



# WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

30th Anniversary  
Special Edition

## A growing family

Francis House Family Trust  
Registered Charity Number 328659



# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY



On the 8th of February 1990 a subcommittee of the Catholic Children's Rescue Society met to discuss the setting up of a new Trust to help children with life-limiting conditions. It was decided that this would be for families of all faiths and no faith. In May 1990 the Rainbow Family Trust was officially registered, by November 1991 the building work was nearly complete, and Francis House was officially opened by the late H.R.H. Diana Princess of Wales. To quote our former Chairman Robin Wood CBE: "never before has a hospice gone from inception to completion in such a short time and it will never happen again!"

Since 1990 thousands of families have come to the door of Francis House and we have supported them through the most difficult times. All of this has happened because of the pioneering work of the Most Rev Patrick Kelly (then Bishop of Salford) Msgr Tom Mulheran and of

course Sister Aloysius FMSJ. They gathered around them so many people who became dedicated trustees, patrons, supporters, and of course staff and volunteers. Little did we know in 1990 that Francis House would develop into the organisation that we are today with an international reputation as a centre of excellence and a model to be replicated.

Many dedicated and committed people – too many to mention by name but all devoted to ensuring that the Francis House families receive the best possible care. None of this could have happened without the help of our loyal supporters around the North West and beyond, who think of us year on year and who give us the confidence to continue to expand and develop our services to welcome more and more families, as they turn to us for help.

In this thirtieth year we will showcase some of the people who have helped us along the way, obviously we cannot recognise every single contribution, but as we celebrate, we salute each and every person who has joined us on our journey and thank you on behalf of the families, children and young adults who have benefited from your selfless giving and dedicated service.

Francis House is a place where kindness, generosity and love has

been shown by so many people in millions of ways, and we must thank God for allowing us to be part of this incredible work.

Raise a glass to us on the 25th November and remember the part that you have played in the Francis House story.

**Well done everybody  
- here's to the next 30 years!!**

*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



Sister Aloysius and Princess Diana  
at the opening of Francis House in 1991



## SPECIAL FEATURE



When Anne Moore first stepped through the doors of Francis House with daughter Kerry Anne, little did she know the huge part that the hospice would still play in their lives 26 years on.

Kerry Anne, now 36, has Rett syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affects brain development and occurs in about 1 in 12,000 girls born each year. Symptoms can vary from child to child and at first there is often no indication that anything is wrong.

“When Kerry was around a year old, she went to bed and when I went to get her up in the morning she had completely changed overnight,” says Anne.

“She stopped crawling, had difficulty feeding and then later her motor skills started to regress, and she lost her speech. I struggled to get a diagnosis and she was on all kinds of drugs, spending time in hospital on the high dependency unit.”

It was during this time that a friend of Anne’s saw a programme on Granada TV about a young girl with seemingly similar symptoms and told Anne to watch the repeat programme later that night.

“I watched it and realised that Kerry had Rett syndrome. I went to Newcastle to get a diagnosis and finally at six years of age it was confirmed.”

**Kerry began to have seizures so severe that Anne feared she wouldn’t survive. Following a referral to Francis House she first came for respite in 1996 at ten years of age.**

Anne says: “I didn’t know anything about Francis House, but we were welcomed as soon as we arrived.

I immediately felt it was a very happy place and the staff were great. In all the years we have been coming they have helped me a lot, I don't know what I would have done without them."

Living just a short ten-minute drive from the hospice, Anne hasn't stayed for respite herself, but Kerry's sister Hayley and her friends have all enjoyed many years of care.

There is no cut-off age at Francis House and young people in their twenties and early thirties still enjoy coming and spending time with the people they care about.

"Kerry likes going to Francis House, although a number of staff have now retired, the staff there know her, and they know what she likes and doesn't like. It's a break for both of us.

"I put my trust in Francis House and I have peace of mind that she'll be safe when she's there."

For thirty years Anne has worked part-time as a phlebotomist at Wythenshawe Hospital, taking Kerry to day care in the morning and collecting her after work to continue to meet her needs.

There is no cure for Rett syndrome, but Kerry's condition has plateaued and is stable.

