



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

- We'd be lost without Francis House
- Play our weekly lottery
- Care team on the run!



FRANCIS HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY



Dear Friends,

As the days grow longer and spring turns towards summer, I am delighted to share our latest newsletter with you.

The last year has been a hectic one for us. We have been busy making improvements to Francis House to ensure the hospice environment feels as warm, welcoming and child-friendly as the care we provide. Families arriving at Francis House are now greeted by a beautiful undersea mural, bringing colour and imagination from the moment they walk through the door. Along the corridor linking each of our children's bedrooms, a vibrant rainbow mural now adds a sense of joy for children and families spending time with us.

Together with these creative touches, we have also been able to complete important upgrades to the building itself thanks to a Government grant. We have fitted a new roof to Francis House, new flooring has been installed throughout all the bedrooms.

The parents' flats, where families stay whilst their child is with us for respite care or during end-of-life, have all had a much-needed makeover.

Within this issue you'll find an infographic offering a snapshot of the care and support we provide. Behind every number is a child, a parent, a sibling and a family who have turned to the hospice during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. It is a powerful reminder of the difference that compassionate care and your continued support makes every day.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Francis House family.

With my warmest thanks,
Rachael Taylor
Chief Executive Officer

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

PLAY OUR LOTTERY

Join our new lottery for a chance to win £25,000!

For just £1 a week, play the **Francis House Weekly Lottery** and help seriously ill children and their families live every moment to the full.

You'll be given a randomly chosen six-digit lottery number that's unique to you while you play. If you'd like more chances, you can receive additional numbers. Prizes are awarded based on how many digits match the winning number in the correct place in the sequence. Our draws take place every Friday!

PRIZES

- 6 digits - £25,000
- 5 digits - £1,000
- 4 digits - £25
- 3 digits - 5 free entries

For every **£1 played**, a minimum of **50p** goes directly to supporting Francis House families.

Enter via our website **francishouse.org.uk/lottery** or scan the QR code

Francis House Children's Hospice Weekly Lottery is licensed by Manchester City Council and managed by Unity. Terms and conditions can be found at **www.unitylottery.co.uk/rules**

GAMBLING COMMISSION



SCAN
TO PLAY
NOW

1st PRIZE

£25,000

Match 6
numbers

2nd PRIZE

£1,000

Match 5
numbers

3rd PRIZE

£25

Match 4
numbers

‘We’d be lost without Francis House’: Jen’s family shares what your support means.

In our Christmas appeal, mum Jen spoke about her family’s experience of Francis House and the love and support that mean so much to her, her daughter Flo, and her son Riccardo.

Thanks to your generous donations, we can be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for families like Jen’s during their most difficult times. From the moment they walk through our doors seeking respite from life’s pressures, we are by their side, and it’s all made possible due to the kindness of people like you.

We caught up with Jen and asked her what it meant to her and her family to take part.

“It was an honour and a privilege to be a part of the appeal and to showcase the wonderful work Francis House does for our family and many others.

It’s hard to convey the enormity of what it is like to walk the journey we do as a family. There are really

good days and really hard days and sometimes that’s really difficult. But it was important for me to help showcase how amazing and much needed Francis House is, not just for our family, but for the many other families that rely on that support and respite.

We all took part in a video and photoshoot and Flo absolutely loved being the centre of attention! Seeing the results made me really emotional as they were done so well and conveyed the warmth and the support that we as a family get from Francis House. The photos are a beautiful keepsake of a moment in time and I know will be a special reminder.

Words are never enough, but please know how much your kind and generous support, especially in these difficult financial times, means to us as a family and the other families that attend Francis House. The money raised enables Francis House to support families like ours and that means the world to us. We would be lost without the support and love of Francis House.”

Since taking part in the appeal, Riccardo has seen supercars at Francis House and the family attended a Frozen themed Christmas party.

Flo has settled happily into high school, and alongside her caring role, Jen has been busy studying and in placement as a trainee counsellor.

Thank you for helping seriously ill children and their families live every moment to the full.

To help more families like Jen's please use the donation forms on pages 13 and 14 or to donate online visit francishouse.org.uk



TRAFFORD PALAZZO ABSEIL

SUN
28
JUN

Drop
170ft down
the Trafford
Palazzo
Tower in
support of
Francis
House!

