



tree of HOPE

*The fundraising charity supporting
children's healthcare needs*

OCTOBER 2020
newsletter

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One Small Step for Oona

The benefits of Hippotherapy

SDR Journey's and the Pandemic





With all of us affected in so many different ways by the Covid 19 pandemic we have tried to be flexible as a charity to help all of our families to get what they needed to make the lockdown a little easier whether shielding or self isolating. Helping families to get equipment they can use at home in place of usual therapies has been an exercise of some creativity and ingenuity by us all and we have had so many lovely pictures of children happily adapting to new circumstances. We have even had two families receive their fully trained support dog during this time just to show that business as usual is still happening in some areas and we know these dogs have given the families both happiness and support.

Many families have adapted their fundraising, holding virtual quizzes and get togethers via Zoom and encouraging support from communities who have really come together during this crisis and we have had many reports of real kindness from those communities, something I hope we can capitalise on as the restrictions start to lift. Many have become far more aware of the vulnerable and those that need more support and we should ask them for continued help as the year moves on as the needs of the children that Tree of Hope support haven't gone away.

We remain working in all areas as a charity and feel privileged to support so many hundreds of children every year. If you need our help and support please do contact us and we will continue to do the very best we can to help you.

Please do contact us with any thoughts or comments on this issue at info@treeofhope.org.uk We would love to hear from you.



Kind regards

Gill

Gill Gibb
Chief Executive Officer

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HELLO



What a strange year 2020 has been but it's completely heartwarming to see our families getting the support within their communities which I think are playing a huge part in keeping everyone safe and supported in so many ways. Children's needs haven't gone away,

if anything they have only increased which is why our family support service has never been more vital in helping families reach their fundraising goals!

Christmas will be here before we know it and our Christmas Campaign is shaping up to be great, regardless of the pandemic! I'm particularly looking

forward to the virtual bake along with GBBO's Jane Beedle to bake some Christmassy treats for my family!

Follow us on social media and keep an eye out for updates and stay in touch with our amazing cause and families!

Keep safe everyone!
Georgie, Editor

An App to help connect Parents and Carers of children with health conditions and disabilities...

Friendili is Europe's first social networking app for the parents and carers of children with health conditions and disabilities. Members can find new friends, exchange support and talk to others who have been there. The app is free, and community members can talk across a range of topics and groups, as well as find information to help them on their journey.

Members can type in their child's diagnoses and match with others going through a similar thing, and talk across a range of topics and tribes, covering everything from education and family life, to autism, congenital heart disease and more.

For more information
www.friendili.com



Note for Parents & Carers



Keep an eye on your junk inbox and look out for our support emails, offering fundraising advice and ideas as well as useful information and opportunities. You can opt for our emails not to hit your junk inbox by right clicking your emails and choosing the 'Not Junk' option, so you don't miss anything. Please do get in touch as always with us if you'd like to chat about anything and if you need any help!



Ansh's Dream to Walk

Meet Ansh who lives with his loving family in Southampton. Ansh has Cerebral Palsy and like many of our families, has been impacted hugely by the impacts of COVID-19. Ansh's family are now on the waiting list for SDR at Great Ormond Street Hospital which has kicked their fundraising into gear to help Ansh reach his goals with the hope of one day being able to walk independently. Read on to find out how Ansh and his family have been coping during the lockdown and why they and our hundreds of other families are so

Ansh started his journey of life among all the loved ones and without any complications until it became apparent that he wasn't meeting some of his milestones and wasn't showing signs of being able to crawl or sit up. Dad Nikhil explained, "We consoled ourselves with the idea that every baby had his own pace of development and were ready for his turning, crawling and sitting and every other baby milestones and the hidden scare inside us started to get worse." The family were referred to a paediatrician and Ansh was diagnosed with the condition of lifelong irreversible Cerebral Palsy. For families like Ansh's life can

already feel pressured, but 2020 has seen our families needing to adapt like never before. Cerebral Palsy is helped substantially in having regular physiotherapy to help stretch muscles and keep tight muscles as mobile as possible, helping to relieve pain and discomfort. Due to Covid, community therapies offered by the NHS have in large disappeared due to restrictions and the lockdown measures, so families are needing to find alternative ways of completing their therapies so that their development doesn't suffer.

