

FRANCIS HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
Caring for children with a short life expectancy

"a growing family"



AUTUMN EDITION NEWSLETTER 2018



www.francishouse.org.uk

Francis House Family Trust Registered Charity Number 328659

Trust

Our cover illustration shows a family who visit Francis House regularly and who also receive support at home. Their story shows the difference that Francis House makes in their lives, multiply this by over five hundred families and you see the difference that supporting Francis House makes in the world.

At Francis House we pride ourselves on providing value for money – eighty five pence in every pound donated goes to the care of the children and their families. We don't cold call, we don't 'chug', and we have never sold supporter's information. We value the support of all of our 'friends'.

Maliha and Zabia's family have learned to trust Francis House as do most families who come through our doors. We have to have trust in the decision making of our Trustees and the abilities of their appointed consultants; we have to have trust in the skills of our very committed Care Team. We hope that you, our loyal supporters, trust us to use your donations wisely and efficiently to give maximum help to those in greatest need.

Trust has been at the heart of all that we do at Francis House and whilst we serve people of all faiths and no faith, trust in God has inspired us from inception.

We hope that you continue to trust us because it matters to us and more importantly it matters to families like Zabia and Maliha's.

Thank you for your continued support.

David

An exceptional contribution



After over 20 years at the helm of our accounts department, Pauline Armitage is retiring. A familiar face and voice on the telephone to many of you, Pauline's contribution has been all the more remarkable as her commitment to Francis House has been entirely voluntary! Humble as always, Pauline didn't want any fuss but we persuaded her to pen a few words:

"I was very interested in Francis House from the day it opened. From the beginning I have been very ably supported by my colleague Tom Wood who has spent a great deal of time developing systems which have made my job 'doable', his contribution, always in the background, has been enormous. I have been privileged to play a small part in the work and development of Francis House and its 'Growing Family' and whilst the time has arrived for me to withdraw from my present commitment, I hope to continue to contribute as a volunteer."

Pauline will remain your point of contact for Memory Lights, Christmas Cards and the Christmas Draw via **0161 434 7252**. A huge and heartfelt thank you Pauline for all you have done and continue to do for Francis House!

Extending care beyond the hospice



Maliha, care team members Abi and Helena, and Zabiha enjoying crafts at home in Chorlton

The care provided by Francis House extends far beyond the hospice walls and into the homes of the hundreds of families that we support.

The homecare team are the first team that families meet, as they go to the family's home to visit following acceptance of a referral. As well as this initial visit they also provide support in a crisis, or during extended hospital stays.

For Asma and Amjid and their two grown-up daughters Zabiha and Maliha, visits by the homecare team give them the freedom to enjoy a few hours of independence each month.

Both sisters have a life-limiting neurological disorder and require round the clock care and attention. Unable to walk and with limited hand movement, their dedicated parents are full-time carers.

In the daytime Maliha attends a specialist education college. After leaving college two years ago, Zabiha spends the majority of her time at home.

"There is nowhere else that they can go and Francis House gives us homecare three or four times a month which is a huge help."

"Those hours between 3 pm and 7 pm are the best ever, that's when Amjid and I get a break," says Asma.

"Just being able to go out for a coffee or a meal and a change of scenery from being indoors. In the past when I was ill and struggling in the evenings, we had some extra shifts."

"Even a couple of hours makes a big difference to us," mum Asma

The family relies on Francis House for much needed respite care as well as homecare provided by a team of experienced registered nurses who also work on the hospice care team.

"When the girls know that the homecare team are coming, they ask Amjid and I to get ready, they want us to go out and have a good time."

Family feature



Homecare gives parents like Asma and her husband Amjid a few hours break

“Because of their condition they need to be given their medicines and any personal care. They are really comfortable with the Francis House team whom they have known for years.”

“They look forward to it and do art and crafts and love having their nails done. If they need a feed the team can do that. Zabiha takes a long time to eat and has a soft diet she is also tube fed.”

Homecare is offered in addition to overnight respite at the hospice in Didsbury.

