

Your gift to children with life limiting illnesses

React is a unique charity able to respond to the needs of children anywhere in the UK who are suffering from a terminal or potentially terminal condition. Our aim is to give children the best quality of life possible in the short time they have left. Whatever you can give will help families struggling to give their child the best care they can. **Thank you.**

Please complete your name and address details below so that we can reclaim the tax on your donation and keep you in touch with our work.

YOUR DETAILS

Your title and full name

Address

Postcode

YOUR GIFT TO REACT

Please accept my gift of £10 £25 £50 £

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to REACT

OR please debit my MasterCard/VISA/CAF Card/Switch/Delta

Card No.

Start date ___ / ___ Expiry date ___ / ___

Issue no. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature

Date

REMEMBER YOU CAN GIFT AID YOUR REGULAR DONATION
(See Gift declaration below)

giftaid it Make your gift worth nearly a third more at no extra cost to you!

I would like REACT to Gift Aid this donation and all donations I have made since 6 April 2000. I am a UK tax payer and will tell you of any changes in my tax status or address.

The Inland Revenue have asked us to remind you that you must pay an amount of income tax and or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that REACT reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH A REGULAR GIFT

By making a regular gift you can help a child with a terminal illness throughout their short life. Your regular support means we can say YES to every call for help.

Please pay REACT £_____ each month/year (delete as appropriate)

Starting on _____ (please make this date one month from now) until further notice and debit my account number

Bank sort code

Signature

To the Manager (bank name and address)

Postcode

Please pay REACT, Account No. 00886556, Barclays Bank, George Street, Richmond, TW9 1JU Sort code 20-72-17

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

Latest news

Marathon success

Congratulations to our team of 7 London Marathon runners. Between them we hope to have raised over £10,000. Meanwhile we are still looking for runners for the London 10K race in July.

Madagascar premiere

The Kingston Odeon is holding a special local premiere in June of 'Madagascar', the new film from Dreamworks who are responsible for huge hits like Shrek. Tickets available from the React office. Thank you to UIP and Kingston Odeon for pledging all proceeds to React.



React video

Our own film production is now underway thanks to local filmmaker Paul Lucas. The new video will allow us to introduce our work to potential new supporters.

Blackpool holidays

We've been able to add to the locations we can offer for a React holiday break thanks to the Presidents Club who have donated funds for us to buy a new mobile home in Blackpool.

Special thanks

React continues to benefit from the generosity of local businesses in the Kew area both large and small. The IMG – TW1 company have already raised £2,000 for our work this year. Thanks also to Andreas at Starbucks in Chiswick who has organised endless raffles for React and persuaded his colleague Victor to run for us in the London marathon.

We are delighted that Help a Local Child has donated £5,000 towards specialist equipment for React children in Birmingham. The Aquarius Charitable Foundation has contributed £700 towards helping two children in Norfolk, and Wickes Aid, who have supported us for a number of years, and recently donated a further £1,000 to our work.

Charity 'Promises' Auction

Please support a mid-summer charity auction in aid of React and St. Luke's by either attending or pledging a 'promise'. The event starts at 7.30pm on Friday 24 June at St. Luke's Church, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

DONATE YOUR OLD MOBILES

Do you have an old mobile phone?

Is your company about to upgrade staff mobiles?

React has joined forces with phone retailer The Link, and Fonebak, the world's leading mobile phone re-use and recycling company to raise funds for our vital work.

Send us your old mobiles and we can turn them into cash for React children.



React

React provides practical help for children with life-limiting illnesses, living at home, particularly those who are financially disadvantaged. Our aim is to give assistance as quickly and as fully as possible.

St Luke's House, 270 Sandycroft Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3NP Tel: 020 8940 2575 Fax: 020 8940 2050

Email: react@reactcharity.org Website: www.reactcharity.org

Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness. Registered charity no. 802440

RAPID EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH POTENTIALLY TERMINAL ILLNESS

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

Please pass
this newsletter
onto a friend
to help even
more children

Under pressure

Shae Weir and his mother Kirsty were under considerable pressure. Shae has Cystic Fibrosis and at the start of the year he was admitted to hospital once again with a serious chest infection. As usual, Kirsty stayed with him while Shae was given a course of strong antibiotics.

To add to the worry and stress of caring for Shae, the council told Kirsty she had just three days to move into a new house that had a ground floor bedroom and toilet for Shae. It meant Kirsty wouldn't have to carry her son upstairs each time he needed the toilet, which is frequently due to the effect of the antibiotics.

