



SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

- Part of a family
- True devotion
- Knitted chicks spread their wings

A growing family

Francis House Family Trust
Registered Charity Number 328659



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

OPEN DAY

Monday 13th May
10am until 4pm.

All welcome.

Francis House Family Trust became an entity when we changed our name from Rainbow Family Trust in 2012. Same charity, different name but still at the centre the word “family”.

The one thing that separates us from other hospices is that we don't solely concentrate on the sick child but care for the whole family, – mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents and so on.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. Our cover shows one of our families whose story you can read inside.

When families come to Francis House, they become part of our family – the Francis House family and they gain support and encouragement from other families whose stories might be different but who meet when life is particularly hard. People of different faith backgrounds, cultures, different parts of the community but all with one thing in common the need

for support; assistance in caring for their children and the chance to rest.

They are supported by the staff who are dedicated to their jobs and who support each other in their tireless work. The staff in turn are supported by willing volunteers who give their time freely to provide help with household duties, administrative work and fundraising. One big family all united in their concern for each other, self-giving, unconditional love shown in the daily life of Francis House.

As in all families the generations have different ideas and attributes all necessary in the life of any family, we support and care for each other and everyone's contribution is important. (I look after and support my grandchildren and they keep me up to date with technology).

As the family grows, we need to recruit more staff and volunteers, we need to constantly raise more funds and so we have launched our new website, modernised our printed and media material and updated the newsletter! – but at the centre the ethos remains that established by Sister Aloysius at the very beginning, care, centered on the families and young people, wherever possible in the way that they wish –

over and over people tell me that as they enter Francis House, they feel surrounded by **LOVE** and that's what makes a family work selfless, love and care for each other.

I hope you like our new look and thank you on behalf of all of the individual families who use Francis House for everything that you do for us.

David

HOW TO CONTACT US

Francis House Children's Hospice,
390 Parrswood Road,
Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5NA

Hospice tel: 0161 434 4118
Fundraising tel: 0161 443 2200



SUPPORT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Aaliyah, Sam, Tehyah, Dantay, Aaron and Tayon in the cinema room

Tehyah Solan-Clarke was at school when she suffered a stroke aged three and a half.

Now aged 8, her father Aaron describes her as a 'warrior'. The family from Saddleworth including older sister Aaliyah, younger brother Dantay, mum Sam and eleven-month-old Tayon, have been supported by Francis House for three years.

The severity of Tehyah's condition means that her parents have completely adapted their lives and now cope on a daily basis with oxygen, medicines, suction and feeding pumps, and doing everything they can to keep her comfortable.

Sam admits to 'living in fear' when she is not with Tehyah all the time, and the one place that they have learnt to relax is Francis House.

A recent respite stay gave the family their first experience of our newly built cinema room.

The siblings could enjoy the sights and sounds of the big screen together as the specially designed room is equipped to accommodate children's beds.

Aaron said: "Due to her medical needs there isn't much we can all do together as a family. On a visit to the zoo we couldn't go on a boat ride because of her wheelchair.

The kids love coming to Francis House because there are no boundaries and we don't have to all be together."

"They count the days until they come here, it's like waiting for Christmas."

Sam explained: "As a parent you naturally want to treat your children the same but we can't since Tehyah's illness. Here there are people and things for every single one of them. When we come to Francis House we don't feel guilty because they are all happy and having a great time."

SUPPORT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY (CONT)

The whole family stay for a few days at a time and Aaron and Sam stay in one of the family flats.

The family enjoys fourteen nights respite spaced over three or four visits each year. Meeting other parents is a big help, and families pass on tips about places that are adapted for wheelchairs.

Four doctors provide cover at Francis House seven days a week. A doctor visits the hospice every single day and families can discuss any concerns that they have about the child's medical condition as well as getting practical help making appointments and referrals.

“Francis House adds to every aspect of your life. Aaliyah now has a friend through the hospice. The kids at school don't understand what it's like to have a sibling with a life-limiting condition.”

Aaliyah and Dantay have joined the Seasons group, where they meet other young people whose siblings use the hospice. Once a month at the weekend, they spend a few hours having fun with the staff and their friends, taking part in

painting parties, Easter egg hunts, exploring the wildlife in the garden and trips out.

“Instead of because of Tehyah we can't do stuff, it's because of her that they get to do fun things. They can go into the craft room and the playroom together but equally they can go off and have some freedom,” Aaron said.

With the birth of Tayon in summer 2018, a new life has entered the family. “I've found it so hard to deal with what happened to Tehyah even though it was nearly five years ago, but Tayon has brought so much joy into our lives and made my life a lot happier,” added Sam.





GET INVOLVED

The Simplyhealth Great Manchester Run - the North West's most popular running event - is set to return on Sunday 19th May. If you would like to take part why not join Team Francis House. The 2018 event saw more than 200 of our supporters complete the 10k and half marathon, helping to raise an incredible £40,000 in profit.