We asked Dad Nikhil about the pressures pandemic/lockdown has

caused and he told us, "It's been really challenging juggling busy work schedules with full time childcare, but we are very blessed parents. Ansh loves going to school and seeing his friends so lockdown for children like Ansh has meant they have also needed to adapt. Nikhil told us: "Ansh has always been a happy child and has gotten very used to going to school and visiting different activity centres on weekends before lockdown. But COVID-19 came down so heavily and the challenges of all activities in school were having to be carried out at home, on top of also continuing Ansh's stretches and trying to keep up his level of activity to keep

him busy and active, whilst having to shield, was a big challenge on both of us."

On asking how the family have adapted to Ansh's needs during the pandemic, Nikhil said, "Ansh has become more tech savvy and we have now done almost 6 months of Home Schooling so he is now used to working on a Laptop, an Ipad and also works from home printed texts. During the lockdown to make things as normal as possible for him, the school kindly lent us a desk and pieces of equipment he would usually use at school, back at home which was so helpful. Nikhil went on to say, "We also set up a mini Gym at home with a Treadmill and made his usual bike static! Ansh's favourite foods are burgers so Mum and Dad also made sure they had plenty of those handy in the freezer too!"

On reflecting about the lockdown period, Nikhil told us, "We as a family did almost everything which we would have done with friends, together and we have found we have become incredibly close to each other in these unprecedented times" Nikhil also said, "We like to be friends with Ansh so that he doesn't feel alone and we try to get all sorts of activities into our free time which Ansh likes. We enjoy cycling together in evenings and we always encourage Ansh to carry out his Stretches and Exercises. My wife and I also commit to running and other exercises so that Ansh does not think he is doing them alone. We enjoy mealtimes together and like sharing stories of our childhood, we sometimes pretend that we also used to have similar challenges to encourage Ansh and give him that determination.

We asked Nikhil what challenges the pandemic presented for Ansh in the



way of access to therapy and activities, to which Nikhil explained, "We were booked to visit SDR Fitness Wales for his Strength training, which had to be cancelled and we have not been there since due to shielding. Ansh also loves Hippotherapy and Swimming which also got stopped. And they're the really important activities to help make his core stronger. We were supposed to start his Frame Football as well. This year it had been hard hit for us in terms of outdoor activities. It's a big relief that Ansh is now on the waitlist for SDR surgery at GOSH and we do have to take additional precautions, but we are so pleased that we can start outdoor activities again, including Hippotherapy and Frame Football."

"COVID-19 came down so heavily and the challenges of all activities in school were having to be carried out at home, on top of continuing Ansh's stretches and trying to keep up his level of activity to keep him busy and active, whilst having to shield, was a big challenge on both of us."

Nikhil went on to say, "Ansh has gained weight in the lockdown months which GOSH have explained that we need to be mindful of, so it's very difficult having not been able to keep Ansh as active as we would have liked to during the course of this year. It has been a struggle, but we will never lose hope and we will definitely keep doing what we can to make Ansh smile even more.

On asking what the family want to achieve for Ansh, Nikhil said, "Ansh is now working hard and trying everything to make him strong and ready for SDR surgery and is a very



determined boy as he wishes to walk like any of his classmates.

Being a parent, it is difficult and nerve-racking to see Ansh not getting his bare minimum physical ability, so we are looking for this surgery to be supported by lots of pre and post-operative Therapies. For Ansh, the surgery will be like learning to walk again from scratch and so we are needing to fundraise to support all the pre and post therapies and additional equipment to help with the therapy which we need to have now because of limited access and the impacts of covid, making the funds availability even more of a necessity.

Nikhil also said, "We're pleased to be working with Tree of Hope being a registered charity in UK, it will definitely help us reach a wider area outside of our family and friends as well as getting our donations easily managed and kept safe to be used for Ansh's use."

Follow Ansh's Journey on Facebook:

@Ansh.Dream

& see his fundraising campaign:

www.treeofhope.org.uk/ansh-agrawala/

#ChildrenHelpingChildren



#ChildrenHelpingChildren



#TeensHelpingTeens

This summer we launched our Children Helping Children and Teens Helping Teens campaign, which challenged our young supporters to come up with innovative ways to get involved with our fundraising.

