



# AUTUMN 2023 NEWSLETTER

- A safe place to talk
- Feats of fundraising
- Sign up for September



**FRANCIS HOUSE**  
**CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**  
Registered Charity No. 328659

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# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY



**From May through summer the weather has lifted everyone's spirits. Fundraising activities are returning to normal after the pandemic and the young people at Francis House have enjoyed trips out, barbecues and lots of fun in the garden.**

Our memory day in May was blessed by beautiful weather and over a hundred and fifty families joined us in the gardens. As I chatted with people in the sunshine, I thought how remarkable people are, all of these families, here to remember children who had recently died, how heavy their hearts must have been and yet for the sake of those that they love, they put on a brave face and make sure that the people around them don't miss out on life. The staff at Francis House are privileged to walk alongside these courageous people in their darkest times.

So many people have struggled psychologically during the pandemic and the years that followed. Long before COVID-19 the Trustees had commissioned a piece of work from Manchester University to explore the effect that having a sibling with a life-limiting condition has on teenagers and young adults.

The results of this research has now been presented to the Trustees and the decision has been taken to expand our once limited psychotherapy service. Some storerooms and former offices next to the hall have been converted into a Psychotherapy suite.

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**

We have increased the hours that psychotherapists are on site and appointed a new supervisor with proven skills in working with children and teenagers. Our lead psychotherapist is delivering bespoke training to our care team to enhance their skills. In addition, the Shining Stars team who provide support for bereaved brothers and sisters has set up a new group 'Shooting Stars' which is a reunion group so that the young people can keep in touch. Once again, we are developing new services to meet the changing needs of our families.

This brings me full circle to where I started this editorial, the wonderful hard work of fundraisers, in house and out in the community and the generosity of our thousands of supporters, whose commitment to Francis House gives us the confidence to carry on even in these difficult economic times.

**On behalf of the families and the staff I send our heartfelt thanks.**

*David*



**Members of the Francis House care team at Memory Day.**

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# A SAFE PLACE TO TALK



Gio Castro

We all need emotional support at different times in our lives, family and friends are the main people who provide this support.

If you have a life-limiting or life-threatening condition or are a parent or sibling of a person with a serious medical condition, you may need additional support from people who are independent of your family.

For a young person it can be difficult to talk to their close family about their own feelings and fears regarding their future. Our care team members at Francis House have additional training and experience to provide the extra support that is needed at various times in a young person's life.

Gio Castro, member of the Emotional Support Team explains: **“It is important for the young people to feel that it’s okay to open up about their thoughts and feelings, about their deterioration and their death. It is hard to hear, but our role at Francis House is to make them feel that it’s okay to talk and that they’ve got someone to turn to.”**

Kate Snape has been coming to Francis House since she was seven years old. Despite having a degenerative neuromuscular condition she fulfilled her ambition of studying at university. Kate has spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) Type 2, osteoporosis and dislocated hips.

Kate says: “I found out at an early age that my condition would eventually kill me and that it would never get better. I was always going to struggle physically and be in pain. I went to mainstream schools and was the only child in a wheelchair all the way through primary school and part of high school and sometimes that was difficult to live with.

It’s hard to explain what it’s like to need other people to do things for you, when you want to do it yourself. A lot of the time people can look at you like you’re stupid, or you’re lazy, and that’s not nice, but you don’t have a choice but to live that way and to need the help of other people.”



“Francis House has always excelled in offering compassion and understanding. As I’ve got older I’ve come to terms with the fact that I am different in a way to a lot of people. It is a full time job to live with a condition like mine and incredibly draining. Even though I’m only 25, I know that I have lived longer than anyone expected.

When I was 20, at university I had a party called the “Kate Didn’t Die Party”, and none of my friends could understand that. When I come here, it’s understood how big a deal that is for me to have lived this long.

To have people to talk to about it, and be completely honest about how terrifying it is to live with and to grow up with that over your head. I’ve made friends here who have passed, who were incredibly important to me and it’s difficult to talk about that with people I know.

**It’s only when I’m here I feel like I can really be honest about the fact that I feel guilty, and I struggle with the knowledge that I’m still here. But at Francis House it’s nice to feel understood and to be honest with people who see that every day.”**



**Kate Snape**

# SCHOOL MAKES A SPLASH

We really value the support that we receive from local schools and colleges.

Staff from West Didsbury C of E Primary School took on The Great North Swim covering distances from 250 metres to 1 mile in Lake Windermere. The team raised an eye watering £5,500! Anna Porteous said:

**“Francis House a very important source of support for children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses, along with care and support for the families. The charity is close to ours and our school community’s heart.”**

We'd love to hear from you if your school is planning some fundraising to support Francis House. We can support you in return with top tips, events that you can get involved in, merchandise to sell or you can request an assembly by a member of our friendly fundraising team! Visit [francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/schools-and-groups/](https://www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/schools-and-groups/)



# SIGN UP FOR SEPTEMBER

## A gift to Francis House in your Will is your present for our future.

During September, you can get a Will written by a Solicitor participating in our Make a Will Month at a special discounted rate. The fee is then donated to the hospice enabling both you and Francis House to benefit.

