



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

- A tremendous journey
- Changing lives at Number 92
- Be a regular giver



FRANCIS HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
Registered Charity No. 328659

WELCOME

TO OUR FAMILY



By now most people will have heard that I have announced my retirement from the role of Chief Executive some time during 2025. This long period of notice is necessary to allow the Trustees time to select my successor (the process has already begun).

It is not without sadness that I have made this decision. I have been privileged to hold this post for twenty years and as most of you know Francis House has been a big part of my life since the inception of the charity back in 1989.

During this time I have made so many friendships, the children and young people and their families, staff, visiting professionals, loyal contractors, fundraisers and of course the volunteers. I cannot begin to thank you all for your dedication and commitment to the families, your support for the hospice and for your ongoing encouragement.

This has been a tremendous journey with many remarkable people involved and together we have achieved so much! Thank you's seem inadequate.

The Trustees have a difficult task because Francis House is unique amongst the Childrens Hospices, having had only two CEOs in 35 years.

We have achieved so much together, the building and establishment of Francis House, ensuring financial stability, the construction of Francis Lodge for teenagers and young adults, the opening of 463 as a residential unit and in February we marked the first anniversary of the

How to
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390 Parrswood Road,
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M20 5NA

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0161 443 2200

opening of 92, a residential facility for young adults with extremely complex needs.

None of this is down to any one person, it has been a huge team effort and together we have changed the lives of thousands of families all of whom have been given the heartbreaking diagnosis that their child has a life-limiting or life-threatening condition.

One of my favourite quotes over the years came from an eighteen year old young lady who had terminal cancer, she said -

"I thought that I was coming to Francis House to die, I now realise that I came here to live!"

Francis House has established a worldwide reputation for excellence. What we have done together is

truly remarkable. Everyone of you, whatever your involvement, will be in my prayers. I'm sure that you will give the same encouragement, support and friendship to my successor that you have afforded Sister Aloysius and myself.

Thank you, everybody, whatever your involvement, may God bless everyone who uses or who is involved in any way with Francis House. It is God's work that we do.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Open Day on the 22nd April.

**To all of you, the families
send a huge thank you.**

David



**David Ireland caught on camera with
Roger Johnson from BBC North West Tonight**

Elizabeth receives exceptional care



CHANGING LIVES



Care home for young adults with complex needs celebrates first year

Number 92, a care home in Heaton Moor provides a supportive living environment to young people with life-limiting conditions and complex needs. Launched in February last year, and operated by Francis House Families Ltd, number 92 is now the permanent residence of six young people who were previously cared for by their parents full-time.

Dermot Murphy is the Registered Manager and has a passion for pioneering initiatives in social care and developing and improving services.

Dermot says: “It’s been a remarkable achievement to get number 92 fully staffed and all the young people in. It’s a tremendously difficult transition for a young person to leave home where they have lived all their lives and move to be cared for by other people. We have received an awful lot of trust from the parents, and we are enormously grateful for that.

“Because we staged it in the way that we have and none of it has been rushed, we’ve managed to get to know each of the six young people as individuals as they moved in. It’s

been a joy to see them develop, their personalities blossom, and to see most of the families take up opportunities that weren't available to them before because they're not having to act as carers. The extent that it has changed those family's lives has been remarkable."

Fiona Ferguson's daughter Elizabeth, aged 20, moved into number 92 in April 2023. For the first couple of months Fiona continued to take her to and from college. Reassured with the progress the staff were making in caring for Elizabeth she soon felt able to let go.

"I was very hands on in the early days," says Fiona "It's been nice that I've been able to take a big step back now. It didn't take long for me to feel comfortable and relaxed enough to not have to think about Elizabeth's care."

"It's been a new experience for both Elizabeth and I, and she is getting to do things that I would never have dreamt of doing with her and she loves it. She's living like a 20-year-old should, rather than with me. She gets choices and options now with the staff there. Her world has opened up to new experiences and she's living with friends the same age."



Celebrating Paul's 21st birthday at Number 92

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After twenty years of being a full-time carer, Fiona has a job that she loves and is working with adults with learning disabilities at a day centre.

