



Dear Friends

As the world deals with this terrible virus Francis House is prepared to care for the most vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Sadly, we have incurred additional costs including those for specialist equipment and training to protect our dedicated staff as they prepare to carry out their duties in a very different environment.

This comes at a time when we have had to cancel or postpone our fundraising events for the foreseeable future, including our Open Day which will now take place on the 21st September 2020. Until further notice events including Bubble Rush, Ladies Lunch and Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge have been postponed.

Please refer to the website to keep in touch and find out which activities are affected (or telephone the Fundraising Office on 0161 443 2200).

The next few months are going to be very difficult, but we are grateful to all of the people who are selflessly working to ensure that our valuable services continue.

These are difficult times financially and we are looking at alternative ways to raise funds, any ideas or voluntary donations will be most gratefully received.

There will be limited access to the Francis House site over the coming months, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and concern.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Every blessing.

David

Revd David Ireland
CEO





UPDATED

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

- A family day to remember
- Business community backing
- Virtual Easter hunt

A growing family

Francis House Family Trust
Registered Charity Number 328659



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

OPEN DAY

Monday 21st Sept

10am until 4pm

All welcome

The age-old cycle of the year reminds us of what Disney calls the ‘Circle of Life’.

Spring is a time to remember the past and be thankful for the many people who have been alongside us in the good times and not so good times, people who have influenced us and helped us to make memories, but its also a time for looking forward to new experiences, new friendships and the making of more happy memories as the summer unfolds.

This year will see many changes at Francis House. Bishop Brain, Father Tom, and Mr. Sainsbury have retired from the Board of Trustees and we are already in the process of recruiting their replacements. We welcome Dr. Kirsty Dawson and Dr. Nutan Patel but say goodbye to Dr. John Swarbrick who has been with the team for sixteen years.

Most importantly this year will see the retirements of Gill Bevin,

our Registered Manager and Tracey Potts, who has had senior roles for some time latterly as joint Director of Care. Francis House will not be the same without them – but things move on and we are pleased to announce that Sharon Doodson will take over as the Registered Manager after a period of ‘shadowing’ Gill.

To free Sharon for her new duties Linda Flowers will take over as Clinical Lead for Francis House from April and Cerysa Doherty will become the Clinical Lead at Francis Lodge – big changes but exciting times and we welcome all of these new appointments whilst being eternally grateful to those who have gone before and whose dedicated work has made Francis House what it is today.

Walt Disney's Lion King accurately depicts the Circle of Life and the natural order as new leaders come to the fore, whilst the work of their predecessors is recognised and their valuable contribution acknowledged.

But note! As the end titles come down the Baboon with the stick who has presided over the changes - is still up on the rock - and I'll be around for a while yet!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years, your help is now more vital than ever.

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

Below pictured left to right, front row:

Gill Bevin, Sharon Doodson,
Tracy Potts, Linda Flowers



A DAY TO REMEMBER

When Francis House offered the parents of sixteen-year-old Joseph Breslin a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the VIP treatment at Manchester United, the family were delighted.

An executive box for the Boxing Day fixture had kindly been donated by The British School in Tokyo.

The experience came as a welcome relief to dad Neal, mum Rebecca, Joseph and his older brother Patrick, after their world was turned upside down when Joseph's health drastically deteriorated in the summer of 2018.

Joseph was born with a rare genetic condition, MECP2 duplication syndrome, which causes weak muscle tone, global developmental delay, epilepsy and recurrent chest infections. The family have been coming to Francis House for respite care for more than seven years.

At the age of fourteen, Joseph began to struggle eating and swallowing his medicines. He underwent a gastrostomy and returned home the next day.

Unfortunately, he became unwell and returned to hospital where his condition deteriorated. Joseph developed sepsis and pneumonia and was put on a ventilator. It was a terrifying time for the family.

Rebecca explained: "Joseph was going downhill really fast, and after 5 weeks in intensive care the only option was to have a tracheostomy to help him to breathe. Our lives were hard before, but this was life-changing for all of us."

Following eight months in hospital the family returned home to Royton, Oldham. Rebecca is Joseph's full-time carer and Neal has a busy career as a police officer.

"It was an awful time and the Francis House homecare team nurses visited us while Joseph was on ICU. To see familiar faces was unbelievable. They would sit with Joseph so we could have a break.

“Since we’ve returned home due to his ventilation needs, Joseph requires round the clock care and two people to be with him all of the time. The homecare visits give me some much-needed time out.”

Joseph has physiotherapy three times a day, and the adapted family home is filled with equipment including humidified oxygen to keep Joseph as well as possible.