Many people decide to leave a gift in their Will to a charity close to their hearts. Gifts in Wills allow us to provide the very best care to the children, young people and their families. Francis House has teamed up with a number of local solicitors for our September **Make a Will Month**. For more information visit [www.franchishouse.org.uk/will-month](http://www.franchishouse.org.uk/will-month) To book an appointment contact:

### Pearson Solicitors and Financial Advisers Ltd, Oldham

on 0161 785 3500

### Thompson & Cooke, Stalybridge

on 0161 338 2614

### AST Hampsons, Bury

on 0161 763 1000

### Bromleys, Ashton Under Lyne

on 0161 330 6821

### Ogden, Lyles & Fox, Irlam

on 0161 775 3744

### O'Donnells, Uppermill

on 01457 761320



## BOUTIQUE LUNCH

Includes a glass of fizz on arrival, followed by a two-course lunch and a goodie bag

£40 per person

Friday 22nd  
September  
12pm - 4.30pm

Plus fashion show and stalls! Book your tickets  
[www.franchishouse.org.uk/boutique-lunch](http://www.franchishouse.org.uk/boutique-lunch)

**Flair**  
GET YOUR FLAIR ON

Venue  
**GUSTO**  
ITALIAN  
Cheadle Hulme

FRANCIS HOUSE Boutique Lunch  
kindly sponsored by SINCLAIR LAW

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# FEATS OF FUNRAISING

Our incredible supporters have been walking, running and riding to raise funds.

## London to Amsterdam bike ride

Four dads raised £8,500 by cycling 500km from London to Amsterdam over four gruelling days. Francis House supported the family of Jonathan Hyde when his nephew died and the friends wanted to show their admiration.



## 10k Race by Francis House doctor

Francis House Doctor Elizabeth Eales had to pull out of competing in the Great Manchester Run after she became ill with a chest infection. Undeterred, GP Elizabeth, ran her own 10k race at home and raised £830.







## Challenge Champion

Challenge champion Tom Burgin raised £1,000 in memory of his good friend and adventure buddy, Blair Campbell. Tom together with his siblings Holly and John, ran for 14 hours across North Wales to honour his friend in an epic trip of 63km.



## Boston Marathon

Marathon runner Damian Carter picked up a coveted Six Star Medal by completing his sixth world major marathon in Boston. Damian's marathon runs have raised more than £13,000 for charities including Francis House.

## Land's End to John O'Groats

Matt Gater used pedal power to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats to celebrate the life of his goddaughter Anna who despite her illness made everyone smile with her positivity. Matt's nine day ride raised £3,500.



**Thank you to everyone who took part in an activity for Francis House. Up for a challenge? Visit our website and search for challenges.**



# Let's Party

3 COURSE  
MEAL

WITH DRINKS  
RECEPTION

LIVE  
MUSIC

FROM  
SOUL BROTHERS

DIAMOND  
RAFFLE

AND LIVE  
AUCTION

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER | CONCORDE CONFERENCE CENTRE

TICKETS FROM £85 PER PERSON

TO BOOK, CALL LUCY ON 07841 530248

[www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-ball](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-ball)



# 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.**

.....  
.....  
.....

## 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 2023.**

You can sponsor a light online or choose to dedicate a light on our interactive Virtual Memory Lights Tree by visiting [francishouse.org.uk/virtual-memory-lights](http://francishouse.org.uk/virtual-memory-lights)

Registered Charity No. 328659

# OPEN DAYS

**Twice a year we open the doors of Francis House to the public for a glimpse behind the scenes.**

Our Open Days in May and November give visitors an opportunity to see for themselves how their generosity helps us to provide the services and facilities that we need to support the families of children and young adults with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

Guided tours at our hospice in Didsbury, led by members of the hospice care team, take place throughout the day.

**Some of your great feedback from our May open day.**

“My favourite rooms were the sensory rooms that the kids can have a lot of fun in. It was very open with spaces inside and outside that gave the kids a lot of freedom. It’s definitely a happy place while offering parents who need a break, privacy and remembrance of their loved ones.”

**Caleb**

Saturday 4th  
November  
10am until 4pm

**OPEN DAY  
ALL WELCOME**

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

“Walking around, it immediately felt like you were at home rather than a hospice. We were taken aback by the facilities on offer. It was incredible to see the thought put into accessibility. No matter what disability a young person may have, they had the option to use the computers and all other equipment. A truly humbling experience.”

**Rick**

**We look forward to welcoming you on 4th November!**





**Donate at [francishouse.org.uk/donate](https://www.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](https://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 each year to keep our services going. 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 .....

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Francis House is a lifeline to more than 550 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.



EME Electrical Ltd  
Yorkshire Three  
Peaks challenge  
**£1,700**



Quayside  
MediaCityUK  
bucket collection  
**£218**



Manchester  
Munich Memorial  
Foundation  
**£3,000**



Manchester  
Metropolitan University  
Vintage film show  
**£160**



Manchester  
Marine Insurance  
Association  
**£3,000**



Hindu Swayamsevak  
Sangh Manchester  
(UK)  
**£1,000**



# EVENTS 2023/2024

2023	
Boutique Lunch at Gusto Cheadle Hulme	22nd September
Make a Will Month	September
STEPtember	Throughout September
Festival of Christmas Trees at Quayside MediaCityUK	28th Oct until 10th Dec
Francis House Open Day	4th November
Francis House Christmas Ball – Let's Party	1st December
A Christmas Story Service at St Elisabeth's Reddish	8th December
Memory Lights Service at East Didsbury Methodist Church	13th December
2024	
Adidas Manchester Marathon	14th April
Justin Moorhouse comedy show at Altrincham Garrick	20th April
TCS London Marathon	21st April
AJ Bell Great Manchester Run	26th May

## STOP PRESS!

The Francis House Festival of Christmas Trees will be returning to Quayside MediaCityUK (formerly The Lowry Outlet) this October. Find out how to sponsor a tree and get involved by visiting [www.francishouse.org.uk/festival-of-trees](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/festival-of-trees)

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)

## Newsletter 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/)