



WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

- Bereavement - one family's journey
- Festive ways to fundraise
- What we delivered through your support

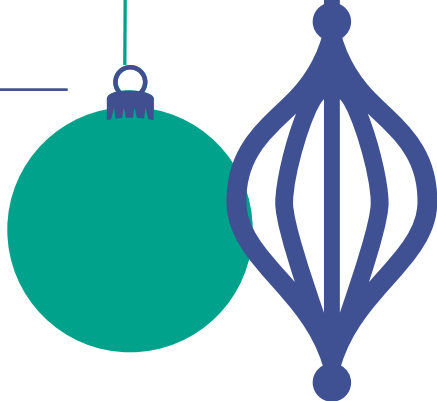


A growing family

Francis House Family Trust
Registered Charity Number 328659



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY



As I write the editorial the nation is in mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II. Sadly, Francis House is also mourning the loss of a mainstay of the organisation, Monsignor Thomas Mulheran. Father Tom was a Founder, Trustee and the Chaplain at Francis House and will be fondly remembered. He brought a great deal of hope to families of all faiths as he quietly spread the Gospel message of life eternal through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This issue we will hear of one family's journey and of the support that they have received through

Francis House, in particular we will look at the work of the Bereavement Support team.

Death is always difficult to process but the death of someone who has lived a long and worthwhile life is a very different matter to the death of a child. For parents, the wider family and particularly brothers and sisters, it can be a harrowing experience and the effects can last for a long time. People can be affected psychologically, physically, spiritually and in their social behaviour. Through all of this Francis House offers varying levels of support.

Father Tom will be greatly missed, like the late Queen he lived a life of dedicated service to others and was committed to his Faith in the God of love who cares for all in his kingdom.



In this edition you will also read of one of our long serving volunteers, Maureen Gordon, another life lived fully in the service of others and devotion to her faith. Maureen's selfless service is yet another piece in the huge Francis House jigsaw. So many people whose way of living for others is an example to each of us.

From our inception the Francis House philosophy has developed from a belief in the sanctity of life and the dignity of the individual. Every life matters and we aim to support sick young people and their families to live their lives to the full and to know that we will be there for them in the difficult times.

We are able to do this because of the generosity and support of all of you out there who continue to think of our families and help us financially.

To you on behalf of all of the families we say a huge THANK YOU. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

David

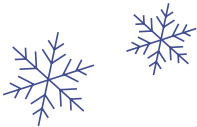


HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

www.francishouse.org.uk



Watch new video content in What We Offer sections of our website.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT



Nathan and Oliver

Oliver Brockbank spent long periods of his short life in hospital. Oliver was born with a life-limiting condition called Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome and when he was one year old, the family, including older brother Nathan, were introduced to Francis House.

“It was a lovely atmosphere,” says dad Darren. “Everyone was really friendly and we saw parents, children, and the staff interacting with everybody. We didn’t know anybody else with a child like Oliver, so when we came to Francis House we didn’t feel so alone.”

Mum, Jayne says: “Having a child with special needs, your home becomes like a hospital. You’ve got equipment, monitors, oxygen and you’ve got tanks around the house in case of an emergency.”

Despite the complexity of his condition, Oliver often bounced back from serious illness. Then in September 2015 he was once again admitted to intensive care.

Darren explains: “He basically got a cold. It wasn’t even bad, he’d been in a worse position, so I went up to have a shower because I was coming from work from the garage. As I was getting ready, there was a bang on the door. Somebody saying ‘come down quick.’ And... he’d gone.”

Oliver died when he was nearly six years old. The family wanted to be at Francis House and the hospice team settled them into one of the Rainbow Suites which have a bedroom cooled to mortuary standards.

Jayne recalls: “They put Oliver in bed with his pyjamas on, still caring for him even though he had passed. The rooms are lovely, there’s a little bedroom with a lounge off it and friends and family can come and visit.”

While the family were grieving, Nathan was cared for by the staff who gave him the opportunity to talk and ask questions.

Darren says: "It just gave us that little bit of breathing space that we needed. I don't know anybody else who's been in our position burying a child. You need the help. They've been through this process so many times, and they just know what to say."

Shining Stars is a group that bereaved brothers and sisters can attend, giving them the opportunity to explore and express their feelings of grief in a safe environment.

"Nathan had his ninth birthday just after the funeral. At Shining Stars he was able to meet children who are in exactly the same situation and he'd already made friendships with.

Other friends might have lost a grandparent or maybe even a parent, but there are not many kids who have lost a brother or sister," says Darren.

Jayne added: "Just coming back and seeing the staff and feeling cared for in his grief meant a lot to him, because he'd not been forgotten."

Every year Francis House holds a Memory Day attended by bereaved families.

