charity of the Year. Our fundraising team will work with you to generate exciting and motivating fundraising ideas that work for you and your employees, and will always be on hand to help with your fundraising efforts. Be it bake sales, quiz nights or dress down days, there's loads of fun ways for all the office to help raise money, whilst creating lots of great opportunities to enhance your brand.

LOOKING FOR IDEAS?

- MSL held a static bike ride in their offices covering the distance from Land's End to John O'Groats raising £750.
- Brabners held an Apprentice style challenge to see which office could raise the most money in one day, ideas included breakfast deliveries and fancy dress.
- Grant Thornton put local businesses head-to-head in their annual themed quiz nights raising thousands of pounds.
- Interlink Recruitment staff sponsored one colleague to cultivate an impressive moustache, 'TashforCash' raising more than £1,000!



Sponsorship

We are constantly seeking corporate sponsors for our events. Active Business generously sponsored our Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge one year, and helped to cover the costs involved ensuring as much as possible was raised.

Employee Volunteering

From time to time, there are opportunities for individuals or groups of staff to give their time to help with fundraising events. This could include anything from stewarding at events, bag-packing at supermarkets or even modelling in fashion shows! Teams of Virgin Media employees have used their volunteer hours to help sort and prepare stock in our charity shop, whilst groups from RBS and United Utilities have given their time to help with our Easter Chick Appeal.



Join our own fundraising activities. From balls and ladies lunches to sponsored walks and runs, there are plenty of opportunities for your colleagues to attend our excellent events or take on challenges over the year. For more information on how we can support your fundraising, contact peter.forster@francishouse.org.uk

THE NEWS WHERE YOU ARE...

Turn fifty - climb a mountain

Two intrepid supporters who recently turned fifty, took on the challenge of trekking to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania

Police Sergeant Tony McGuire's life-long ambition to do the incredible climb, came to fruition when he saw an advert on the Greater Manchester Police intranet asking for interested parties.

"I've drawn up my bucket list and Kilimanjaro was right up there near the top of the list. I decided to combine the opportunity to raise funds to support the amazing work of Francis House based where I live in Didsbury."

For the last leg of the journey, Tony and fifteen fellow trekkers climbed through the night for six hours. At 5.15 a.m. they reached the Uhuru summit of the world's highest free-standing mountain in Africa.

"It was a formidable challenge that pushed me to the limits of my endurance as temperatures dropped as low as -10 Celsius. Exhausted I knew I had completed the hardest challenge of my life. I stood at the summit watching in awe as the sun came up over Africa. The sense of achievement and euphoria re-energised me for the trip back down the mountain. During my low points, I focussed on thoughts of my family and of supporting Francis House to keep me going," said Tony.



Sales Executive Dave Gregg of EG Solutions, also scaled "The Roof of Africa" along with twenty four colleagues. Dave from Stockport said:

"I found the climb extremely challenging particularly the effects of Altitude Mountain Sickness (AMS). I felt really unwell on the second day and wondered if I would be able to make it. That said the feeling of elation and achievement at reaching the top was incredible and made me realise that even at my age I can still surprise myself and push myself to new heights (literally)."

The dynamic duo have raised a fantastic £1800 in sponsorship.

Congratulations to Tony and Dave on a fantastic achievement!

If you have been inspired by their efforts, you can find out more about taking part in challenge events by contacting the fundraising team.



Afternoon at the Movies

The Gorton Philharmonic presents 'An Afternoon at the Movies' concert at Gorton Monastery on Sunday July 8. Tickets £15 per adult, £4 per accompanied child. To book visit www.gortonphil.co.uk/8-july-2018 or call 0161 432 2263. Concert from 2.30 pm.



Maele gets the chop

Eight year old Maele cut her long hair to raise money in memory of her brother Lewis who was cared for at Francis House and who would have been eighteen years old this year.

Maele also donated her locks to the Little Princess Trust and her fundraising efforts totalled an amazing £1,087 - well done and thank you from everyone at Francis House!



Coggles fashion show

Fashionistas joined fundraisers for an evening of high-end men and women's fashion by Coggles of Alderley Edge. Radio 5 live presenter Nihal Arthanyake hosted the night that was supported by LSH Auto Mercedes Benz and Smart of Macclesfield with the donation of a fantastic prize to win an SL 400 for the weekend. Canapes and champagne flowed at the fashionable Courthouse in Knutsford. Cheshire Life covered the event and a great evening was had by all raising £2,000. Thank you to the ladies of the Cheshire committee for voluntarily organising another memorable event on behalf of Francis House.

On behalf of Francis House Children's Hospice



Lytham Green Drive Golf Club
Friday 28th September at 12pm (Registration 10am)

Texas Scramble teams of 4 • Shotgun start
Putting Competition • Win £150 golf equipment voucher
Team prizes nearest the pin, nearest the line driving & more • Auction
Breakfast bar open from 9am • 2 Course Golfer's Dinner at 6:30pm
Large screen TV for showing Ryder Cup

£35 for members • £55 for non members

Call Jim Savage on 07738 785535



Sponsored by Kingsland Drinks and RJ Facilities Ltd.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER
FRANCIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
CHRISTMAS BALL

AT MERE RESORT AND SPA
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE
PLEASE CALL LUCY THOMPSON ON 07841530248
OR LUCY.THOMPSON@FRANCISHOUSE.ORG.UK
TABLES OF 10 £750/£850



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

| | | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| July 8 | Gorton Philharmonic 'Afternoon at the Movies' | Gorton Monastery | Gorton Phil 0161 432 2263 or Gorton Monastery 0161 223 3211 |
| July 13 | Captain's Charity Golf Day | Lymm Golf Club | Alan Dagger office@lymmgolfclub.co.uk |
| July 19 & Aug 16 | Antique valuations by Hansons | Coach and Four, Wilmslow | Kate Puc 0161 443 2200 kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk |
| Sept 6 | Stockport Golf Day | Stockport Golf Club | Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk |
| Sept 20 & Oct 18 | Antique valuations by Hansons | Coach and Four, Wilmslow | Kate Puc 0161 443 2200 kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk |
| Sept 28 | Ryder Cup Charity Golf Day | Lytham Green Drive Golf Club | Jim Savage 07738 785535 |
| Nov 3 | Open Day 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Francis House | Fundraising office 0161 443 2200 |
| Nov 15 | Antique valuations by Hansons | Coach and Four, Wilmslow | Kate Puc 0161 443 2200 kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk |
| Dec 5 | Memory Lights | East Didsbury Methodist Church | Pauline Armitage 0161 434 7252 |
| Dec 7 | Francis House Christmas Ball | The Mere Golf Resort & Spa | Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk |
| Dec 12 & 13 | Carols at the Farm | Lindow Manor Farm, Mobberley | Carole Geary 01625 583995 |

STOP PRESS!

The next Francis House overseas trek is bound for Albania. Join us in September 2019 to trek the hidden trails of Albania, following some of the least explored routes through the remote Albanian Alps, and soaking up the country's captivating culture along the way. Details to follow, to register your interest contact Rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk

MAILING LIST

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post, please call Pauline on 0161 434 7252 or email pauline.armitage@francishouse.org.uk and ask to be removed from the mailing list. Did you know our newsletters are also available to view on our website www.francishouse.org.uk