Francis House supports the whole family not just the sick child or young person.

“Homecare offers that extra support and it’s great that we can come in and enable the parents to go out for a meal or do things that other parents take for granted,” says Abi, registered children’s nurse and homecare team member.

“Some families may never go out for weeks between visits to Francis House. You can’t leave some of our children and young people with just anybody because of their clinical needs,

“I love working at Francis House it’s the best job. Being able to give the holistic care we provide at the hospice and bring it into the home of the family.”

Join the Francis House care team. Relevant qualifications are required, visit our Employment page at www.francishouse.org.uk (Please Note: Registered Nurses, Adult Branch Learning, Disability Nurses and Registered Mental Nurses can apply).



Trek the 'Accursed' Mountains of Albania

Do something different and experience the trip of a lifetime to the Accursed Mountains of Albania.



The Albanian Alps offer an unspoilt wilderness of magnificent snow-capped peaks, gorges, lakes and dense forests, dotted with tiny stone-built hamlets that have changed little in years.

This challenging 8 day trip will take place from 7th - 15th September 2019 and will involve five full days of adventurous trekking. During this time, you'll enjoy breath-taking and remote mountain panoramas whilst hiking between simple guesthouse accommodations in traditional mountain villages.

The appeal of this memorable and rewarding trip is not just the incredible scenery, but the quietness of the remote trails; you are just as likely to meet local shepherds as other trekkers.

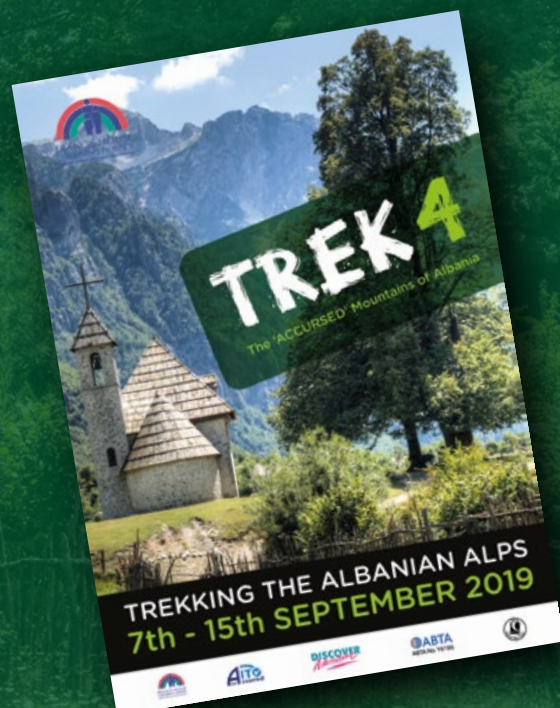
The trip costs £1,124, which includes flights, accommodation, meals and tour leaders. In addition, we ask each trekker to raise a minimum of £1,000 for Francis House.

Full support will be provided to ensure you reach your fundraising goal.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to face the jagged peaks of the dramatic Accursed Mountains, whilst raising much-needed funds for your local children's and young adults hospice.

Example Itinerary Day 4: Ridge walk to the summit of Kinji Rrogamit on steep trails (6,102 ft). Continue along the opposite ridge dropping to a valley guesthouse.

**Find out more by contacting
0161 443 2200 or
rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk**



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

EVENTS AND NEWS



Hat-trick of football fundraising

The World Cup and start of the Premier League season saw a kick start to football related fundraising.

After being granted permission for a collection outside the Etihad Stadium for the Manchester City vs Huddersfield Town game, supporters including teams from Barclays Manchester and Kingsland Drinks collected more than £1,566 from generous fans.

Astley & Tyldesley City Supporters Club raised £500 from various events throughout the year.

The warehouse at Sharston based Interpart UK was the setting for a World Cup penalty shootout, with each participant representing a different country. For every goal scored, the company donated £25 to the hospice. A tense final saw Romania and Mauritius go to head to head, with Mauritius eventually claiming the victory. The knuckle-biting competition raised £675.