We are now looking for athletes of all abilities to take part and we are offering discounted places of £20 for the 10k and £25 for the half-marathon.

Why not get the children involved

with the Junior and Mini Runs starting and finishing on Great Portland Street before the main race. Entry fees are £15 for juniors and £14 for minis. We will send you a sponsor form, flag, balloons and a tee shirt.

A team of runners from Syngenta in Didsbury are competing in this fantastic Manchester event for the second time round.

Just do it! There is a great atmosphere along the route with plenty of supporters to cheer you on. We had a great time and look forward to doing it again.

You can now sign up online at www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved or call 0161 443 2200

ALAN PUTS THE SMILES IN THE MILES

At 82, Alan Dickinson thinks nothing of driving hundreds of miles every year to help a children's charity that he describes as 'amazing'.

The kind-hearted great-grandfather from Chadderton, Oldham, is a regular visitor to Francis House where he volunteers to collect and distribute more than twenty charity tins across the north Manchester area.

His efforts have resulted in more than £500 in donations safely making their way to the hospice. Alan first became involved with the charity when he was a tour guide at Manchester United and read an appeal in a match day programme for bucket collectors at the stadium.

"The club was involved with Francis House at the time so I arranged to take part. I've got the gift of the gab, I enjoy meeting people and thought it sounded like bit of a laugh," he said.

That was almost two decades ago and the cheerful pensioner, along

with his wife Joyce, has taken part in collections, bag packs and Christmas fairs ever since.

"When you are retired, volunteering gives you something to do and I enjoy it," said Alan.

"It is something that Joyce and I can do together. I can't abseil up and down buildings but it's nice to be involved."

Open day visits to the hospice left Alan determined to do all he could to help.

"The hospice is a really happy place, we don't think of it as a sad place. It's fascinating seeing the incredible facilities and everything they do for the families is amazing."

The couple replace the charity tins in Oldham, Chadderton, Middleton and Bamford every six months.

Since the collection box project started three years ago, local residents have helped to raise more than £1,450.

“When we visit the shops, pubs and businesses people get to know you. It’s pretty easy and a big help to the hospice to have someone local that can do it.

“It also gets you out of the house. I wouldn’t dream of putting the telly on during the day.”

Alan and Joyce keep active attending ballroom and sequence dancing every week at Jagers Dance studios in Oldham.

As a young man Alan worked on the railways in the booking office, was a bus driver for North Western, and even attempted selling encyclopaedias.

He retired aged 55, after working for thirty years as an insurance agent for the Prudential.

The collection box project would not be so successful without the support of volunteers like Alan.

In 2018 over 120 boxes in the communities around the north west raised more than £6,000.

Call 0161 443 2200 to get involved

“Rather than sitting about at home why not see how you can help out in your area.”

Kitchen volunteers needed for Sunday teatime



KNITTED CHICKS

SPREAD THEIR WINGS



Chick knitting has made the most amazing difference to a group of women in rural Uganda - and the pattern came from Francis House!

News of our annual knitted chick appeal which last year raised £50k, reached the Dullatur Foundation who agreed to sponsor the knitting group of British charity Soft Power Education - who work with communities in Uganda - to knit chicks in return for a fair payment.

The group of around 80 women from the villages of Bujagali and Kyabirwa, knitted 5,000 chicks over a period of seven months which then arrived in the suitcases of five volunteers at the end of 2018.

Margaret McAlpine from Soft Power explains: "The results of their labours provided them with the means to pay off debts, pay school fees and cover medical costs."

The money is a significant amount for many and so the women were advised to invest in either the village savings scheme or buy goats or chickens which are both seen as insurance for a rainy day.

As well as chicks the group also knit toy safari animals that are sold in Uganda and abroad as well as ponchos, jumpers and hats. Teenage girls, who otherwise were unable to gather enough funds for school fees, also join the women along with their toddlers knitting in the tropical shade. Some even knit late into the night by candlelight.

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With this Easter's knitted chick appeal well under way we would like to thank everyone who has knitted, donated, collected and delivered creme eggs, stuffed and sold chicks. We'll reveal the results of the appeal in the next newsletter!

HITTING THE STREETS

Our fantastic band of volunteers help us by getting involved in all kinds of fundraising events throughout the year. They support us by organising or assisting at events, at bucket collections and bag packs.

Our volunteers are very important to us and help us to raise vital funds to contribute to the £11,500 we need every day. Thank you to everyone who has given their time and supported Francis House.

As well as helping us to continue to care for the families in greatest need, volunteering at events can also give you the opportunity to meet new people and spend your time doing something worthwhile and fun!

COLLECTORS WANTED



Friday 12th April 2019
Tesco Prestwich superstore



Thursday 2nd May 2019
Tesco Extra Altrincham



Friday 24th May 2019
Tesco Baguley Extra

Here are the results of a few of our recent collections.