Attending school must be carefully managed, picking up any minor infections from the other young people can soon make Joseph very ill.

“Having the tracheostomy was completely life-changing. Our normal life is hectic, we never know one day to the next how he is going to be, and we take every day as it comes.

“When we went to Manchester United it was amazing. To be able to spend a day out all together and for everything to be planned was such a treat. Patrick is a huge United fan and we were so well looked after. Being taken to see the pitch and served a three-course meal by our own waitress, was wonderful.”

Neal’s parents Kath and Jim Breslin, as well as his cousin Laura and her dad Lee Taylor were also invited.

“Joseph watched the match from his wheelchair up on the balcony. He loved it, clapping at the crowd noise for quite a while. Former player Lee Martin and a magician also came to see us before the game.

“Francis House has been amazing for the support that they have given us. We can’t thank them enough for giving us this incredible opportunity - I will remember that day forever.”



THE 'VIRTUAL' HUNT IS ON

Due to the Coronavirus we have had to cancel our annual Francis House Great Didsbury Easter Chick Hunt and have instead put together a virtual chick hunt!

Can you find all twenty characterful chicks hiding in our interactive map? No matter where you live you can now take part from the safety of your own home, learn a fact about Francis House and complete the quiz.

Running throughout April the aim is to find as many chicks as possible and test your memory in our multiple choice game. Please help Francis House and the families we support by making a donation after taking part.

Join the Easter hunt at
www.francishouse.org.uk/chick-hunt

Thank you to our sponsors Towers Manchester and Lady Barn House School, Maria for knitting the original chicks and members of the Didsbury Traders.



Buy our knitted chicks!

We have lots of knitted chicks still looking for new homes each filled with a creme egg. If you would like to place an order they are £1 available from:

www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/shop/



BRING ON THE BUBBLES

Francis House is joining forces with St Ann's Hospice to bring a day of bubbly fun to local families.

The 5k Bubble Rush has been created to appeal to the whole family. There will be four bubble stations positioned along the two 2.5k circuits pumping out a 4ft deep bubble bath of multi-coloured bubbles.

Warm-up sessions in the event village will get bubblers ready to run, jog, walk, dance or toddle through the foam. Pushchairs and wheelchairs are more than welcome!

Waves start from 11am and commence hourly. This isn't a race and the most important thing is to enjoy the bubbles and finish with a smile heading through the final arch to receive a colourful medal.

Individual and family tickets are available, and participants receive a t-shirt for taking part.

Early Bird rates are on offer and there is a minimum pledge of £35 per participant to take part in the Bubble Rush, so families can have fun whilst raising funds in support of Francis House.

Register your interest at
www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events

**Coming
summer 2021.**
Wythenshawe
Park



BUSINESS AS USUAL

Over 13 years the Lowry Outlet has donated a retail unit for the annual Festival of Trees generating in excess of **£260k**

The support that we receive from local businesses helps to make a huge difference at Francis House.

We are always keen to team up with new organisations of any size. There are many ways that companies can give back to support their local children's hospice.

Get your business involved by sponsoring an event, holding quiz nights and bake sales, volunteering at our collections or taking on a challenge. You'll be amazed how your fundraising adds up.

Specialist legal recruitment consultancy, Interlink Recruitment, had an office vote and picked Francis House as their Charity of the Year. Although novices to fundraising events, they kicked off by sponsoring colleague Adam Salkie to grow a moustache for two months and quickly raised £1,000.

Dress down Fridays, movie days and team nights out followed along with participation in the Great Manchester Run and the Francis House Cheshire Three Peaks.

The result - an incredible £6,107 was raised over two years.

Daniel Rosenthal, Commercial Director said: **"Fundraising for Francis House made a big difference across the business. It enabled us to get involved in events we wouldn't have otherwise pursued; and to do so with empathy and understanding. Our team is used to working towards goals, but reaching our fundraising target brought a greater sense of achievement for everyone."**

Rachel Astill fundraiser at Francis House said: “We feel very fortunate to have worked with a company as enthusiastic and generous as Interlink.

“We’ve loved hearing about their creative ways to raise funds - Adam’s fabulous ‘tache for cash’ gave us all a good smile! Daniel Rosenthal, Beth Johnson and the team have been super supporters; not only were they keen to get involved with our events, but their eagerness to learn more about the hospice during the partnership showed their true compassion for our cause.”

Whether through sponsorship, a one-off event or choosing 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.

