



WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

- Making dreams possible
- Festive fundraising ideas
- How your support helps

A growing family

Francis House Family Trust
Registered Charity Number 328659



WELCOME

TO OUR FAMILY

OPEN DAY

Monday 27th April
10am until 4pm.

All welcome.

As we approach Christmas our minds turn towards a young couple forced to make a difficult journey. Tired and desperate for a place to rest, they find that there is little available to them until they find a place where someone welcomes them and offers a place where they can get some sleep.

A story not dissimilar to the one experienced by so many families who come to Francis House.

Statutory provision of respite care is minimal in many cases and Francis House provides support for parents who care for their children twenty-four hours each day, seven days per week. Often at the expense of their own health.

The support that Francis House provides has always been additional to any statutory support and for that reason we do not enter into

contracts with the NHS or Local Authorities (unlike many other hospices).

We are able to offer care in this way thanks to the generosity of thousands of people around the North West who donate money, fundraise, give their time and remember us in their Wills.

Their selfless giving makes a difference to the lives of each of the 550 families on our roll.

The Christmas story tells of the wonderful event that changed the world forever, it's a story of wonder, joy, love and eventually great sadness. The world would never be the same again, armies have marched, and peace agreements have been made – kings and emperors have bowed down all because of this amazing birth.

Who would have thought that the birth of a child could be so important – we must remember that the birth of any child changes the world forever and it is our duty to support and care for each of them and their parents.

Whatever your culture or religion – thank you for your concern for our Francis House families.

We wish you all peace, love and happiness this Christmas.

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



Mia relaxing in the Snoezelen room

MAKING DREAMS POSSIBLE



After the birth of their first son Wandile, parents Busi and Omphile were overjoyed. Two years later, his little brother Thabani joined the family.

Thabani, 7, has a rare chromosome imbalance, which has given rise to global developmental delay. In his short life, he has undergone many operations, including major cranial surgery to alleviate the pressure on his brain.

The family have been coming to Francis House for respite care for almost a year. Busi tells us their story.

“Thabani is a lovely warm and sociable boy. He has got special needs and a big personality. A lot of work goes into looking after him, but his love is unconditional.

“When he was two years old, he had a tracheostomy to help him breathe. That was very challenging for me and I asked myself how am I going to cope with this? Now I think it is the best thing that could have happened.

“We’ve learnt to manage it and it has meant that he stays as well as he can be.

“There are days that you just don’t sleep and you still have to carry on. Every day, early in the morning, is preparing medications - about seven of them - and his tube feed.

“Thabani needs splints and a brace putting on, then midday is upon you and it’s feed, meds and pad changes. It’s then time to see to his brother, tea-time, food and homework and preparing for another feed, nine o’clock and bedtime. Sometimes it can be two hours before he settles to sleep.

“Some days I wake up and think gosh is there ever going to be a day I don’t have to be up at 6am. But he is always a priority, and you do it because you’re his mother.

“When we first came to Francis House, I can honestly say it was amazing. We came together as a family, and I can’t begin to tell you how Francis House has made possible what we could only have dreamed of.

“The staff took care of Thabani, and we stayed in one of the apartments. From our very first visit we all enjoyed it. Wandile raves about Francis House and asks mommy when are we going back. He has made friends and looks forward to the sibling group Seasons. One of the biggest things it has given him is the ability to express himself about his brother and be okay.

“We now leave Thabani in the care of Francis House to get some respite. It was challenging at first, to leave him, but for a few days it means that I don’t have to worry. To be able to have a place where you can have up to four stays a year represents a reality which otherwise would not have been possible and one that we could only have wished for.

**To see Thabani’s story visit
www.francishouse.org.uk**



TREKKING THE ACCURSED MOUNTAINS

The trekkers
helped to raise
over £22,000 in
sponsorship!

Francis House Chief Executive, David, and hospice Director of Care, Gill, were among a group of 18 trekkers who undertook an incredible fundraising adventure through the magnificent Albanian Alps.

For five days the group followed shepherd's paths, walking through unspoilt valleys closed to the outside world for centuries, resting at night in traditional guesthouses within the remote mountain villages. David picks up the story on day three.

"When we faced the Valbona Pass it looked insurmountable. At 1860m high, reaching the crossing was by no means an easy feat, taking 9 hours of hard climbing. We were more than rewarded with unparalleled views of the two beautiful glacier valleys of Valbona and Theth.

"It was an incredible experience that I will never forget and the hardest trek that we have ever done,

but it was nothing compared to the difficulties that the families who come to Francis House face every day. It's a privilege to be able to make some contribution towards supporting the families on their own journeys."

