



SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

- Care during COVID-19
- A final salute to Josh
- Inspirational lockdown fundraisers

A growing family

Francis House Family Trust
Registered Charity Number 328659



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Things are certainly very different since I wrote the editorial for the Spring newsletter. That edition went out just as the country went into lockdown and Francis House began preparing itself to assist with the rush of COVID-19 patients; so much has happened since.

Francis House was partially mothballed and Francis Lodge together with Indigo, Violet and Gold rooms has become the main hospice for young people with COVID-19 symptoms or suspected symptoms. Telephone support has replaced a lot of our personal contact with the three hundred plus families who normally would use us for respite. Four of the Francis Lodge bedrooms have been converted to provide suites where full PPE is required with rooms set aside for the proper 'donning and doffing' of protective equipment. Staff have been involved in additional training, the children and young people are rarely seen out of their bedrooms.

We are primarily providing symptom control, end of life care and emergency respite care and we have

to say a huge thank you to the care team, the support team, the visiting Doctors, Pharmacists and Tim our Psychotherapist all of whom have worked hard to provide a caring, calm and safe environment during this very difficult time.

Most of our Fundraisers are furloughed as all our planned events have been put on hold and Peter, Rachael, Susie and Jason have worked hard to manage the many generous donations that you have sent in and I hope that you have all received a grateful acknowledgement.

Life is very different for everyone at the moment but spare a thought for the Francis House parents caring for seriously ill children and young people 24 hours a day, 7 days a

week. They are now telling us of sleep deprivation, anxiety, stress, and physical problems as a result of shielding their precious children.

These are the people who are now asking for emergency respite so that they can recharge their batteries and Francis House is the place where they place their trust allowing us to care for their children and keep them safe.

We are able to be here ready to support them because of you, our many generous supporters who have helped us with unexpected donations. From the staff and

most of all the families who use our services, we send a huge thank you.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Stay alert, keep safe, save lives!

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



A FINAL SALUTE TO JOSH



Dressed as Captain America Joshua Lapi (formerly Josh Sweeney Brown) has been a well-known face to many of you. He and his mum Fiona have been coming to Francis House since he was diagnosed with cancer at the age of four months.

He was a remarkable lad, a person of great courage, but he was also intelligent, always smart and most of all extremely articulate.

At the age of seven he was interviewed on the radio when KEY 103 broadcast from Francis House, he had an important speaking part on the Francis House DVD made especially for professionals. He has been an excellent spokesman for the younger kids who use Francis House – when asked by the Care Quality Commission Inspector if he had any problems at Francis House he replied, “the food is DIS-GUSTING!” (the Inspector noted in her report that she then watched him eat everything on his plate). In his last few weeks, he was initially nursed at home and he asked the MacMillan Nurse to buy him chips like they have at Francis House.

In 2010 Fiona met Josh’s stepdad Joel and they had two more boys Alfie and Oscar both of whom loved coming to Francis House. In 2019 Fiona gave birth to Felicity a much-wanted daughter and at Christmas Joel proposed to Fiona.

A new diagnosis showed that Josh’s cancer had come back and was more aggressive. His mum and stepdad decided to bring their marriage forward and in March Josh was able to accompany his mum down the aisle, give her away and make a phenomenal speech!

Following the ‘lockdown’ Josh was cared for by his family at home but following two or three visits by Francis House senior staff it was decided that his pain could be better controlled at Francis House. A section of the Hospice was

cordoned off and the whole family were able to stay and be with Josh supported by our staff. Josh died surrounded by those that he loved on the 30th April 2020. His funeral took place in the Francis House Chapel which was arranged so that some close friends could safely attend.

Josh was a remarkable young man, who worried about others more than himself.

The final words should go to his brother Alfie (aged 9) who wanted this to be read at his funeral. "Josh was the best brother; he'd teach me how to play FIFA and let me have sleepovers in his room, but he always complained I snored too much - I miss my best friend."

And we at Francis House will miss you Josh, you have played an important part in the Francis House story!



Josh with Marcus Rashford

CARE DURING COVID-19

Cerysa Doherty joined the hospice team in 2016 and was appointed Clinical Lead for Francis Lodge in April, two weeks after the country went into lockdown.

I am responsible for overseeing the care of the young people with life-limiting conditions when they are staying at Francis Lodge for respite. But with COVID-19 there isn't any regular respite as families are shielding.

Many have stopped carers coming into their homes, so we are in constant contact, ringing them on a regular basis to see how they are. This support is a real lifeline and a comfort to them.

Having a child that is so vulnerable adds to their anxiety. Families are now doing 24-hour care, day in day out with no end in sight. Without any support they are getting desperate and are struggling.



We are offering as much support as we can without having anyone in the buildings, apart from social emergency respite and end of life care. We have procedures in place to keep them as safe as we can, as they leave their little shielding group. There are different levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) depending on the child's clinical needs.

Francis Lodge has been structured to meet this level of need, as well as provide areas for end of life care.

The young people are now separated in their rooms to keep them safe. We take activities and the mobile sensory unit into them and are still doing lots of fun things despite the fact we are wearing PPE.

Not having everybody here has been difficult. We are used to Francis House and Francis Lodge being full, hearing karaoke in the lounge, the young lads talking about football, someone having a beauty session in creative therapy or a child having a chill out in the multisensory room, and it's not like that at the moment.

The highlight of my job is talking to the families and still making a difference with advice and simply being there for them.

It feels very hard when we've not got everybody having a ball and coming for respite because that is what we are about. But families are telling us that we have made such a difference to them.