To work with us

Call 0161 443 2200 or email
fundraising@francishouse.org.uk



SPRING GREENS

TV chef Simon Rimmer and business partner Simon Connolly, owners of gastro vegetarian restaurant Greens, have cooked up a plan to celebrate thirty years in business, whilst supporting Francis House.

The award-winning restaurant, situated in West Didsbury, will host a series of celebratory events throughout 2020. Plans include several exclusive gourmet evenings with specially invited guest chefs joining Simon in the kitchen to cook up a first class offering of vegetarian cuisine.

Lucy Thompson, events manager at Francis House said: "We are thrilled that Greens approached us to join them in the celebrations.

Coincidentally, Francis House became a registered charity thirty years ago in 1990, so it is even more fitting that they have chosen to partner with us."

Keep your eye on our website for news of the events.



COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED EXTRAVAGANZA

Postponed until summer 2021

Principal Hotel Manchester

Tickets £55 or £60 with a Goody Bag

Contact Lucy 0161 443 2200 or lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk



OUT AND ABOUT



We are looking for courageous supporters to join us on the trek of a lifetime to Everest Base Camp in Oct/Nov 2021. The 17 day trip will take you on an incredible journey through remote Sherpa Villages to the base of the world's highest mountain.

Donate through Easy Fundraising

Raise money for Francis House every time you shop online.

Over 4,000 online retailers (including Just Eat, Now TV, uSwitch, Domino's Pizza and Audible) are ready to give a free donation every time you shop online. It only takes 2 minutes to sign up.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/francishousechildrenshospice

Keep up to date with our events...



GREAT MANCHESTER RUN
6TH SEPTEMBER



A CHRISTMAS STORY SERVICE
11TH DECEMBER



CHESHIRE THREE PEAKS
POSTPONED

For more information or to sign up visit www.francishouse.org.uk or call us on 0161 443 2200

HAVE A CUPPA WITH...



Rachael Taylor

Rachael Taylor is Assistant to the Chief Executive

What is your background?

I first joined Francis House originally as a Trustee in 2000. At the time I was working as a Family Law Solicitor and was a partner in a North West firm. Over the years I became more heavily involved with Francis House and came to work here as David Ireland's deputy in 2012.

What does your role involve?

My role is a very varied one and no day is the same! I am still a practising solicitor and I use my legal background regularly to draft and check contracts and to ensure that Francis House complies with all of the red tape that accompanies the running of a Hospice.

The legislative framework around decision making for dependent young adults can be daunting for parents so part of my role involves helping parents with applications to the Court of Protection or for Lasting Powers of Attorney.

I am very hands on and will deal with most tasks!

What are you most proud of?

I am very proud of all the amazing staff, volunteers and great people who work here at Francis House.

What is the best thing that happened to you this week?

I helped a parent with an application to be appointed as their son's deputy so that they can make decisions about their welfare in the future. The successful application was a great relief to the parent involved who was worried that without legal recognition they would no longer have a say in decisions made about their son.

What's your secret talent?

I read a lot and can get through a paperback in a day, also I am very good at whistling and am convinced I could have been a professional.

WWW.FRANCISHOUSE.ORG.UK/DONATE

Help local families make magical memories



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.

Signature.....Date.....

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/donate 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.



Hazel Grove Inner
Wheel Christmas
float volunteers

£1,683



Irene Thomas donations
in lieu of 80th birthday
in memory of Natalie

£400



ASDA Trafford Park
and customers
Green Token Giving

£500

ST JOHN BOSCO MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL STALYBRIDGE

LA CHARCUTERIE BUTCHER HEATON MOOR

NATALIE WOODS SCHOOL OF DANCE

CREAMLINE DAIRY

SUN CHEMICAL LTD ROCHDALE

CHEADLE CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

WAITROSE ALTRINCHAM

EVENTS 2020

The Francis House 'Virtual' Easter Chick Hunt	3rd - 30th April
Junior and Mini Great Manchester Run	5th September
Tough Mudder at Cholmondeley Castle	5th - 6th September
Great Manchester Run	6th September
Summer Ladies Lunch at the Principal Hotel	Postponed
Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	Postponed
Bubble Rush at Wythenshawe park	Postponed
STEptember challenge	Throughout September
Panto Dames Dash at Broughton Park RUFC	13th September
Brunch, Boutiques and Beauty at Gusto Didsbury	19th September
Open Day at Francis House	21st September
Opera Concert, Mobberley	25th September
Irish Abroad Ball (organiser Ann Billington)	21st November
Francis House Christmas Ball	5th December
A Christmas Story Service at St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish	11th December
Christmas Carol Concert, Mobberley	16th - 17th 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 rachael.taylor@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