The trekkers helped to raise over £22,000 in sponsorship.

**Visit our website
www.francishouse.org.uk and search
for 'Challenges' to get involved.**



GET ACTIVE DURING 2020

Running season is upon us again, and we're calling on you to pull on your running shoes.

The Great Manchester Run takes place on Sunday 24th May, and as Europe's biggest 10k it's a fabulous event for newcomers as well as hardened runners. We're here to help you achieve your ambition of getting across that finish line and raising as much money as possible!

We're offering discounted places of £25 for the 10k route and £30 for the half marathon route. Get the kids involved in the junior and mini races.

The Manchester Marathon will also be heading into the city on Sunday 5th April. 25,000 people of all abilities are expected to undertake the fast, flat and friendly route – will you be one of them?

"I thought that Francis House would be a good cause to raise money for. They do a lot of very good work.



I can't think of anything better than to help the children." Geoff Clarke, blind runner.

If you would like to run for us and help children and young adults with life-limiting conditions to live life to the full go to www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events

Sponsor sought for Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge.

We are on the hunt for a sponsor for our popular summer 2020 mass participation event. You'll receive excellent brand exposure, fantastic employee engagement and complimentary places! Contact rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk or call 0161 443 2200

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

Help Jimmy
reach his goal
of selling 2,000
copies to raise
£10,000!

Retired head gardener for the Bishop of Salford, Jim Nicholas, has been delighting audiences for more than half a century as a DJ and Elvis impersonator.

For 25 years, Jim has put out a collection box at venues, even travelling to Birmingham to perform for the Cliff Richard fan club. During that time, he has raised an incredible £200,000.

“From day one when I first went to Francis House and saw the families, I felt that I wanted to do everything I could for them. Without Francis House these families would be stuck. If I can entertain people and they enjoy what I’m doing, and if that helps in some small way, I’m happy to do it,” said Jim, from Swinton.

Jim is also the impresario behind our Jimmy Cricket Variety shows. Jimmy is a big supporter of Francis House. The pair were introduced many years ago by Sister Aloysius and have remained close friends

and showbiz partners ever since. The ‘Stars Come Out for Francis House’ charity gala has returned to the Oldham Coliseum eight times, with plans for an October 2020 performance – book early, it’s always a sell-out.

In 2013, Jim was awarded a Papal medal, known as the Bene Merenti - the Catholic Churches equivalent of an MBE - in recognition of his contribution to the parishes where he’s lived, his work for the Catholic Church and fundraising.

At the time Jimmy Cricket said: “I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this magnificent award than Jim. He has worked tirelessly for Francis House over the years, raising a phenomenal amount of money for this cause.”

Jimmy was himself recognised by the Pope for his services to charity with a Papal Knighthood.

The Irish Comedian hit upon the idea of original Yuletide numbers to sell at his shows with profits donated to Francis House.

"With Christmas '19 beckoning my goal is to reach 2,000 copies and that would mean we've raised £10,000 for Francis House. A big thank you to those of you who've bought one and a Happy Christmas everyone!"

'Santa Bring My Wellies Back To Me' can be purchased for £5 plus £1.95 p&p from Francis House by calling 0161 443 2200 or go to www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/shop/online-shop/



FESTIVE FUNDRAISING

Whether you enjoy dressing up, baking or singing we have some fun ideas to get you in the festive spirit. Enjoy spending time with your friends, work colleagues and family and raise funds to help the families that we support at Francis House:

FESTIVE FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Winter bake off and bake sale
Mulled wine and cheese party
Guess the weight of the Christmas cake
Gift wrapping party
Santa run
Christmas karaoke
Carol singing
Retiring collection
Festive film-a-thon
Festive hamper raffle or tombola
Christmas quiz
Gift-wrapping service
Pre-Christmas clothes recycling
Christmas cards
Host a Jingle Mingle party



Go to www.francishouse.org.uk/fundraising-christmas to discover more or call 0161 443 2200.

They come out every December so why not plan a **Christmas Jumper Day** and raise money for Francis House. You can take part at work, home, school or get your social group involved. Just ask for a donation and the pennies will soon mount up!



Order your **Christmas Cards** from us by 11th Dec or pick them up in person from the fundraising office. Also available from Wilmslow, Altrincham and Hale libraries and Knutsford Curzon Cinema on selected dates before 7th Dec.

Head to Lowry Outlet and see the spectacular **Festival of Trees**. Ends Sunday 8th December.