She added: “For me I’ve got peace of mind which is my biggest takeaway and I know the care she gets is just exceptional. Elizabeth is in this house now where she’ll be forever more, and receive the best care that she can, and for me as her mum it’s just unbelievable.”

An open door policy means that parents can visit at any time or simply have a chat with the staff. A team of 23 provide round the clock care with Angela Doyle as Clinical Lead.

Angela says: “It’s going really well and from the parents’ perspective they are starting to see a different side of their loved ones - things they probably wouldn’t have seen before from a social engagement point of view.

“We’ve taken the young people out to a karaoke at a local pub and the community were really engaged in wanting them involved and up on the stage.

“Whenever we have opportunities that we come across, we’re pushing as hard as we can, and people are starting to identify what they can offer us.”

Trips to the barbers for haircuts and nails painted at the beauty salon are now possible thanks to the efforts of the staff who are keen to integrate the young people within the community and give them the full experience.

“The needs of the young people are complex and unique. We’re liaising with the colleges, the local authorities, sourcing music therapy and other areas that possibly weren’t explored in the past. There is so much scope here now it’s amazing,” says Angela.

Income for the residential facility, operated by Francis House Families Ltd, comes from the individual residents Local Authority Care Budget. All of the young people can continue to receive respite care and symptom control at the Hospice.



Angela Doyle

UP FOR A CHALLENGE?



Great Manchester Run

When: Sunday 26th May
Where: Manchester City Centre

What's on?

Not only the North West's most popular running event but also the biggest 10km run in Europe! Join thousands of other runners and experience an unforgettable route passing favourite Manchester landmarks. Our discounted charity places cost £35 for the 10k or £40 for the Half Marathon.



Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge

When: Sunday 23rd June
Where: Tegg's Nose Country Park, Macclesfield

What's on?

Take a hike on our popular walking challenge for all the family in the picturesque Macclesfield countryside. With two distances to choose from, there is a route to suit everyone. Sign up for the 6.5 mile short route £15pp or 13.6 mile long route £22pp walk (Under 16s Free).

Forthcoming events – sign up and be part of **#TeamFrancisHouse**



Trafford Palazzo Tower Abseil

When: Saturday 29th June
Where: The Trafford Centre

What's on?

An exhilarating 170ft drop from the top of the tower! A must for thrill seeking individuals looking to test their nerves and step over the edge. All training and safety equipment provided at a discounted event price of £40.

For information about all of the events and many more visit francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events

Or call the fundraising team on **0161 443 2200**



GRAND DESIGNS

Chief Executive of Francis House, Revd David Ireland, has announced that he will be retiring in 2025.

As a former architect, David Ireland has always had grand designs for Francis House. That is because he only wanted the best for the children, young adults and their families who use the hospice.

David created Francis House, quite literally, in his role as architect for the project to turn a convent into a hospice in 1990. David became enamoured with Francis House where every decision is made with the welfare of the family at heart.

Following the retirement of Sister Aloysius, the founder of Francis House in 2005, David took on the role of chief executive.

David's extraordinary contribution to Francis House during the last 30 years is featured in a new book 'A Worthwhile Error - The History of Francis House' along with fascinating chapters on the



Sister Aloysius and David Ireland

celebrities, Royal visitors, supporters, staff, volunteers and families who have come through the doors.

Former Clinical Lead Natalie Hands: "If you cut David down the middle he would have Francis House written all the way down like Blackpool rock."

Sister Philomena FMSJ: "David has done an excellent job over many years. Sister Aloysius and Father Tom had that vision and while the buildings may have changed over time, the principles have remained unchanged from the day we left the convent to make way for the hospice."

'A Worthwhile Error - The History of Francis House Children's Hospice' is available for £19.95 (plus postage) from **www.franchishouse.org.uk/online-shop** or call 0161 434 4118.

CLASSIC

IBIZA

Classic Ibiza is returning to the stunning grounds of Tatton Park on Saturday 29 June, promising over five hours of Balearic-infused dance music headlined by the impressive 32-piece Urban Soul Orchestra (USO).