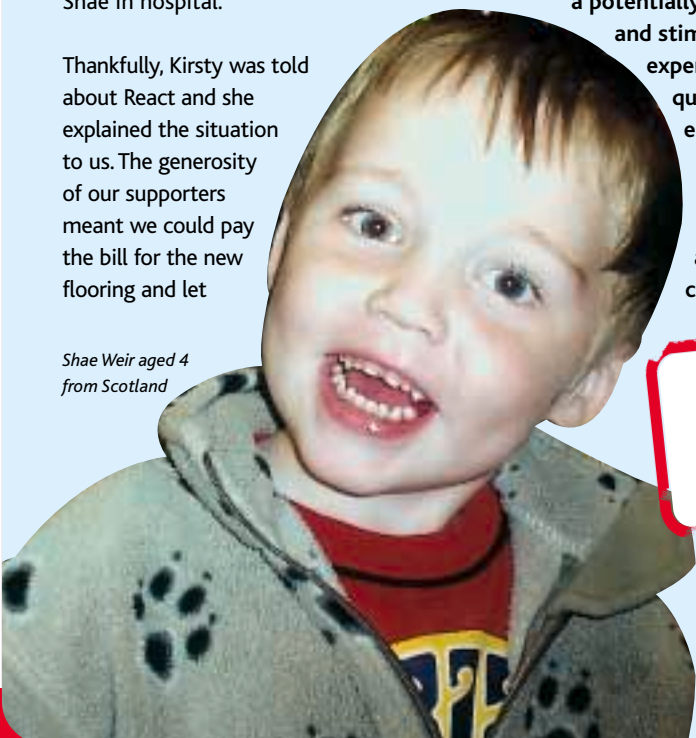
THE NEW HOUSE needed flooring that could be kept dust free to minimise Shae's chest infections and it was an extra cost that Kirsty hadn't expected and could not afford: "I didn't need the mental pressure of worrying about furnishing a new house at short notice when I just wanted to be with Shae in hospital."

Thankfully, Kirsty was told about React and she explained the situation to us. The generosity of our supporters meant we could pay the bill for the new flooring and let

Kirsty care for Shae in hospital. "Life's much easier for both of us in the new house and being able to sort out the flooring was extremely important, it took the pressure off just at the right time."

React aims to give children living with a potentially terminal illness the care and stimulation they need to experience the best possible quality of life. We rely entirely on voluntary donations to continue our work. That means every pound you give will make a real difference to a child like Shae.

Shae Weir aged 4
from Scotland



If 20 supporters
each gave £25 we
could help another
child like Shae

"It took the
pressure off just
at the right time."

Kirsty Weir

Sporting heroes



James Cracknell cutting the starting ribbon for our sponsored walk at Kew Gardens

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST James Cracknell and Rugby Union World Cup champion Lawrence Dallaglio, have so far helped React to raise more than £4,000. The sporting heroes joined us in a day of fundraising events at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew starting with a sponsored walk from the famous Nash conservatory. More than 800 local school children joined in the fun too. See inside for more details.

Inside this issue

Adam goes to the dogs
Charlene stays ambitious
Ieuan's new world

PLUS

Cash in your old mobile

In the spotlight



Karen and Gary Wyatt

WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET some more of our dedicated volunteers and in this issue the spotlight falls on Karen and Gary Wyatt, who have been React's accountants for the past eight years.

"It all started when one of our children came home from school with a React newsletter. With two healthy children of our own, we were extremely moved by such a worthwhile cause. We wanted to know how we could help and, as we specialise in providing accountancy services to owner-managed businesses, this seemed an obvious skill to offer and Gary telephoned React to see if we could be of assistance to the charity in this capacity.

We are so pleased to be able to look after all React's accounting requirements so that their valuable funds can be directed to the children who need them, rather than paying for costly administration and overheads. It is also a pleasure to be involved with the charity on a personal level, attending and occasionally sponsoring their many events, and we are delighted to see our children also taking an interest and participating in local activities.

Having worked alongside React staff for many years, we see how committed they are to the families they work with, and know how valued we are by the team, enabling them to focus more of their time and money on the children."

Every pound makes a difference

It's been an exciting few months at React and in this issue we have some wonderful fundraising events to report on, and some more special children for you to meet.

This year's Night at the Dogs on 8th March raised just over £11,000 with 110 guests attending the event at Wimbledon Stadium.

As you know, without our constant fundraising work we couldn't give the help we provide to children

living with a potentially terminal illness. There is no doubt just how essential that help is.

React parents live in a state of permanent emotional turmoil caring for their children and knowing they have only a limited time left with them. But what often goes unrecognised is the enormous financial burden they must also face, often giving up work to care for their child 24 hours a day. Basic necessities can be difficult to afford – let alone

specialist equipment. Here at React we aim to give children the comfort and stimulation they deserve so they can make the most of life.

It means parents can concentrate on giving their children the love and care they need without the constant worry of finding funds to purchase essential items.

Please continue to support us. Every pound you give will make a difference.

A new world for leuan

IEUAN'S FAMILY used to enjoy bike rides in the park and woods near their home in North Wales. His mother Sharon cannot drive so it was the only chance they had to get out as a family and enjoy some fresh air.

leuan has Dandy Walker syndrome, which is a malformation of the brain. It means he has lost his sight and has limited hearing as well as severe physical disabilities. With leuan now dependent on his pushchair, the bike rides to the woods had become a thing of the past. However, leuan's

paediatrician believed they were just what he needed to stimulate his senses and encourage what limited communication he had.