"We need support and Kerry needs 24-hour care but when she goes to Francis House for respite, she gets that care as well as a complete change of scenery and enjoys trips out with the care team. I'm thankful for having Francis House in my life for all of these years."



Kerry enjoying the view at Francis House



# RUNNING ROUND UP

After the postponement of all mass participation events last year, it was a relief to many that several hugely popular running events went ahead in the Autumn.

## Great Manchester Run

With Covid measures in place, more than 130 Francis House runners joined thousands of other competitors to take part in the Great Manchester Run raising £20,000 between them.

Paul Stierl ran the half marathon in memory of Niamh Scanlon who attended Francis House with her family.

Close family friend Paul said:  
“The atmosphere was brilliant, I loved it. It was an incredible feeling crossing the finishing line.”





## 2 mile challenge

**Joe Brownridge from Blackley Academy ran 2 miles every 2 hours for 24 hours and raised an incredible £1,316.**



## London Marathon

Alistair Orr from Leeds had never run a marathon before, and the London Marathon was always on his bucket list. He said: “It was definitely the most challenging thing I’ve ever done but a fantastic experience. Leg cramp kicked in from mile 20 but I managed to make it over the line, being spurred on by the crowds around the Embankment and Westminster.” Alistair raised a fantastic £1,390.

**To apply for a charity place in the 2022 London Marathon visit the Events page on our website [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)**



# THE BIG 3-0 CHALLENGE

In celebration of our 30th anniversary year, we are challenging our supporters to take on some thirty-themed fundraising! Here are a few suggestions...

- Run, walk or cycle 30 miles
- Do 30 squats or sit ups every 30 minutes
- Swim 30 lengths of a swimming pool
- Do 30 hours of spinning in 30 days
- Give something up for 30 days – chocolate, smoking, driving to work... whatever will challenge you most!
- Seek and source 30 prizes and hold a tombola or raffle
- Get your friends, family, and colleagues to sponsor you to eat 30 cream crackers in 30 minutes!



## Be one of our Thirty 30k-ers

Calling all corporates could your workplace be one of our Thirty 30k-ers? We are looking for 30 fantastic corporate supporters to take on the challenge of raising £1,000 each to mark our special year. All our Thirty 30k-ers will be invited along to a special thank you evening at the end of our birthday celebrations!







## Fundraise for us as a school

We're asking local schools to go that extra mile. Could you or your school:

- Do a sponsored silence for 30 minutes?
- Hold a sponsored walk 30 laps of the playground?
- Challenge pupils to attempt a sponsored spell of 30 words?
- Carry out a sponsored skip-a-thon of 30 skips?
- Bake 30 cupcakes and sell them in the playground?

## Let's share our birthdays!

Let's celebrate together! As a special gesture, could you consider sharing your birthday with us this year?

- Donate a monetary gift to Francis House in lieu of receiving birthday presents.
- Fundraise for Francis House at your birthday party, by collecting donations on the door, running a raffle or incorporating a clothes party.
- Set up a Birthday Fundraiser page on Facebook. Tell your friends and family why you are sharing your birthday with Francis House this year and they can donate easily via your page.



**Contact our friendly fundraising team today on 0161 443 2200  
or get in touch via our website [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)**

# FESTIVE EVENTS



## FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Francis House Festival of Christmas Trees is open and ready to welcome you as it returns for a 15th year to Quayside MediaCityUK.

Discover a festive display of more than 40 magical trees packed with incredible goodies donated by top brands, organisations, and community groups.

Place a bid on your favourite tree including Tesco, Co-op, Manchester City and Manchester United FC, The Alchemist and JP Goldman, with all proceeds to Francis House.

In the shop you will also find a range of Christmas items and decorations for sale. Please come and see us.

### OPENING HOURS

**Monday Closed**

**Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 6pm**

**Sunday 11am - 5pm**

Bidding closes on Sunday 5th Dec but don't worry if you can't make it in person as you can place a bid online and find out more via [www.festivaloftrees.co.uk](http://www.festivaloftrees.co.uk)



## WE'RE BACK... TO THE FUTURE BALL

It's not too late to grab your tickets for our Back to the Future Christmas Ball at the Concorde Conference Centre, Manchester Airport on Friday 3rd December.