The family-friendly concert will once again be teaming up with Francis House at its Cheshire show to help raise hospice funds. The evening starts at 5.30pm with a vibe straight from one of Ibiza's iconic beachside bars, before building to a magical alfresco nightclub with an awe-inspiring laser and light show.

The event last year raised approximately £2,000 and we need your help to make it a success once again.

Tickets Adults (over 18s): £49.50, Children (aged 5-17): £25, Under 5s: free and can be purchased from classicrobiza.co.uk with the added option of making a donation. Parking is free and concertgoers can bring their own food and drink to the show.



Volunteers are needed June 29 to sell Classic Lanyards or work on our festival stall. Help out and enjoy the rest of the concert. Contact kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk



Fundraising as Classic Ibiza returns to Tatton Park

A LONG HARD SLOG

Back in 1991, Francis House supporter Tom Beaver took on the momentous challenge of walking from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Throughout his journey, he kept a written log of his adventure, detailing the sights he saw and the people he met along the way.

Sadly Tom passed away in 2021, but his daughter Julie has now published his journal in tribute to Tom's memory and achievement.



The book is available to buy for £9.95 - with all proceeds coming to Francis House.

'A Long Hard Slog' promises an inspiring and enjoyable read, especially for anyone thinking of attempting their own LEJOG!

To buy a copy contact Julie on julieraghib@gmail.com

SUMMER RAFFLE



Fabulous prizes are up for grabs in the Francis House summer raffle. Every £2 ticket purchased will help support local children and their families. You have to be in it to win it! Tickets available from 1st June – 31st July from www.francishouse.org.uk/summer-raffle or by calling Julie Williams, fundraising office on 0161 443 2200



REGULAR GIVING

Did you know that more than 625 individuals and businesses give on a regular basis to Francis House? Their donations contribute an average of £87,000* every year.

Regular donations made year on year make a huge difference to Francis House by helping us to save time and money, allowing us to make plans and have a sustained long-term impact on the lives of the children and families that we support.

Howells Railway Products have been donating to Francis House for more than a quarter of a century. We met up with them earlier in the year to thank them for their outstanding support.

Established in 1947, Howells is a third generation manufacturer of railway signalling products with clients across the globe.

The business employs 42 people based out of an impressive Art Deco building in Sharston, Wythenshawe.

The relationship with Francis House began as the result of a talk by Father Thomas Mulerhan about the need for a children's hospice in Manchester. Managing Director, Mike Howells, was so moved that he pledged to support the hospice with donations long into the future.

Mike would buy goods as raffle prizes and gifts from suppliers were also donated to the raffle to raise funds at the work Christmas party.

The company set up a regular monthly donation of £500 that continues to this day.

When Mike saw a community in need, be it making water presses to bring fresh water to children in Africa, or building the church hall at the church of Saint Francis in Wythenshawe, he rolled up his sleeves and got to work.
continued >>

Regular givers Jennifer Dudley and Rebecca Howells of Howells Railway Products.



>> *continued*

His daughter Rebecca and son David are Directors of the company, together with Jennifer Dudley who joined the firm aged 18.

The family have fond memories at the factory of Mike gathering all the staff together to tell them about Francis House and encouraging them in their support during his raffles.

Rebecca says: "It rubbed off on us and because dad was so passionate, we became passionate. Making a regular donation to Francis House is an easy and convenient way to show your support and we are happy knowing that our donation is making a real difference to local children and their families. We will continue to support Francis House and would encourage others to do the same."

Sadly, in May 2023, aged 80, Mike had a series of mini strokes and developed vascular dementia and now requires full time care. Rebecca and Jennifer were presented with a special award on behalf of Mike Howells.

"Dad was a humble man who didn't want any fuss or thanks for what he did, but he would have been thrilled to have received this award for outstanding support. We are delighted and proud to accept it," said Rebecca.

In addition to supporting a good cause, companies that make donations to charities are entitled to claim tax relief. These donations can be deducted from the total business profits of a limited company before Corporation Tax is paid. By donating on a regular basis both the organisation and the charity can benefit.

Help support the children and families of Francis House by setting up a charity direct debit or standing order.

Sign up via the website www.francishouse.org.uk or complete the regular donation form on the next page.

