Children With Cancer Fund Polegate

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REG CHARITY NO: 1110644

Hello and thank you for wanting to know more about Children With Cancer Fund. As requested we are pleased to send you a copy of the information pack. We DO NOT knock on doors collecting money or go from pub to pub begging, we don't even keep sending you unwanted junk mail asking for more. But, we are LOCAL and are grateful to anyone who supports us.

Thank you in advance for reading the pack and any feedback will be welcome.

The aim

The aim of Children With Cancer Fund (C.W.C.F) is to raise money and distribute it to families, and causes, that are associated with children up to the age of 18 who have had, or are suffering from, a form of cancer, and who live in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove.

How were we set up?

Four of us: Chris and Ursula Downton, Kirsty (Ursula's sister) & James Denny were sitting in a pub and decided that we needed something to do. All of us had been involved in various groups before but we wanted our own project. It had to be something that we all believed in so we went around the table and said what we felt true conviction for. Two main themes emerged; they were children and cancer, so from then on the **Children With Cancer Fund** was born. That was in July 1998. We adopted a logo that we thought fitted what we do, hence a sick child with a thermometer in his mouth and a jolly child dancing; which is what we want to do, make a poorly child , happy.

Who else?

It is not only the four of us. Behind us, and without whom we could not do what we do, is a great bunch of family and friends. They span from young to the more mature but again they all love doing what we do and believe in the end result, making the quality of life a bit better for the children and their families we help.

As time moved on Kirsty & James moved to London for work and although they still helped out, Maggie & Dave Barnett and Ashley & Heidi Ireland took over their places and since then we have been lucky to have Vicky & Simon Miller and Karen & Richard Parkhurst join us (or should we say roped in!).

The story continues

We set ourselves up, we had some great ideas for raising funds, and we had help, so where did we go from here?

Fund raising with a sponsored walk, a boot fair and even a balloon race.

As we did events to raise money the press and T.V picked up on us. We also did some radio promotions telling people what we were going to do and the snowball effect started happening. Joy, one of our neighbours, was raising funds for the Oncology/Family Room on the children's ward at Eastbourne's D.G.H so we decided to buy some items for them. Gemma, a Polegate girl, with leukaemia wished to go to EuroDisney which we managed to organise for her. Things really began to take off. After this people in the surrounding area saw where their money had gone and liked it.

We then started coming up against RED TAPE. It was frustrating to know that there were children out there but we were unable to contact them. Luckily for us we were put in touch with Louise Pike, the local children's community nurse at Eastbourne's District General Hospital, who works with the children in their own homes. We asked her if she would, in her general conversation with the families, mention us and see if there was any way that we could help them. Thankfully both her and her bosses agreed to this request and a great working partnership began to unfold.

The booklets we bought and Louise being presented with a syringe pump.

Over the years we have bought Louise several Syringe Pumps. This is a piece of equipment that allows her to administer drugs to children over a long period of time, but in the comfort of the child's own home. "The pump takes away the necessity for the children to go into hospital, which makes their lives as well as their families lives much easier", said Louise. We have also bought her information booklets that she hands out to schools where a child that has cancer is attending.

We now have local links with Demelza James and the C.L.I.C. Sargent teams that work with cancer families in our area. They offer community nursing to these families and know about the needs of families going through treatment. These large organisations often turn to us because they know we are able to respond quickly to their wishes, unlike some groups they can approach where they have to wait for decisions to be made at various meetings or paper work to be completed. Unfortunately this delay can sometimes be too late for the families involved.

Finances

As things moved on and C.W.C.F. got a bit bigger we drew up a Constitution. This would be available to anyone who helped us or took an interest in what we did. The idea was to become a registered charity for which a constitution was a necessity. We received the paper work from the Charity Commission and set about filling in the forms and at the end of July 2005 we received our number, 1110644. Luckily for us Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services (EAVS) had a man that helped us through the slow process of registration.

We are affiliated to E.A.V.S (Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services)

EAVS
Member of NACVS

and proud to be so, we also keep them updated on what we are doing, or have done. They are very supportive and if we have any problems, they can normally point us in the direction of someone that can help. We are a small group of family, friends and neighbours, where none of us are paid for what we do and the money raised goes directly into C.W.C.F.