The answer was a special Kangoo Rehab buggy, which can be attached to the back of mum's bike and allow leuan to be pulled along in safety and comfort. The cost for such specialist equipment is enormous, and the family approached React for help. Mum Sharon is looking forward to the buggy's arrival which has been ordered and delivery is expected in the next few weeks: "It's going to open up another

Can we help?

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD who could benefit from React's help? For rapid, effective assistance please call for friendly advice and support **020 8940 2575**.

world for leuan...all the textures and smells, being able to feel the pine cones and the leaves. The stimulation will be great for him."

React approached the Wales based David McLean Group, one of Britain's largest commercial and residential construction businesses, to ask if they could help with the cost of leuan's buggy. They were more than happy to – in fact they wanted to fund the whole cost of more than £2,500. Ashling Whelan from David McLean told us: "We are delighted to be helping leuan and his family. React are doing tremendous work in Wales and across the UK."



leuan Rusowicz from Deeside, Wales

**DAVID
MCLEAN**



Charlene Gay
aged 17 from
Scotland

Ambitious

CHARLENE GAY is an enthusiastic wheelchair-curling player and recently took part in the Scottish national championships. But success in curling is not her only ambition.

Charlene's also busy studying for exams this summer and hopes to become a medical illustrator. It's a career she's determined to achieve despite her medical condition, which has caused her whole spine to be covered in tumours. Charlene also suffers from excessive fluid around her brain that causes

pressure on her skull, painful headaches and constant sweating as well as a bladder condition. It means Charlene's mother Margaret is always washing and drying her clothes.

So when the family tumble dryer broke down it was a real problem as Margaret explained to us: "I was having to drape Charlene's clothes around the house to dry but the dampness in the air wasn't good for her chest." A call to React soon sorted out the crisis and a new tumble dryer was despatched within days.

"The tumble dryer is essential equipment for us. We were lost without it. Thank you for your help it makes life that little bit easier."

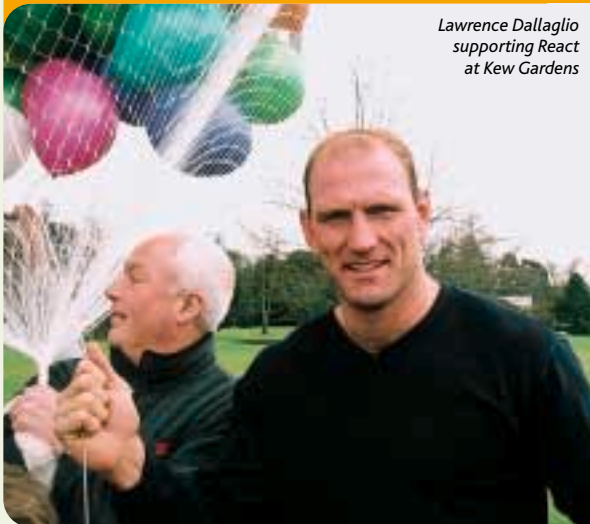
Margaret Gay

If just six supporters could each give £25 we could help another youngster like Charlene.

Children helping Children

THE MAGNIFICENT ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AT KEW played host on 14 March to a most ambitious and exciting fundraising event. More than 800 local primary school children came to the Gardens to take part in a sponsored walk and balloon race.

We were delighted to welcome two sporting heroes to the event, James Cracknell and Lawrence Dallaglio, who helped us to officially start the walk and launch a thousand balloons. So far £4,000 has been raised and money is still coming in. The final total will be divided between React and the Medicinal Plants Appeal run by Kew Gardens. Many thanks to Jane Spencer and Sarah Allan for organising the event and to all the schools who took part: The Queen's Church of England Primary School, Kew Riverside Primary School, Darrell Primary School, The Unicorn School, Kew College, and Kew Green Preparatory School. And of course, a very special thank you and well done to all the children who took part in the walk.



Lawrence Dallaglio
supporting React
at Kew Gardens

ReAction

Adam's Night at the Dogs



React's newest
member of
staff, Hayley,
meets Adam

fought for him for 18 years, making sure he gets all the help he needs. What's so great about React is that when times are tough and money is difficult you feel like someone else is fighting for you too.

"Help with specialist toys and DVDs has proved great for Adam. We want to keep him active and occupied and that gets harder as he gets older. React really understands what youngsters need as they get older. So many other charities stop helping once the children get to sixteen but React has kept with us."

Francesca Jones

OUR GUEST OF HONOUR at this year's Night at the Dogs was Adam Evans who was celebrating his 18th birthday. Adam experiences periods when he stops breathing because of damage to his lungs caused by his premature birth. He also has severe epilepsy and learning difficulties, hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy. Adam's mother, Francesca, told React News what the evening meant to them:

"Adam was so happy, it was his best evening out ever. Everyone made us feel so welcome on the night. We didn't expect him to live beyond his 2nd birthday so it felt like quite an achievement for all of us. I feel like I've

A big thank you to Kim Bach Nielson and Debbie Fife for rallying enthusiasm and helping to make the event such a success.



Colin, Francesca
and Adam Jones
with Vicky
from React