"It was really nice to come back to Memory Day," says Darren. "Meeting the other families and seeing the staff. You've been through so much together, it's great to catch up and to see how everyone's doing and remember."

For more information on support visit www.francishouse.org.uk/emotional-bereavement-support



YOUR SUPPORT

Boutique Lunch

Our first ever Boutique Lunch was held in the Autumn at Gusto Restaurant in Cheadle Hulme. Supported by ladies' fashion retailer Flair Boutique UK of Sale, and a variety of stalls, the event raised more than £2,100.

Tenor Tom Loughlin, performed at the event and guests were treated to a delicious two-course lunch followed by a fashion show modelled by volunteers.



Lucy Thompson, of Francis House said: “What a fantastic afternoon, it was great to be in a room full of wonderful women supporting Francis House.”

Norway Trekkers

Our fourteen trekkers endured five long days trudging over challenging terrain through the mountains and fjords of Norway. Travelling through the ‘Home of the Giants’, an area of imposing mountains and huge glaciers, were Francis House CEO David Ireland and his wife Judith.

They were among six members of the group to reach the summit of Galdhøpiggen, Norway’s highest mountain - the six having a combined age of 406! Tired but triumphant, the trekkers raised approximately £15,000.

For more events news visit
www.francishouse.org.uk



GET CRACKING



Can we count on you for the Chick Appeal?

After a difficult couple of years, our Easter Chick Appeal bounced back, and this year delivered more than 32,000 chicks raising £45,750 for Francis House!

So, as the nights draw in, there is no better time to start knitting for our next appeal. Why not get cracking on our chick and bunny patterns - whether you prefer to knit or crochet, both are available from our website. If you would like a printed copy, we can send you one in the post - just contact Rachel Nasiri on 0161 443 2200 or rachel.nasiri@franchishouse.org.uk

Of course, for every knitted chick we need a Creme Egg, and lots of supermarkets, businesses, schools, and individuals rose to the challenge and donated tens of thousands of eggs. Pupils from St Richard's RC Primary School in Longsight collected a staggering 2,921 eggs. Could you top that in 2023?

We also rely on dozens of volunteers to repair loose chicks, stuff them with eggs, prepare orders and of course deliver crates of chicks to be sold to schools across Greater Manchester. Top honours go to St Vincent's Primary School in Altrincham, who were this year's highest fundraisers selling a whopping £1,261 worth of chicks.

Get involved and help make 2023 a bumper year.

visit www.franchishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal



30TH ANNIVERSARY

SPECIAL FEATURE



Bloomin' Marvellous Maureen

We pay tribute to Maureen Gordon, an exceptional volunteer who died earlier this year. Maureen became involved with Francis House in 1996, getting to know Sister Aloysius well. Like Sister, she had a determination to get things done and a knack for motivating others for the benefit of the most vulnerable.

Having trained as a professional cook - Maureen obtained her degree from Salford University - she used her skills to bake countless delicious dishes and her cakes would sell out at the hospice open days.

For more than two decades Maureen and her husband Dougie, held annual all-day garden parties at their home in Chorlton, continuing the tradition when they moved to Sale. Visitors were treated to afternoon tea and homemade cakes and pies and tens of thousands of pounds were raised in funds for Francis House.

Maureen's positivity and can-do attitude touched the lives of everyone she came into contact with. Her favourite saying when something went well was 'Bloomin' marvellous' says Dougie.

When a task needed doing, Maureen could always be called upon to rally the troops, and 'Maureen's Army' as they became known, would consist of 20 to 30 women packing the newsletter into envelopes in the hall at Francis House or selling Christmas cards at pop-up shops in the local libraries.

Maureen was also a familiar face at the Burnage charity shop - before it moved to its new premises in Withington - where she regularly volunteered on Wednesdays. In 2020, she took a step back from her numerous volunteering duties and was presented with a retirement gift at the volunteer lunch held just weeks before the first national lockdown.

Outside of Francis House, Maureen was a member of the Union of Catholic Mothers at St John's Church in Chorlton, and served twice as President and Treasurer. In the Diocese she was the Assistant Treasurer and the Walsingham co-ordinator and Treasurer. She was a volunteer for a local Good Neighbours Group and in 2007 was awarded with the Bene Merenti Medal – an honour awarded by the Pope for service to the Catholic Church.

David Ireland, chief executive of Francis House said:

“Maureen was an important part of the Francis House family since its inception 30 years ago. The work she put in during that time in a voluntary capacity has been varied and her contribution went above and beyond through a life of serving the wider community. We can never thank her enough.”

Maureen died on 15th February 2022 and our condolences go to her husband Dougie, daughters Maria and Fiona, their husbands Mike and Luke and grand children Cora, Callum and Bede. Thank you Maureen, what you did for Francis House was ‘Bloomin’ Marvellous!’