Fundraising

This really comes under the finances heading and with a little help from everyone it can be done. Things have changed since we started, in those days none of us had children of our own and if we needed money for a wish we had to think of the idea and go for it. For example, tombola's, Band concerts, china smashing stalls and antique fairs, to name just a few.

Now with young children ourselves things are different, but in a good way. People have heard and seen what we do and often do events for us, some we don't even know about until they have happened and we are sent a cheque. The annual newsletter that we produce spurs groups into doing something for us. There are a few people that have set up standing orders with their banks for us and we have an ever increasing number of penny boxes out in the community. We have also received in memory donations, but through all the changes nothing beats getting out there and having FUN whilst FUNdraising.

The projects/wishes

We intend to cover projects that will enable the children, and families of children with cancer, to have the quality of life that we would hope to have ourselves. If this means that by purchasing a piece of equipment, e.g. educational or medical, or a special toy, we would try to buy it. Alternatively, time spent together out of the normal living environment, like a holiday may be of benefit. If so, then we would try and arrange this. Even assisting a local hospital/hospice to aid recovery or make the last part of a child's life more bearable may be the project we will be working on.

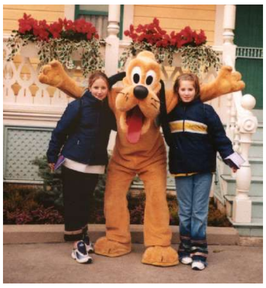

Play equipment,


Holidays


TV & video


games


bicycles


EuroDisney


London Eye


laptops


and caravan holidays

The first project, was one that would benefit not just the select few but many children; the Children's ward Oncology/Family room for very sick children at Eastbourne's D.G.H. but as you will see we have granted lots of wishes to many families and the list keeps getting bigger.

After all the children and the families have been through their wishes are often very small, one of the wish lists read like this……"please may I have a chrome scooter, a Game Boy game or a computer game for my brother". The total price for all three worked out at about £100 and he would have been more than happy with one of the items.

Sometimes we meet the families and grant the children's wishes during their treatment. When the treatment has come to an end we like to support the families in simple ways like taking them to the panto or buying them Easter eggs, as we know this is the sort of things they miss out on during treatment.

As well as the children we have mentioned here there are those that we have helped but wish NO publicity. We respect their wish and know that different people deal with things in their own way. In all these children the determination and most of all, their smile when they get their wish is just as big, so, we as C.W.C.F. say thank you for helping us to help them.

These children are just some of them that said "thank you"

PATRON

Neil Pringle

Again it was brought to our attention that a figurehead as a patron would be good for C.W.C.F, so in our second newsletter we asked if anyone knew of such a person. Our patron is a person who has a quarter of a million people listening to him each day during the week, - **Neil Pringle.** Neil is the voice on BBC Southern Counties Radio and has supported C.W.C.F since we started. He has put out various successful appeals for us on his show gaining us vital equipment, as well as promoting events that we have held. Neil has also drawn the crowds by appearing at a major fundraising event.
The public respects him and we are proud of the fact that he has enough belief in what we do for him to put his name to our small group.

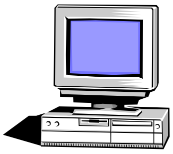
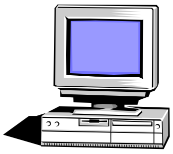
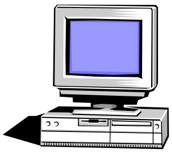
Holiday Break


The Caravan in Ore near Hastings – large lounge/dining area – fully fitted kitchen – double glazed & centrally heated.

One of the things that we had suggested to us was to get a holiday home so families could escape, or as somewhere where families could have some quality time together away from their normal environment. We were lucky enough, with the help from various golf clubs, groups, Clubs and individuals, to be able to purchase an 8 berth caravan. It has been well used but there were some families who desperately needed to "get away from it all" when the weather was cooler and the first caravan did not have very good heating, so in May 2007 we up graded to this lovely caravan that families can use 10 months of the year as it is double glazed and centrally heated.

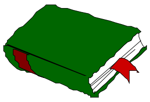
The caravan is on a beautiful site just outside Ore, Hastings and is within 5 minutes of the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, so medical support is on hand if needed. The holiday retreat is there for the families and the letters we get from them prove that they are well appreciated. Check out our web site and click on the family breaks link for more information.

