



AUTUMN 2026 NEWSLETTER

- Wishes and Dreams at Francis House
- Discover the Rainbow Road art trail
- Fantastic fundraisers



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Dear Friends,

As another wonderful summer draws to a close, I am delighted to welcome you to our latest newsletter.



The past few months have been filled with laughter, friendship and countless special moments at Francis House. There is always something magical about summer at the hospice. The gardens come alive, families spend more time together outdoors and our children and young people enjoy experiences that create memories to treasure.

Within these pages you'll see just some of the wonderful activities that have taken place over recent months. From our ever-popular Teddy Bears' Picnic and the excitement of Circus Starr to colourful performances from visiting entertainers, cake making with our Youth Group and plenty of visits from some very special guests – including a Princess and Fergus, our much-loved therapy dog – for many

of our families, these experiences provide the chance to set aside the challenges of everyday life and simply enjoy being together. Every activity, however big or small, has been carefully planned to give the children and families we support the opportunity to create special memories.

We are also delighted to introduce Rainbow Road, a wonderful new community project linking Francis House with our two residential care homes at 463 and 92. Created by the young people who use our services alongside local schools, community groups and the talented team at GRIT Studios, Rainbow Road is a brand-new ceramic tile trail celebrating creativity, connection and community.

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

Hidden throughout the local area, each handmade tile tells its own unique story, creating a colourful journey that reflects the lives, hopes and talents of everyone involved. Read more about Rainbow Road on page 8.

As always, none of this would be possible without your incredible support. Whether you have donated, attended one of our events, played our lottery, remembered us in your Will or simply helped spread the word about Francis House, you are helping us provide compassionate care and create precious memories for hundreds of local families living with the challenges of a life-shortening condition.

As we look ahead to the months ahead, we hope many of you will join us at our Francis House Open Day on Saturday 7 November. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit the

hospice, meet some of our team and see first-hand the difference your support makes. Alongside our Christmas Story Service, Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme and other festive activities, there are plenty of ways to get involved as we head towards the end of another memorable year.

Thank you, as always, for being part of the Francis House family.

With my warmest thanks,

Rachael Taylor

Chief Executive Officer

Newsletter Mailing List



If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post, please contact the fundraising office on **0161 443 2200** or **fundraising@francishouse.org.uk** and ask to be removed. To subscribe to our monthly supporter newsletter via email and view our newsletters online visit

www.francishouse.org.uk/newsletters



WISHES AND DREAMS

Francis House surrounds seriously ill children and their families with love and life, helping them to live every moment to the full, to embrace joy and happiness, and to be themselves in a warm and welcoming home from home.





Thank you for your support!



Francis House
Children's Hospice
invite you to their annual ball...

Starlight Gala

Saturday 14th November

Welcome Drinks 7pm | Carriages 1am



Mottram Hall

Wilmslow Road, Mottram, SK10 4QT



Tickets: £95

Three-Course
Dinner

Live Party
Band

Exclusive
Auction Prizes



Black Tie

franchishouse.org.uk/starlight-gala



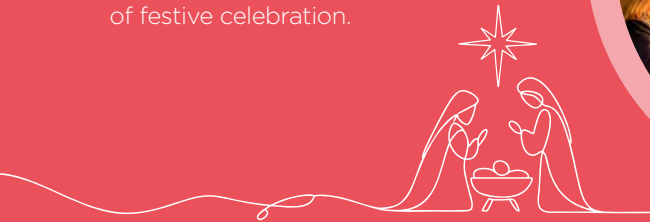
FRANCIS HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
Registered Charity No. 328659

CHRISTMAS STORY SERVICE

St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish will once again be opening its doors, on Friday, 4th December, for a spectacular evening of carols, festive music and celebration in support of Francis House.

This beautiful candlelit event will feature performances from the choir and musicians of St Elisabeth's Church, soloists Hayley Swanton and Rachel Gilmore, Stockport Schools Brass Band and VIP guests, all coming together to create a fantastic evening of festive celebration.

To reserve your place please contact Susie on 07931 642409, or book online at www.francishouse.org.uk/christmas-story-service



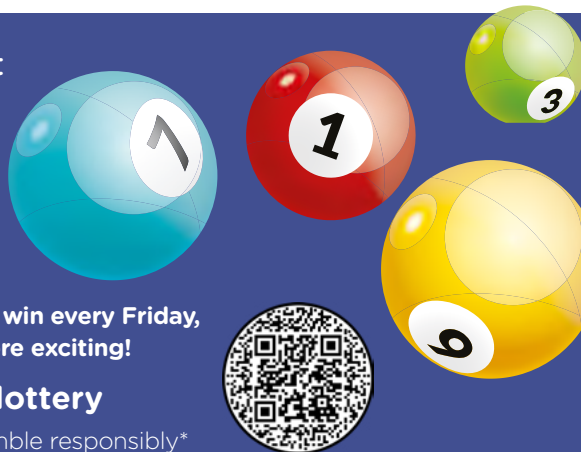
GIVE A LOTTERY GIFT VOUCHER

Looking for a gift idea that really makes a difference?

From just £10, you can buy Francis House Weekly Lottery entries for someone special, giving them the chance to win up to £25,000 while helping to support the vital work of Francis House. **With a new chance to win every Friday, why not make every week a little more exciting!**

www.francishouse.org.uk/lottery

18+, GB only, T&Cs apply. Always gamble responsibly



DISCOVER RAINBOW ROAD

A Colourful Community Trail linking Heaton Mersey and Didsbury.