We will transport you back to an era of glamorous and exciting international travel with a spectacular evening of entertainment beneath the wings of one of the most iconic aircraft of all time.

This will be an evening to remember as guests are treated to an exciting night of extravagance and entertainment.

You will enjoy a drink on arrival before sampling the delights of a three-course meal, the music of the fabulous Soul Brothers, and with magic and plenty of surprises in store, this is a night with something for everyone!

### BOOK NOW

**Tickets from £75.00 per person**

**Call Lucy on 07841530248 or**  
**[lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk)**



### A CHRISTMAS STORY SERVICE

St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish will be opening its doors for a very special service of celebration on Friday, 10th December.

Join us in this beautiful Grade 2 listed building to be part of our wonderful "Christmas Story" event which will feature Christmas music, carols and readings.

Hosted by Rev Angie Stanton, with the Choir of St Elisabeth's and Stockport Schools Brass Band this will be a fantastic evening of festive celebration.

There's no charge to attend this event, but guests will be invited to donate on the night.

**To book tickets contact Susie Poppitt on 07931 642409, or book via our website.**



### DEDICATE A LIGHT

Many of you kindly support our Memory Lights appeal every year by sponsoring a light on the Christmas Tree in the grounds of Francis House.

Now you can choose to dedicate a light on our virtual Christmas Tree in memory of a special person.

By dedicating a light online, you are helping Francis House to continue to deliver care to local children and support to their families this Christmas.

Thank you for your support and we wish you a peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with light, love and hope.

**Make a dedication and add a photo, then share your messages of love with family and friends by visiting [www.visufund.com/francis-house-memory-lights/](http://www.visufund.com/francis-house-memory-lights/)**



# YOUR SUPPORT

HELPS US TO  
BE THERE FOR  
THE CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES OF  
FRANCIS HOUSE  
FOR ANOTHER  
30 YEARS



## DONATE £30

It doesn't need to be difficult or challenging to support us for our Big 3-0.

It could be as simple as making a one-off donation of **£30** or pledging a regular monthly gift throughout our birthday year.

By giving just **£2.50** a month for the next twelve months you would be donating **£30** over the year.

**Donate at [francishouse.org.uk/donate](http://francishouse.org.uk/donate)**  
**Scan QR code to donate →**



## **I want to help the families of Francis House**

Here is my gift of:

☐ £10   ☐ £30   ☐ £50   ☐ other £

I enclose a cheque made payable to **Francis House Family Trust**

Title.....First Name .....Last 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 supporter emails too?

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

Email Address.....

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](mailto: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/donate](http://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.



Montrose Properties 40th Birthday Party & Zipwire

**£2,563**



Isla Smith's big hair cut

**£370**



Annual Irish Association Golf Day

**£6,000**



Mark Master Masons of West Lancashire

**£3,000**



Lady Captain's Charity Golf Day at Stockport GC

**£11,820**



Trafford Park Golf Day

**£3,558**

# EVENTS 2021/2022

Festival of Christmas Trees at Quayside MediaCityUK	30th October – 12th December
We're Back... to the Future Francis House Ball	3rd December, 7pm
A Christmas Story Service at St Elisabeth's Reddish	10th December, 7.30pm
Memory Lights Service at East Didsbury Methodist Church M20 5QQ	15th December, 7pm
New Year Winter Wander	1st January – 31st January 2022
Great Manchester Run	15th May 2022
Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	12th June 2022
Summer Ball	Summer 2022
Norway Trek 2022	September 2022
London Marathon 2022	2nd October 2022

**The dates of all the above events are subject to Government restrictions.**

To find out the latest information or to take part in any of these events contact the fundraising team on 0161 443 2200 or email [fundraising@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@francishouse.org.uk) or visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events)

## **STOP PRESS!**

**Our New Year Winter Wander is returning for 2022. Take the time to reflect and remember this January as you venture on a local walk in support of Francis House. Choose from a selection of scenic routes or design your own. Contact Rachel Astill for more information 0161 443 2200 / [rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk)**

## **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](mailto:rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk) and ask to be removed. Visit our website to subscribe to our monthly supporter newsletter via email and view our newsletters online [www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/)



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