Dougie and Maureen Gordon with David Ireland and Rachael Taylor

WINTER WANDER

A FRESH AND FROSTY START TO 2023...



Put your best foot forward this January and embark on a walk to help your local children's hospice. During the month of January, we are encouraging all ages and abilities to walk in support of Francis House Children's Hospice.

Whether you walk in memory of someone special, in solidarity with somebody receiving care, or simply to show your support for Francis House, your sponsorship and donations will set our New Year fundraising off on the right foot.

Choose from our four routes:



Lymm Loop in Cheshire (8 mi.)

Turton Reservoir Round in Bolton (7 mi.)

Saddleworth Circuit in Oldham (8 mi.)

Higher Poynton Hike (8 mi.)

or walk any distance in any location you like!



Sign up now

to receive your Winter Wander fundraising pack,
including a Francis House beanie hat, sweets and more!

£10 to register, £5 for under 16s

www.francishouse.org.uk/winter-wander

or call Rachel on 0161 443 2200

rachel.nasiri@francishouse.org.uk

Step forwards into the New Year whilst looking back on the life
of a loved one, or reflecting on the year we leave behind...

FESTIVE FUNDRAISING

Dedicate a light on our beautiful Virtual Christmas Tree in memory of a special person. www.visufund.com/francis-house-virtual-memory-lights-2022



Take a tree home for Christmas! Head to Quayside MediaCityUK and see the spectacular **Festival of Trees** or place your bids online. Ends Sunday 4th December. Visit www.festivaloftrees.co.uk

Join us for A **Christmas Story Service**: a wonderful evening of carols, Christmas music and celebration at St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish on Friday 9th Dec from 7.30 p.m. Visit www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-story-service



Order your **Christmas Cards** by 11th Dec or pick them up in person from the fundraising office. Wilmslow, Altrincham and Knutsford libraries will also be selling our cards on selected dates visit www.christmas-cards.org.uk

They come out every December so why not plan a **Christmas Jumper Day** and raise money for Francis House.



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

What we delivered

Thanks to supporters like you, we have continued to deliver much-needed services to the families that we support.



134

children and young people received respite care



2636

calls offering telephone support



25

new referrals

12

families used the rainbow rooms

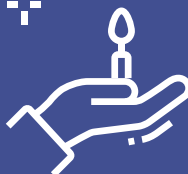


homecare visits



119

sibling support sessions



711

sessions of bereavement support



103

sessions of emotional support

Your generosity means that 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!



Give a gift this Christmas and help to bring care, support and friendship to local families.

Go to
www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2022

GIVE A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2022



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 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 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 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-appeal-2022
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

Virgin Money, 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

BECOME A REGULAR GIVER

Join cousins John and Betty and support Francis House with a regular donation.

Fifteen years ago Betty Cheetham's husband Jack donated the proceeds from an art exhibition to Francis House. Jack loved water colours and painted hundreds of pictures over the years selling them at exhibitions and donating the money to charity. Jack sadly died four years ago and Betty asked for donations in lieu of flowers to Francis House. This prompted Betty's cousin John Walker to make his first donation and he has continued his support ever since including donating £900 on Betty's 90th birthday.

John and Betty give through a regular donation - helping us to plan for future needs. If you would like to become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of local families please complete the attached form or contact our fundraising office on 0161 443 2200. You can also sign up via our website at www.francishouse.org.uk/donate-online

Thank you to all our Regular Donors for your continued support - we are truly grateful.

"Francis House is a wonderful place offering much needed support when families need it the most."

John Walker.



EVENTS 2022/2023

Festival of Christmas Trees	29th October – 4th December
The Greatest Francis House Christmas Ball	2nd December, 7pm
A Christmas Story Service	9th December, 7.30pm
Memory Lights Service at East Didsbury Methodist Church	14th December, 7pm
EVENTS 2023	
Winter Wander	Throughout January 2023
The 60s Stars Come Out for Francis House at Stockport Plaza	18th April 2023
TCS London Marathon 2023	23rd April 2023
An Evening at Greens Restaurant	April 2023 date TBA
Francis House Open Day	15th May 2023
Great Manchester Run 2023	21st May 2023
Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	18th June 2023
Francis House presents Justin Moorhouse and Friends at Stockport Plaza	Date to be announced

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 or visit www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events

STOP PRESS!

We have discounted charity places available for the incredible Great Manchester Run on the 21st May 2023. Applications are open for both the 10k and half marathon routes. Register now to join #TeamFrancisHouse and start your fundraising journey. Visit www.francishouse.org.uk/great-manchester-run

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 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/



@FrancisHouseCH



FrancisHouseChildrensHospice



www.francishouse.org.uk