C.W.C.F on the web

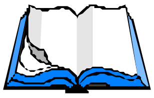




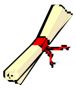
If you are reading this on line then you will know that our web address is:- www.childrenwithcancerfund.co.uk but you may have asked for this information pack at a meeting so you will not know what a great job Kevin has done for us (free of charge) with our web site . It hopefully shows us in action raising money or granting wishes and it also tells new families about things we have done in the past. The web site is regularly updated (when time allows, with our three children) and there is an e-mail link. Our thanks to Kevin for sorting out the web site. He always wants to hear how he can make the web site better.
His address is kevin@activemailorder.org.uk .

Below are just a few of the letters we have received from the children about their wishes.



Gemma's Disney Diary





It was February 14th 2000, the day we were going to Disneyland Paris. Our taxi arrived at 7am & by 2.30pm we were at the hotel. It was called Cheyenne and it had a Western theme throughout. First we settled in & then made our way to the park. We went on Space mountain, we only went on it the once as it made us feel a little queasy. Then we went in Alice's curious labyrinth were you can get lost in the maze of hedges. Next morning after breakfast we caught the free shuttle bus to the park and made our way to Fantasyland, where we had rides on Dumbo & the Mad Hatters tea cups. Then we went in Snow White's castle and saw the seven dwarfs. Our favourite ride was Peter Pan's flight where you fly through the clouds over the roofs of London. The next day we went to Adventure Land & Frontier Land where we went on big thunder mountain (a runaway mine train). In the afternoon we went to Disney village. Thursday was our last day so we packed our cases before going to the park to meet the Disney characters. Later in the day we watched the parade which was very colourful with fantastic floats, before leaving for home. We arrived in Polegate late in the evening very tired and sad that the holiday was over. Thank you for my lovely holiday. Love Gemma White

My trip to London

On Friday I came home from school. My mum had already packed our bags. I was really excited. The taxi came to pick us up. He took us to the station and we got on the train. We arrived at Victoria station and went to the hotel. The hotel was lovely. Darren (my brother) and I shared a room. We had pizza for dinner. On Saturday we went to the Planetarium and then Madam Tusaud's to look at the statues. They all looked like real people. We had an ice cream in Regents Park and then went for a McDonalds. We caught a taxi to the Lion King show in the evening. It was fantastic, especially the costumes. I really enjoyed the show. On Sunday we looked around the shops, one was Hamleys. At lunchtime we went on the London Eye. I took lots of photographs. You could see all over London. It was brilliant. I wasn't scared but my Mum was to start with. We took the train home. We had a fabulous weekend away. Thank you.

Written by Leanne Lane

A letter from Jack's dad

Dear All involved with C.W.C.F,
Just a quick note to say, thank you so much for the trip to Oasis in Cumbria, we all had a fantastic time.
The lodge we stayed in was tucked amongst tall pine trees in clusters of other lodges. The lodges were very spacious and luxurious with a fully fitted kitchen and open fire. There was also Sky TV, which the boys loved.
The main Oasis centre was located about 800 yards away and we would use bikes, which we hired there to get to it. The bikes were great fun as cars were not allowed to use the tracks in the week. We went swimming most days as the swimming pools were amazing with massive flumes and water rapids.
We managed to do a different sport each day which included the following: horse riding, archery, short tennis, tennis, indoor bowls, snooker, fencing and squash !! We also went to a fantastic show with a Blues Brothers theme and a couple of films - yes all this in one week !! We also managed, on a fine afternoon, to pop across to the Lakes and stopped at the side of Derwent Water for the views.
Thanks again to the Children with Cancer Fund, the holiday was perfectly timed as Jack had finished his Chemo six weeks previously and had had his Hickman line removed making swimming possible for the first time in a year. To swim in a huge pool had been a massive dream for him during his treatment. Also Jack told us that this holiday 'opened up his life again' because during that week he realised that he could tackle all sorts of exciting activities as a result of the success of his treatment, something which none of us knew of at that time.
All the best,
Richard, Alison, Tom and Jack

NOTE Unfortunately, Jack lost his fight against cancer a few years later.

From Ricardo

Just to say thank you very much for my computer. It was such a nice gift to receive on my 5th birthday. I will make good use of it. Thanks again.