Registration
fee: £35

Scan to
learn
more



SIGN UP

franchishouse.org.uk/abseil

pstorey@franchishouse.org.uk

0161 443 2200



FRANCIS HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

EASTER CHICK APPEAL



More than 32,000 chicks and bunnies, knitted by supporters up and down the country, flocked into the hospice during a whirlwind run up to Easter. Many thanks to all who contributed, whether by knitting, crocheting, volunteering, collecting eggs, selling a brood, or simply purchasing a chick. Stand out contributors include Maria Dunbobbin, who knitted more than 1,200 extra special chicks. Joanne at The Windsor Castle pub in Marple drove a tireless campaign to collect

5,027 Creme Eggs - a record-breaking contribution! Plus, volunteers Barbara and Joan opened hundreds of parcels to support our Fundraising Team, as well as lovingly reviving innumerable Chick Hospital patients. The incredible support we receive for our Easter Chick Appeal never ceases to amaze us. Although funds are still being rounded up, it's on track to be one of our best years yet!

Check out:- www.francishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal



CARE TEAM ON THE RUN

It is that time of year again when our incredible supporters are preparing to conquer the streets of Manchester to raise funds for Francis House at the Great Manchester Run.

This year, several members of our very own Hospice care team are stepping forward to take on the 10K race to fundraise for a cause they know so well.

The team is made up of varying running abilities, some have done a race before and others are preparing for this to be their first ever race! Kelly, a Nurse at Francis House, shared how the group has been keeping each other motivated:

“Fitting training in around long shifts and home life hasn’t been easy. We’ve set up a WhatsApp group where we share our progress and encourage each other, which has been incredibly motivating.”

The team understand just how essential fundraising is to sustain the services we provide. Seeing first-hand the impact that donations make has inspired them to take on the challenge and push themselves the extra mile. Megan, also a Nurse on the care team, explained:

“I am aware that we rely on a lot of fundraising and public donations to continue providing care for our children and young people. Being on the care team you truly see how important our service is to the families. Running 10k will definitely be a challenge! I’m looking forward to the atmosphere on the day to keep me motivated to finish the race.”

Our Francis House cheering squad will be there on the day, ready to spur on the team and all our amazing supporters. Go care team, we know you’re going to smash it!

If you would like to work towards a running goal and experience the incredible atmosphere at this year’s Great Manchester Run, why not join our amazing staff and supporters on Sunday 31st May and run for Francis House!



We still have discounted charity places available for both the 10K and the Half Marathon. Register today via our website to secure your spot www.francishouse.org.uk/great-manchester-run



Already purchased your own entry?

We would still love to have you run for us. All you need to do is start your fundraising and let us know!



Members of the Francis House care team lining up for the Great Manchester Run (pictured L-R Kelly, Stephen and Jenny)

Discounted places for 10k and Half Marathon!



Junior & Mini Run
30th May 2026
Run in aid of Francis House!



BIG CHRISTMAS TREECYCLE



National charity Just Helping smashed all previous records, raising an extraordinary £1.85 million for community charities across the UK through its 2026 Big Christmas TreeCycle Appeal. The nationwide campaign saw more than 4,000 volunteers come together to collect, recycle and chip a staggering 89,000 Christmas trees.

Across Manchester more than 250 volunteers and 45 companies collected an incredible 6,773 Christmas trees from homes and businesses. A fleet of more than 130 vans took to the streets and through the generosity of donations an incredible £139,098 was raised for Moya Cole Hospice, Francis House Children's Hospice and other charities across Greater Manchester.

Staff from Bupa in Salford Quays, not only volunteered their time, but also sponsored 25 electric vans to help with the collection. Anna O'Sullivan of Bupa said: "I love getting involved in the Christmas Tree Recycling Appeal. It's such a brilliant campaign for an incredible cause, and it takes place in my local park in Wythenshawe. Knowing that the recycled tree chippings are reused to create new pathways makes it even more special, as it benefits both the charity and the local community. It was a fantastic day of volunteering and a wonderful way to give back."

Francis House is very grateful for the support of the Just Helping team, all the people who registered their tree for collection and everyone who braved the weather to make this year's campaign so successful.