They are so grateful to be able to take their child to somewhere that they trust and have that break that they desperately need. It speaks volumes about Francis House and what we do.

Whenever we are able to have our families back, we are trained, prepared and ready to step up to meet that need.

What we are doing is amazing and humbling, without doubt it is the best job in the world.



LOCKDOWN

FUNDRAISERS

Back in May we put out a call to our Francis House Friends to support us and our Emergency Appeal during these difficult times.

So many of you responded and have been generously donating and going above and beyond to fundraise for the hospice in fantastically creative ways!



Georges Ng Man Kwong

Consultant chest physician Georges ran 13 miles close to his home in Stockport and raised £1,531.

“I have seen the effects of the Covid pandemic in daily life, and at work, as a respiratory doctor at the Royal Oldham Hospital. My solo half marathon was not really planned but started off as a run to de-stress after a very busy and challenging time. I was humbled and touched by the response of the many sponsors who gave so generously.”



Jane Bradley-Crookes

Dance teacher Jane and her family from Warrington, walked 5k every day for 14 days and raised £1,159.

“We should have been taking part in the Cheshire Three Peaks challenge organised by Francis House, but it was cancelled along with other hospice events because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We have been absolutely overwhelmed by everyone’s generosity and really proud to have done something to help others at this difficult time.”



Lian Cunliffe

Sales manager and photographer Lian took doorstep family portraits around Salford to encourage people to have a happier memory of their time in lockdown. Her JustGiving page has so far raised more than £3,600.

Francis House cared for Lian's best friend Samantha Lillico who died aged 16 from teenage bone cancer.

"Francis House is a charity very close to my heart. They supported Sam and her family in many ways. The staff were kind, caring, friendly and made a sad time a little bit easier."



Emily Turner

Sport Management student and football coach to children and young people with a range of special needs, Emily wanted to help other people while her coaching was put on hold. Her mum Julie has worked on the hospice care team for 14 years and Emily ran 5k a day for 5 days and raised £345.

"Francis House is such an amazing place and is full of fun and laughter. It also helps the inspirational courageous families make amazing memories together."

**Find out more
about becoming a
Francis House Friend**

www.francishouse.org.uk/francishousefriend



CHICK APPEAL 2020

Thanks to a terrific effort by knitters up and down the country, we received a whopping total of 53,000 knitted chicks and bunnies this year – a new record!

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to get involved in our appeal. Whether you knitted, collected eggs, sold chicks or bought bunnies, your support means such a lot to us – especially in times like these.

Unfortunately, due to the closure of schools and businesses, our total raised has been significantly impacted and it will take longer than usual to round up the funds.

However we look forward to your help in making Easter 2021 all the more successful!



IT'S A KNIT OFF

In the coming weeks we will be giving our supporters the chance to show off their skills in a Virtual Knit Off by entering a picture to demonstrate their knitting and crocheting prowess. Keep a beady eye on our website for more details.



WE ARE FINALISTS



We are delighted to announce that we are finalists in the Charity Today Awards.

Follow @CharityAwards on Twitter to vote for Francis House as Charity of the Year when the poll opens on 31st August #CharityTodayAwards

SHOPPING

Following the temporary closure of our charity shop in Burnage, we have been selling goods on eBay and merchandise through our online shop. Grab yourself a bargain visit

franchishouse.org.uk/get-involved/shop



MEMORY LIGHTS

You are invited to sponsor a light on the Christmas Tree at Francis House in memory of your loved ones. Their names will be entered in the Book of Memories which will be on view in the Francis House reception during the Christmas period.

We will send you a memory card (or cards) printed with the names of those you wish to be remembered.

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Contact details

Name of sponsor.....

Address

..... Postcode.....

Telephone..... I enclose a donation of £

Gift Aid Declaration

giftaid it

I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation and all donations I make in the future or have made in the last 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax in that tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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

THANK YOU

Please return the form with your donation (cheques made payable to Francis House)
To: Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

To make sure your loved ones are entered in the Book of Memories please return your request by 30th November 2020.

Registered Charity No. 328659

YOUR SUPPORT

Supporters like you help us to continue to care for the families in greatest need.

Thank you!



www.francishouse.org.uk/appeal

Help local families during the COVID-19 crisis

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 rachael.taylor@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/appeal 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

UP, UP AND AWAY

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT... JOIN THE SPECTACULAR FRANCIS HOUSE VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE.

Get ready for launch this September - a seven-day computer simulation race - where everything is real except for the balloon!

Fun, competitive and 100% eco-friendly, with your help this event is set to raise vital funds for Francis House.

The 'School's Back' race, timed to coincide with the end of the summer break, will set off on Monday, September 14th at 12.00 noon.

Select different features such as weight, thickness of latex and the amount of helium used to inflate your balloon to enhance your chances of winning the race.

FIRST PRIZE - £500 FOR THE BALLOON THAT TRAVELS THE FARTHEST
SECOND PRIZE - APPLE IPAD
10 LUCKY WINNERS - £10 BOOK TOKENS PLUS, ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

£3
PER BALLOON
EXCITING
RACE PRIZES

SCHOOL'S
BACK!
VIRTUAL RACE
MONDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER
2020

Personalise your balloon by giving it a name, colour, shape and pattern!

Sign up now

to be part of this exciting new event at:

www.francishouse.org.uk/balloonrace

or call Susie on 07931642409

THANK YOU

to some of our
key workers...



...our skeleton support team

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/