**SALE SHARKS MATCH DAY
COLLECTION £943**



**BAG PACK WITH ST AMBROSE
BARLOW £244**



**OLD TRAFFORD MATCH DAY
COLLECTION £895**

If you would like to help out for a couple of hours at any upcoming collections why not visit www.francishouse.org.uk or call us on 0161 443 2200.

TRUE DEVOTION

Many of you will remember Sister Austin FMSJ who dedicated her working life to the children and families of Francis House.

It is our sad duty to report that Sister died at the age of 81 on the 19th February 2019 at the Franciscan Convent, Blackburn.

Sister played a major role in the inception, building and operation of Francis House and continued to work until late 2018 when her health began to deteriorate. She was well known to thousands of people around the North West. She worked tirelessly for decades to help countless families through difficult times but was always the voice of reason and moderation.



Sister Austin FMSJ

Sister started work for Francis House in 1991 and toured parishes to raise money for the building of the hospice and attended social fundraising events and functions.

She lived her deep faith, following her vocation to help those in greatest need in the name of Christ.



In memory of what would have been Nathan's sixteenth birthday his family held a party and his sister Lauren and brother Will came to see us with an incredible donation of £972. It is our privilege to know such a special family. **Thank you.**

INVALUABLE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the smooth running of Francis House, generously giving their time to help others.

Joan Green was no exception and we wanted to recognize her incredible contribution following her death aged 94.

Joan worked on our reception as a volunteer welcoming visitors and families with a warm smile until she retired in 2016.

Colleagues fondly recall that she used to come into the hospice wearing her 'driving' shoes and the first thing she did was change into her 'reception' shoes. Joan was born on 19th January 1925 and lived in Withington.

A former secretary in the commercial sector, she enjoyed a successful teaching career and became head of commerce and business studies at Joseph's High School for Girls where she taught 'O' Level office practice. She retired in 1985 and upon hearing of Francis House sought ways to help others.

Joan volunteered her secretarial services to start work at Francis

House in 1992 and it was her attention to detail that prompted Sister Aloysius to ask for her help in the writing of the newsletter.

At a volunteer lunch held in honour of Joan and the late Harold Addie, both retiring at the age of 90 Joan said: "It has been a privilege to be involved with Francis House. I am now making room for younger people to become involved with the hospice."

Sr. Maureen O'Driscoll recalls: "I remember Joan as gentle and caring, she brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role combined with a unique sense of goodwill, support, and encouragement that volunteers bring. Her contribution to Francis House was invaluable."



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Francis House is a lifeline to more than 500 families from across the North West. When life is short it needs to be of the highest quality and that's what Francis House does best.



Anne Marie Doyle

for donating £742 in lieu of her 80th birthday gifts.



Forest Park Prep school

purchased £120 worth of our mini-mascot Francis Mouse.



Viva Flamenco

night at Tinto Didsbury raised £809.

TESCO STORES

HEATON MOOR GOLF CLUB

THE MERE DECEMBER BALL

LOWRY OUTLET FESTIVAL OF TREES

DIDSBURY TRADERS REINDEER TRAIL

REDDISH VALE FARM HALLOWEEN

WEST LANCASHIRE FREEMASONS

JIMMY CRICKET

HOW YOU CAN HELP - To continue to provide our services we need to raise 4.7 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 ask that you consider making a regular gift. Please fill in this form and if you are a UK tax payer please also sign and return the Gift Aid Declaration. Phone Carole on **0161 443 2200** or **carole.fletcher@francishouse.org.uk** if we can help.

STANDING ORDER

**FRANCIS HOUSE FAMILY TRUST
REQUEST FOR STANDING ORDER**

To the Bank Manager

Branch Address

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Please charge Account: Sort Code

Account No

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, Francis House
Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road,
Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA
Registered Charity No. 328659

GIFT AID DECLARATION

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

EVENTS 2019

The Francis House Great Didsbury Easter Chick Hunt	until 30th April
Salford Dragon Boat Race	12th May
Open Day	13th May
Great Manchester Run 10k and half marathon	19th May
Enchanted Ladies Lunch at The Principal Hotel	14th June
Cheshire Three Peaks	16th June
Ascot ladies day Mobberley Carole Geary 01625 583995	20th June
Opera concert Mobberley Carole Geary 01625 583995	22nd June
Splash Out fun run at Alderley Park	6th July
Stockport Golf Day	5th September
Trek 4 The Accursed Mountains of Albania	6th - 14th Sept
Open Day	2nd November
Memory Lights Service	4th December
Christmas Ball at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa	6th December

To take part in any of these events contact the fundraising team on 0161 443 2200 or email fundraising@francishouse.org.uk or visit www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events

Mailing List

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post, please call the fundraising office on 0161 443 2200 or email chris.swinton@francishouse.org.uk to be removed from the mailing list. Our newsletters are available to view online www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/



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www.francishouse.org.uk