A letter from Mel

Dear C.W.C.F,

We would just like to say a big thank you for the recent gifts you gave us. I have spent many hours per day on my Playstation. My sister has spent her vouchers on Cd's, books, some stationery and some Dvd's. My brother is overwhelmed with his new BMX and when the weather allows, he is always out on it. My baby sister is very happy in the garden with her play tent, tunnels and play balls.

Lots of love, Mel & Family

A letter from Elouise

Dear C.W.C.F.
>
> Thank you very very much for my laptop, I was over the moon to get it because I have wanted one for ages.
> I cann't stop using it. I shall definitely take it to the marsden with me it will really pass the time, I'll be e-mailing my
> friends constantly.
>
> Thank you
>
> Love
> Elouise
> xxxxxxxxx

Below is a list of some of the wishes we have granted. It is frightening to think that something that started off as a chat over a drink has turned into what CWCF is today and it is thanks to everyone who has supported us, so if you are one of them, thank you for what you have helped us achieve.

Some of the wishes granted so far

Bikes (4 in total inc brothers),
EuroDisney trip,
Spanish holiday,
London weekend trip,
West End show,
Trip on London Eye,
Swimming with dolphins,
Tricycle,
Computer & tuition,
Mountain bikes,
Computers,
Club house shed,
School uniforms,
Wide screen TV,
CD systems,
Store shed,
Scooter,
Oasis holiday,
Computer games,
X-box,
Moving & Furniture money,
Video vouchers,
Theme park passes,
Electric bed,
Play house,
Concert tickets,
Holiday spending money,
Turkish holiday,
Wheel chair & special pads,
Mobile phone & credit,
WHSmiths vouchers,
ELC vouchers,
French Farmhouse holiday with ferry crossing,
Futuroscope, themed holiday,
Head & body support,
£350 towards a holiday,
TV/Video combined,
Board Games & colouring equipment,
CD's, video's and DVD's
Christmas food vouchers,
Easter eggs,
Panto trips with sweet packs,
Play equipment,
Syringe pumps for Community nurses,
Two scooters,
A day out at Chessington, with a Rolls Royce as their taxi for the day,
Money for decorating a child's bedroom,
Laptop computers,
Nursery fees,
Digital camera,
A car,
A Butlins holiday,
Fishing equipment,
Animal adoptions at Drusillas,
Birthday parties,
A special dress for a special day,
Dog care whilst on holiday,
Paying for extra tuition,
and lots more.

Friends of C.W.C.F

Following the request of various people who have shown an interest in what we are doing, we have set up a “Friends” of Children With Cancer Fund. This means that people can support us from the comfort of their own homes, either by making cakes for us, sticking labels on tombola prizes, or by making a donation. Other people have become Friends to help us in a practical way, by counting penny boxes, or distributing newsletters. Either way it is nice for us to know that there are people out there who believe in what we are doing. In return we send out an annual newsletter, letting them know what we are doing or how we did at events previously. We know from the fact that they have taken the time to fill out a Friends form that they are interested, so it is our duty to keep them informed. Our thanks go out to Karen who agreed to be the “Friends” of C.W.C.F. secretary.

Once a year we write a newsletter which lets interested people know what we have done, these people are classed as or FRIENDS. It costs about 56p to produce and post each newsletter, you may wish to make a small contrubution to CWCF but **you don’t have to,** just fill out the form below, send it to us and each time a newsletter is produced we will send you one.

Thank you, Chris, Ursula, Karen & all involved

Please enrol me as a FRIEND of CWCF

Mr/Mrs/Miss…………………………………………………..

Address…………………….…………………………………

…………………………………..……Post code……………..

Telephone……………………………………date……………….

If you can help with any of the items below, please tick the box:-

☐ Delivering our newsletter in your area.

☐ Help with fund raising e.g cake making, tombola etc.

I enclose a donation of £………..for my “Friends” membership.
(this is optional).

☐ tick this box if you would like to gift aid your donation.

You may be lucky

And hopefully never know anyone who needs our help, but if you are good enough to help us we will help them. We are all volunteers and work at normal jobs; the difference is we care about CHILDREN WITH CANCER.

Thank you for thinking of supporting us From Ursula, Heidi, Kirsty, Ashley, James & Chris

Cheers from Karen & Richard

and thanks for reading from Simon & Vicky