Tree of Hope have been helping children for over 27 years, but there are still thousands more families that need our support. During lockdown in the early part of summer we had seen a huge rise in the numbers of families contacting Tree of Hope for support with their children. It was clear to us that Tree of Hope's services were vital in supporting the already over capacity UK National Health Service, and we continued to support those families when many other healthcare provisions had been significantly reduced or stopped altogether.

We were also aware that many parents were home schooling, schools were having to work with students remotely, and the long school holidays were on the horizon! We wanted to launch a campaign that young people could take part in and do something amazing to help us increase awareness and funds, but that also gave those young supporters a focus, distraction and a challenge to help others at a very difficult time during lockdown.

Tree of Hope does not receive any government funding; therefore, we are totally reliant on fundraising and generous donations to help us continue our work. This had become

very challenging with so many of our events having to be cancelled due to the pandemic, and the loss of income was huge. So, we asked teachers and parents to inspire children and young people in their families and schools to take part and come up with a challenge that was interesting to them, and that would also help us by fundraising.

We asked our young supporters to come up with fundraising challenges, ideas and events and we gave them a resource pack of posters, invitations and ideas – and they didn't let us down!

5 year old Kai put on his super hero cape, come rain or shine to take part in a Sponsored Litter Pick throughout the school holidays. Supported by his mum Pami, Kye raised £180.00 – fantastic! His very proud mum Pami told us:

"Kye impressed me with his enthusiasm for this campaign. his eagerness to be helpful was lovely to see and his chosen task was a huge success! We only hope his efforts have made an impact on the lives of children who need it."

16 year old Freya sold and delivered packs of cookies to friends and family in my area. Freya raised £40.00 in total and still continues to volunteer with us on the fundraising team.

Freya says "It worked really well, not just because there were some spare cookies for me, but it was actually really simple and easy to do and was a good chance to see people I have missed during lockdown".

This campaign we look to roll out next Summer as well as this coming October half term giving parents a great half term fun project for their children, as well as giving teenagers great volunteering opportunities helpful for building up their CVs!

Is your School/College looking for a way to inspire their pupils to give back and help others who are affected by the Pandemic? If so, our Fundraising Manager Karen would love to hear from you! Contact her on
Karen.Warner@treeofhope.org.uk

Hippotherapy

Hippotherapy is horse riding for therapeutic and rehabilitative treatment, especially as a means of improving coordination, balance and strength and it can be so beneficial for a whole host of conditions. Read on to find out more!



Eddie gets so much from taking part in hippotherapy!

Several of our families attend sessions at various riding stables around the UK, some purposefully set up as riding for the disabled centres; others with specially trained instructors.

The benefits of using riding as a source of therapy and development is well regarded and in addition to the obvious physiological benefits it can have on balance, coordination and strength, there is the psychological impact on emotional well-being through being out in the fresh air, and the personal connection between human and animal.

The progress we see children and young people gain through horse riding, can, with the right approach, see the same positive outcomes as other physical therapies, despite not being available through statutory funded routes. Because of this, Tree of Hope supports parents that are wishing to raise and use funds for such therapies, subject to the usual due diligence checks ensuring that stables are safe, set up and registered with appropriate authorities; and that safeguarding children is a priority.

One such organisation that we work with is Clwyd special riding centre, based in North Wales.

One of our families raised funds for their daughter who has had SDR surgery and

are using Hippotherapy as a positive means of working on balance and core strength alongside ongoing physiotherapy.

Increasingly, there is a rise in acknowledging in the way that horses are used in the treatment and support of many other conditions. Athena Herd, use a totally different approach to achieve well-being through Equine facilitated learning. Horses are intelligent and intuitive, having the ability to form strong bonds with humans, making them fantastic at working with emotional well-being. Simply being with, and around the horses in an informal, or structured way can have a demonstrable impact.

Just before lockdown, we paid a visit and this is what a member of our team had to say:

"Spending time at Athena Herd and going through a mindfulness session with Graeme and the horses really did have a positive impact. Usually sceptical of things, the way Graeme explained how it worked, and the horse's behaviour during the session, made me feel a lot calmer. The impact this could have on a child with Autism, mental health, and many other conditions has the potential to be profound"

Eddie suffered a brain injury at birth and as a result, he was diagnosed with

quadraplegic cerebral Palsy, affecting all four limbs.