Open day - Saturday 3rd November

Our November Open Day is our way of saying thank you to all of our generous supporters. We invite you into Francis House to see for yourself how your donations make a difference. Take a tour of the buildings and hear from our care team about our work supporting children and young adults with life-limiting conditions. Sat 3rd Nov 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. **contact fundraising on 0161 443 2200.**

A fantastic find

Hansons Auctioneers recently uncovered a collection of suffragette items at their regular venue for free antiques valuations, the Coach & Four, Alderley Road, Wilmslow.

The collection included badges, sashes and more than 100 period postcards relating to the political fight, was found in a cubby hole under the stairs when a relative's house was being cleared out.

After instructing the auction house to sell the collection if they were worth more than £150, the owners were left crying with shock and joy when their items soared way beyond their humble expectations and fetched an incredible £16,000!

Why not pop along on 18th Oct and 15th Nov -11 am until 2 pm. Donations to Francis House.



Manchester to Blackpool Charity Bike ride

A team from South Manchester Touring Cycling Club pedalled their way to Blackpool and collected £579.52 for their efforts!



Charity of the Year

Engineering recruitment specialists Morson International held a Golf Day and completed an epic coast to coast cycle challenge as part of their year of fundraising.

With further activity in the pipeline, CEO Ged Mason visited the hospice and met with David Ireland and fundraiser Kate Puc.

After a tour of the facilities Ged said: "What an amazing place this is. I didn't realise that it reached out to so many people. It is a very special charity and we look forward to working together to help fund the vital care, support and friendship that Francis House gives."



Cheshire hills team with support

Participants in this year's Cheshire Three Peaks were blessed with glorious weather as they took to the hills of Macclesfield for our annual walking challenge. Almost 200 walkers attempted strenuous routes of either 6.5 or 13.6 miles long, the latter leading walkers over three of Cheshire's highest hills – Tegg's Nose, Shutlingsloe and Shining Tor. Large groups of staff from Myerson Solicitors in Altrincham and Prestbury-based creative media agency McCann Manchester were amongst those braving the challenge. A record total of £18,600 was raised.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 2019 - Register now!

Golfing news

Thank you to all of our many golfers and clubs including Davyhulme Park Golf Club, who organised outstanding events for us throughout the year. Our own annual golf event at Stockport Golf Club saw 20 teams raise a fantastic £10,600.

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 Carole Fletcher, 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 Carole on 0161 443 2200 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 Carole Fletcher 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 Carole on 0161 443 2200 or email: carole.fletcher@francishouse.org.uk if we can help.

Will and Charlie's epic adventure

A father and son from Altrincham completed an incredible 17 day cycling challenge covering the length of the country to raise funds for Francis House.

Carrying their own kit, Will and Charlie Tyler covered 975 miles and over 15,000 metres of climbing as they cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats.



What makes their feat even more amazing is that Charlie is just eleven years old!

Dad Will started cycling after becoming frustrated with the cost, in time and money, of driving. He became hooked, and Charlie soon caught the riding bug.

Determined to ride a big distance the idea for cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats was young Charlie's. After some initial doubts about tackling such a big challenge, Will began months of planning the route and accommodation.

Their epic journey saw the pair battling headwinds across Dartmoor. The unexpected highlight was riding from Chatelherault Country Park, South East of Glasgow, to the shores of Loch Lomond, a flat ride through the biggest city on their route to beautiful countryside.

Altrincham Grammar School pupil Charlie said: "I found the first couple of days very tricky as there were a lot of long, steep hills. My favourite bit was Cornwall, it was hilly but the views were spectacular and everyone was very kind."

Will first became aware of the hospice when he was a pupil at Hale Prep School in the mid-80s.

He said: "Francis House is a local charity focused on parents and children and on improving their experience of life."

The ride raised £1,052

Charlie added: "It feels great to have done it and I highly recommend it if you are thinking about giving it a go."

Congratulations from Francis House on such a fantastic achievement!