Join us for **A Christmas Story Service**: a wonderful evening of carols, Christmas music and celebration at St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish on Friday 13th Dec from 7.30pm.

Purchase our great range of **Stocking Filler Gifts** including toys, stationery and clothing from our online shop.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Happy Christmas from everyone at Francis House!

How your support helps us to continue providing and expanding our much-needed services.

Thanks to supporters like you, we have achieved a lot, and made an ongoing difference to the lives of the many families we support.*



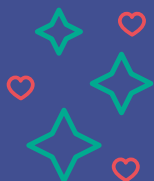
279

sick children and young people received care



569

nights of respite given to siblings



208

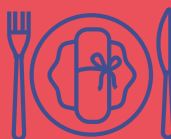
sessions of bereavement support



229

homecare visits

Over the Christmas period last year we were here for the families who needed us most, providing*:



110

Christmas dinners



148

care team shifts



180

Christmas presents to children and siblings

Your generosity means we can keep the doors of Francis House open and support the growing number of children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their families in our care.

Thank you!

*2018 figures



GIVE A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Help to bring smiles, laughter and Christmas cheer to local families.

I want to help the families of Francis House

Here is my gift of:

☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ other £

I enclose a cheque made payable to Francis House Family Trust

Title.....First NameLast Name

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone Number..... Email Address.....



Gift Aid

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 donated

giftaid it

I would like Francis House Family Trust to treat as Gift Aid Donations

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

I am a UK taxpayer 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.

Keep in Touch

Your support is vital and we look forward to keeping in touch with you by post, sharing our news, activities and appeals.

Would you like to receive our emails too?

- ☐ Yes, I am happy to hear from you by email.

If you do not wish to receive information by post, or wish to change how we get in touch, please contact chris.swinton@francishouse.org.uk or call 0161 443 2200.



THANK YOU

Please return this form with your donation to: Francis House Family Trust,
Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

**To donate online go to www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-gift
or call 0161 443 2200**

Registered Charity No. 328659



MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

To continue to provide our services we need to raise 4.7 million pounds per year to keep Francis House and Lodge operating.

Become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of the families that we support. By completing this form, your regular donation will enable us to plan for future needs. If you are a UK taxpayer, please also sign and return the Gift Aid Declaration.

STANDING ORDER

The Manager

Bank/BSoc Address

.....

Account Name

Account Number

Sort Code

Please pay: Francis House Family Trust

Yorkshire Bank, 45-50 Market Street

Manchester M1 1PW

Account Number 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

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.



SJS Building Supplies

Steve, Nick, Jason
Rat Race coast to coast
£2,672 + £350 Gift Aid



Anne White

Donations in lieu of 100th
birthday gifts **£672**



Keith Povey

70th year trip to Everest
Base Camp **£1,231**
+ £215 Gift Aid

TRINITY CHURCH AUDENSHAW

HEATON MOOR UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ROTARY CLUB OF STOCKPORT LAMPLIGHTER

BARCLAYS BANK

PHILIP JAMES KENNEDY

NORTH MANCHESTER GOLF CLUB PAUL BOOTH MEMORIAL DAY

YEARSLEY FOOD

GUSTO DIDSBURY

EVENTS 2019/2020

Putting on the Glitz Ball at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa	6th Dec
A Christmas Story Service at St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish	13th Dec
Sale Shark vs Northampton Saints Bucket Collection at AJ Bell	21st Dec
EVENTS 2020	
Evening at Greens Restaurant with celebrity chef Simon Rimmer	5th March
Manchester Marathon	5th April
Indulgence Day at Mottram Hall Hotel and Spa	17th April
West Didsbury Comedy Festival	24th April
Virgin Money London Marathon	26th April
Open Day at Francis House	27th April
Great Manchester Run	24th May
Summer Ladies Lunch at the Principal Hotel	12th June
Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	14th June
Bubble Rush at Wythenshawe Park	27th June
Davyhulme Park Golf Day	2nd July
Brunch, Boutiques and Beauty at Gusto Didsbury	19th Sept
Pantomime Dames on the Run at Broughton Park Rugby Club	TBC
Open Day at Francis House	7th Nov

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

STOP PRESS!

Spend an evening enjoying the fabulous vegetarian cooking of celebrity chef Simon Rimmer at Greens Restaurant on Thursday 5th March. Tickets £45 per person.

Contact lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk Back by popular demand:

Indulgence Day at Mottram Hall on Friday 17th April. Call 0161 443 2200.

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/



@FrancisHouseCH



FrancisHouseChildrensHospice



www.francishouse.org.uk