Created by GRIT Studios in partnership with Francis House Children's Hospice, Rainbow Road is a 5 km walking trail featuring dozens of handcrafted ceramic rainbow tiles hidden in plain sight along local streets and neighbourhoods. Each colourful tile tells its own story and together they create a trail celebrating creativity, community and connection.

If you are looking for a leisurely stroll, a family adventure, or simply an excuse to get outdoors, Rainbow Road offers a chance to see familiar places from a fresh perspective. Along the way you'll discover unique pieces of artwork, explore local streets and green spaces, and experience the creativity and community spirit that brought the project to life.

Every ceramic tile has been designed and made by members of the local community, including young people and staff from Francis House, local schools, residents, volunteer groups and businesses. No two tiles are the same, making every stop along the trail a new discovery.



Rainbow Road began as a way of connecting the hospice with the residential care homes for young people with life-shortening conditions and complex needs in Didsbury and Heaton Mersey. The trail connects people as much as it connects places, and the hope is that everyone who visits will enjoy discovering the artwork and the stories behind it.

The project was made possible thanks to GRIT studios Sophie Macaulay, ceramic artists Alison Waters and Sarah Pink, who led workshops to help participants design and create the colourful tiles. Illustrator John Cooper worked with the young people to produce the official trail map, while community group Heaton's Men in Sheds helped install the artwork, ensuring every tile found its home along the route.

Why not gather your family and friends, download your free trail map and start your Rainbow Road adventure www.fhrainbowroad.co.uk.

RAINBOW ROAD



CHRISTMAS TREECYCLE

In the New Year, we work with Moya Cole Hospice and national charity Just Helping to collect and recycle Christmas trees from homes in parts of Greater Manchester. In 2026, the appeal raised £30,000 for Francis House and the success of our Christmas TreeCycle Appeal relies heavily on volunteers especially those with a van!

We need:

VANS & DRIVERS from 13 – 17th January and a helper to collect the trees

VAN COMPANIES to donate vans, their time and a driver

150 VANS in total. Luton or Long Wheelbase Vans are the best!



1 VAN = 100 trees per day = £1,500 approximately in funds!

Registration for us to collect your tree closes on 9th January with collections starting from 13th January 2027.

To volunteer as Ground Crew or to help with providing a van please contact Kate Puc on **0161 443 2200**.

KNITTERS NEEDED

It may only be autumn, but it's time to start thinking about our Easter Chick Appeal.

With Easter falling earlier again, we'll need all knitted chicks, bunnies and lambs on or before 22nd February 2027. Every handmade creation helps raise vital funds to support local children and their families. So please pick up your needles and get started!



Visit www.francishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal

Or contact Chief Chick, Laura, on lbirch@francishouse.org.uk

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

Through their dedication, creativity and generosity, the fundraising efforts of our fantastic supporters do so much more than help us to continue providing vital care for children and families.



THANK YOU!

Help us continue this important work
Contact our Fundraising Team on
0161 443 2200
fundraising@francishouse.org.uk



WILLING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

£6000

In donations raised
through the scheme
to date



Join our Make a Will Month campaign to safeguard your family's future with a first Will or an updated Will and help support Francis House Children's Hospice.

During the month of September, you can have a Will written by Northwest solicitors partnering in our **Make a Will** Month scheme. Participating legal firms are giving their time to you free of charge to draw up a simple Will or amend an existing Will in return for a suggested donation to Francis House.

- **£100 for an individual Will**
- **£175 for a mirror Will for married couples or partners.**

This represents a substantial saving on the standard fees for the service!

The Will Month enables you to get the Will you need for less than you would usually pay for the services of a specialist Will lawyer, and your kind Will donations allow Francis House to provide the very best care to the children, young people and their families.

To you, it is a donation of £100 for a Will in lieu of legal fees, but to Francis House, that £100 can help fund the salary of a play therapist whose vital role is to bring a smile to a child needing Hospice support.

For more information about Make a Will Month and participating legal firms in your area, contact **susie.poppitt@francishouse.org.uk** call Susie on **07931 642409** or visit **francishouse.org.uk/will-month**



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 MM / YY CVC code (last 3 digits on reverse)

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 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 Parrs 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:

Address:

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

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

MEET THE TRUSTEE

Jane Kempler - Chair of the Trustees



What is your background?

I've spent over 40 years in corporate roles, building experience across sales, customer service, and operations. My career has included setting up and managing call centres before moving into outsourced call centre and IT solutions. I have had a very interesting and varied career where customer service has always been at the heart of my success.

How have you applied that experience to the role?

I have been able to use my experience to help and support the Francis House team in many aspects, from operations, marketing and people management.

Why did you want to become a trustee?

I had always been aware of Francis House and joined them on my first charity trek from the Dead Sea to Petra in 2013. I went on a further 3 charity treks and got to know the importance of the care and support that is delivered to the families. The more that I learned the more I wanted to help.

What does your role involve?

Governance, it's the role of the Trustees to ensure that Francis House remains financially stable, legally compliant and true to its mission of providing compassionate care. Together with my fellow Trustees, I provide advice and guidance to the Francis House Management Team.

What are you most proud of?

The Francis House Team, every single one of them. They offer the most amazing service to the children, young adults and families at the most difficult and challenging times. I am constantly in awe of their passion and dedication.

What's your secret talent?

If I told you that it wouldn't be a secret! I wish I could say that I could sing, dance or play the piano but those skills passed me by. I am very social and pride myself on bringing people together and organising social events.

OPEN DAY



SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2026

10am - 4pm

Pop along any time -
no appointment necessary!



TAKE A GUIDED TOUR

See how your donations help to support hundreds of families from across Greater Manchester.

EVERYONE WELCOME

390 Parrs Wood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

For more information:

<https://www.francishouse.org.uk/open-day-november>