To all of our regular givers we are profoundly grateful for your support.

(*Including Gift Aid from UK tax payers.)



Mike Howells began supporting Francis House in the 90s.

MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

To continue to expand and develop our services we need to raise £4.8 million each year. Become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of the children and families that we support. If you are a UK taxpayer, please also sign the Gift Aid Declaration to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Fill in the form below to make a regular monthly donation or set up a Direct Debit via our website franchishouse.org.uk

STANDING ORDER

Name of Bank/Building Society

Branch Address

..... Postcode

Account Name

Account Number Sort Code

Please pay:

Francis House Family Trust

Virgin Money

48-50 Market Street

Manchester

M1 1PW

Account Number **68170373**

Sort Code **05-05-73**

The sum of £..... each month

Commencing on until further notice

Name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Signature Date.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION I wish Gift Aid to apply to this 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 year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature Date

Please return this form to Carole Fletcher,
Accounts Office, Francis House Children's Hospice,
390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA
or email to carole.fletcher@franchishouse.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 328659

**Thank you for
your donation**

Every donation will help the families of Francis House



SCAN TO DONATE

- **Donate at francishouse.org.uk**
- **Donate by phone 0161 443 2200**
- **Donate using the form below**

I would like to give a single donation

£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 wish Gift Aid to apply to this 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 year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations 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

MEET THE VOLUNTEER

Cheryl Thompson worked for 32 years as an account manager for a firm of large format printers until her retirement in 2023.

Why did you start volunteering?

The job I did was really fast-moving and high pressured. It was always my aim when I finished work that I would do some volunteering because I didn't want to just sit around and do nothing. I met with Julie in the fundraising office and thought this might suit me.

What have you been doing?

I've helped out at bucket collections at the Morrisons stores which I go to with Francis Mouse the mascot although I'll never wear the costume myself! In the run up to Christmas I worked in the Festival of Trees pop-up shop. It was really nice to talk to people and tell them about the event. When we packed everything away at the end I was in my element!

To find out more about our fundraising volunteer opportunities visit [franchishouse.org.uk/volunteering](https://www.franchishouse.org.uk/volunteering)



Cheryl Thompson

What do you get out of it?

It's given me motivation. Knowing that I've got something to get up for and it's a purpose to do something worthwhile. It's also quite rewarding as people can be so generous.

What does it take to volunteer?

It helps if you are friendly with the people that you're obviously going to meet. You've got to be able to interact with people and it's interesting when they stop and have a chat. That's part of why you're there and making them feel welcome.

What would you say to any budding volunteers?

Do it! Because you won't know how much you'll get out of it. Be willing to try different things and if it's not for you, then it's not for you, but until you try something you don't know.

EVENTS 2024



2024	
Justin Moorhouse comedy show at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse	20th April
TCS London Marathon	21st April
Francis House Open Day in Didsbury	22nd April
Tour de Manc cycling challenge Middleton	5th May
AJ Bell Great Manchester Run	26th May
Cheshire 3 Peaks Challenge in Macclesfield	23rd June
Brookside Miniature Railway Charity Fun Day Poynton	23rd June
Trafford Centre Abseil	29th June
Classic Ibiza at Tatton Park	29th June
Summer Raffle	1st June – 31st July
Peak District Ultra Challenge at Bakewell Showground	6th & 7th July
STEPtember walk 10,000 steps in aid of Francis House	September
Manchester Half Marathon at Old Trafford	13th October
Festival of Christmas Trees at Quayside MediaCityUK	26th October – 8th Dec
Francis House Christmas Ball at Mottram Hall – NEW VENUE!	30th November
A Christmas Story at St Elisabeth's Reddish	6th December

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!

Trustee Eamonn O'Neal appointed High Sheriff of Greater Manchester for the second time. More in the next newsletter.

Brookside Miniature Railway Charity Fun Day, Sunday June 23, Brookside Garden Centre. Vintage funfair rides, raffle, and traction engines.

Visit www.brooksideminiaurairailway.com

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 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/

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 www.francishouse.org.uk

 www.instagram.com/francishousech/