**'Staff from Bupa, Salford Quays,
lend a hand at Wythenshawe Park'**





FRANCIS HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



SKYDIVE FOR FRANCIS HOUSE

Jump from **10,000ft+** and feel the rush as you soar through the sky, all while raising vital funds for Francis House...

Choose from various UK locations

Any date!

Reg. fee: £70 | Fundraising target: £395-£450



0161 443 2200



franchishouse.org.uk/skydive



lbirch@franchishouse.org.uk

With your help we provided...



2,256

+ respite nights for children and young people



387

bereavement support sessions (increase of 47%)



299

homecare visits to family homes and hospitals (increase of 77%)

69

emotional support sessions



217

Day care sessions (More than doubled)



422

Sibling respite nights



192

Rainbow Room Nights



142

One to one Seasons sibling support sessions

Thanks to your support in 2025, we delivered the highest standards of care to the families that we support. With your help we can continue to support children, young people and their families with compassion and dignity.

Sharon Doodson, Director of Care Francis House Children's Hospice.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**SCAN TO
DONATE**

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

I would like to give a single donation by cheque or card.

Please make your cheque payable to **Francis House Children's Hospice**

£10 £30 £50 other £

Card No.

Expiry date / CVC code (last 3 digits on reverse)

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.....

We respect your privacy. If you do not wish to receive information by post, or wish to change how we get in touch, please contact fundraising@francishouse.org.uk or call 0161 443 2200.

THANK YOU

Please return this form with your donation to:

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

MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

To continue to expand and develop our services we need to raise £5.8 million each year. Become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of the children and families that we support.

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit.

Service User Number

2 7 5 0 6 9

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and return it to:
Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrs Wood Road,
Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5NA



Please pay Francis House Children's Hospice monthly:

£10 £15 £25

My own choice £

I wish my donation to be made on the:

1st day of the month 15th day of the month

I would like my first donation to be made during the month of:

(Please choose a start date at least one month from now)

Name & full postal address of your Bank or Building society.

To:

The Manager

Address:

Name of Bank/Building Society

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Instruction to your bank or building society:

Direct Debit payments to Francis House Children's Hospice are securely processed by Go Cardless. Please pay Go Cardless Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Go Cardless and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Branch Sort Code:

Bank / Building Society Account Number:

Enter your email address to receive notifications about your payments:

Signature(s):

Date:

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

The Direct Debit guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Francis House Children's Hospice will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Francis House Children's Hospice to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Francis House Children's Hospice or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Francis House Children's Hospice asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



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.

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(s):

Date:

Thank you for your donation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Francis House is a lifeline to more than 435 families from across Greater Manchester. When life is short it needs to be of the highest quality and that's what Francis House does best.



Parfett's
Christmas ball

£23,652



Harry Sinclair & family
Great Scottish Run

£2,000



MPGPC
3 years of fundraising

£12,500



Roughleys
Bike Show

£2,500



Celeste & Olive
hand made scrunchies

£280



Bluecroft Finance Ltd
Altrincham 10k

£66,000



EVENTS 2026/2027

2026	
The Giant Walk - Hale to Hale	10th May
Great Manchester Junior and Mini Run	30th May
Great Manchester Run - 10k & Half Marathon	31st May
Great North SwimRun	13th June
Trafford Centre Palazzo Abseil	28th June
Peak District Ultra Challenge	4th & 5th July
Skydive	Various dates
STEPtember	1st - 30th September
Altrincham 10k	6th September
Francis House Gala Ball	14th November
A Christmas Story	4th December
2027	
Winter Wander	1st - 31st January
Manchester Marathon	18th April
TCS London Marathon	25th April



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

← Scan to visit the Challenge Events page.

STOP PRESS!

Run Altrincham 10k! We have a limited number of **HALF PRICE** places to offer our supporters in this unique closed road race around Altrincham on Sunday 6th September 2026. Normal entry fee of £40 is discounted to just £20 with a fundraising target of £50. Sign up via francishouse.org.uk/altrincham-10k

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 fundraising@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

www.francishouse.org.uk

FrancisHouseChildrensHospice

www.instagram.com/francishousech/