A Blooming Good Lunch

The atmosphere buzzed with excitement at our glamorous flower-themed ladies lunch as ITV's 'Dancing on Ice' winner Jake Quickenden took to the stage to perform.

Headline act Jake, sang a powerful acoustic set and treated guests to a meet and greet photo-opportunity at the charity event held at the Principal Hotel in Manchester.

The event included a two course lunch and fashion show by Cheadle Hulme boutique Fuzzy Goose.

Key Radio DJ Darren Proctor hosted the event, energetically drumming up donations through an auction and raffle. The lunch raised £6,500.

Join us at next year's lunch on Friday 14th June 2019 at the Principal Hotel.



Darren Proctor, Jake Quickenden and Lucy Thompson



Super Supporters



We value all of the support that we receive and want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped to fundraise in any way.

Here is a snapshot of our recent Super Supporters:

- 1 David Lloyd Trafford and The Eric Kay Charitable Trust
- 2 Tesco East Didsbury
- 3 Annual Mike Lord Open Golf Day
- 4 Reddish Angling Club
- 5 Emma-Louise Murphy
- 6 HMRC
- 7 McCann Manchester
- 8 Roughleys Bike Show
- 9 Patrick Connor and friends
- 10 Syngenta

THE NEWS WHERE YOU ARE...

Park Life

We were one of the two lucky beneficiaries that were supported by the Ladybarn Park Community Fun Day and Walk. Thank you to the friends of the Ladybarn Park for all the hard work, effort and enthusiasm that went into organising the event and to all those who participated and supported it to raise a wonderful £645.



SLR Consulting

Mark Helsby, George Frisby, David Creighton and Alison Butler from SLR Consulting Ltd came to visit Francis House with a very generous donation of £1,000.

“We chose Francis House due to the personal connection one of our colleagues at SLR has with them. After hearing the impact that the hospice has had on their family we decided to choose Francis House as the beneficiary of the Manchester SLR charity donation,” said George.



LET'S GET DIGITAL

New
website
launching
soon



We can reveal the first images from our new website with responsive design, which will be launched soon for phone, tablet and PC!

We're adding some exciting new features which will enable supporters to sign-up to events and image galleries this will give everyone a better picture of what it looks like inside Francis House.

Families and health care professionals will also be able to discover more about making a referral to Francis House.

Along with the new website will come an updating of our logo with a more friendly and modern look to what you will still instantly recognise as our family under the Francis House rainbow.

Keep visiting www.francishouse.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

Oct 18	Antique valuations by Hansons	Coach and Four, Wilmslow	Kate Puc 0161 443 2200 kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk
Oct 28 –Dec 9	Festival of Trees	Lowry Outlet, Salford Quays	Mary Gillatt 07876 024 716
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 2	Supermarket Collection	Tesco Burnage	Julie Williams 0161 443 2200 Julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk
Dec 5	Memory Lights	East Didsbury Methodist Church	Pauline Armitage 0161 434 7252
Dec 7	Fire and Ice 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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2019

Mar 16	Velocity zip line	Penrhyn Quarry	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk
April 7	ASICS Manchester Marathon	Manchester	Julie Williams 0161 443 2200 Julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk
April 28	Virgin Money London Marathon	London	Julie Williams 0161 443 2200 Julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk
May 19	Great Manchester Run	Manchester City Centre	Julie Williams 0161 443 2200 Julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk
June 14	Ladies Lunch	Principal Hotel, Manchester City Centre	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk
June 16	Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	Tegg's Nose Country Park, Macclesfield	Rachel Astill 0161 443 2200 rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk
Sep 7 - 15	Trek the Accursed Mountains of Albania	Albania	Rachel Astill 0161 443 2200 rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk

STOP PRESS!

Remember a loved one at our **Memory Lights** service on Dec 5th by dedicating a light to them on our Christmas tree. To ensure your loved ones are entered into our Book of Memories please return your order form, available from our website, by 30th November 2018.

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**