Eddie been having Hippotherapy sessions for two years and not only does he get lots of enjoyment from it, but it also helps his coordination, and strengthen his trunk which will have a positive impact on other things as a result. Mum of Eddie Ilmarie told us:

"Eddie loves to be outside and movement so hippotherapy is perfect for him. He's working hard and having fun at the same time and has really helped Eddie develop a stronger core."

Tree of Hope are happy to explore and support Hippotherapy as well as other alternative approaches, so long as they are safe, and support tangible health outcomes.

If you know of a child who could benefit from this therapy but needs funding assistance alongside any other therapies, equipment or interventions, they can speak to our friendly and helpful Family support team on 01892 535525



Oona at London Orthotic Consultancy testing out her new splints

Oona Dooks

Our families are an inspiration and we just love to share their amazing stories! The year 2020 has proved to be a challenge for us all in so many ways with our families having to find ways to be creative with their fundraising and care plans to ensure their children continue to make the developments they need to and this young lady is no exception and isn't shy when it comes to putting in 100%! Meet Oona who lives in Edinburgh with her Mum, Ellie, Dad, Chris and Big Brother Ivor! Read on to find out more about Oona and her heartwarming therapy journey!

It's always great to highlight the positivity that has been a real beam of positivity Oona, otherwise known as Little Red Wheelchair, if searching on Facebook! Oona has a neurological disorder which she has had since she was born. The cause is unknown, but a rare form of Cerebral Palsy is most likely. When she was a baby Mum and Dad were told to expect her not to walk, talk, eat or 'form thoughts'. Mum Ellie told us "We never took this to heart and Oona has responded brilliantly to therapy. Her improvement over time has been just remarkable!"

As part of Oona's condition, she has been diagnosed with hip, feet and jaw contractures that affect her mobility,

her speech and chewing food. Mum Ellie said "Her treatment is ongoing and has involved many surgeries, with some we are still waiting for. Muscle weakness affects her whole body but is most obvious in her legs, and she also has ocular motor apraxia, which affects the movement of the eyes." On asking about the realities of living with a child with a Neurological condition, Mum Ellie explained, "As a parent of a child with a physical disability there are struggles, financial, emotional, and physical, but also great, euphoric highs, hilarity and pure love."

Ellie describes their daily routine as "intense" which includes frequent therapy, hospital appointments and

exercises to do daily, "but we do try to make it fun!" said Ellie. She went on to say, "Regular practice makes all the difference to Oona. We research endless creative ways to improve her speech, her mobility, or her dexterity." Ellie and Chris both work freelance at the moment, which means their work schedules fluctuate and don't often run side by side which has had financial implications for the family. Mum Ellie told us, "On top of moving to a new house, we are having to meet some of the cost of home adaptations ourselves."

Oona's big brother Ivor is three years older than Oona and Ellie told us that it's not always easy to balance their

very different needs. "They are wonderful friends. They are often found snuggled up together giggling about something!" We asked Ellie about their family life and what they enjoy doing together. "Oona's actually a bit of an anomaly in our family! The rest of us like the quiet life, drawing, reading, films, playing music, that kind of thing. We'd not get on a roller coaster if you paid us! But Oona is a total dare devil who would volunteer for anything. She's not shy, or scared, and she just totally goes for it and loves the limelight. I absolutely love that about her. I have no idea where it's come from, but I think that spark is going to take her very far in life."

Our families have challenges and must rely on their loved ones a lot of the time for support. Ellie explains, "Oona's needs are complex, and it means we can't really ask friends to care for her or just call a babysitter. When we need help we rely mainly on my mum. We had a bright idea to train our puppy to be an assistance dog, but the reality is that he only assists by eating leftovers, giving cuddles and making us laugh!"

On asking about the family's main challenges, Ellie explained, "Oona's greatest desire is to walk, and this is why we decided to fundraise with Tree of Hope. The rarity and complexity of her condition means we have to experiment, we have to try lots of different things. We don't know what she will achieve, but while she is still making such incredible progress and is so determined, we refuse to limit her by not trying. Oona has started taking tiny steps independently and we know she isn't finished there, so we just want to keep going." Ellie went on to say, "Psychologically Oona is becoming much more sensitive

about the fact that she is different. We have started attending some adaptive sports, and we hope that this will give Oona a positive peer group where she will not always feel different. The athletics track is a very unusual scene for our family! Both Chris and I were useless at sport at school. We love that our daughter might just defy the odds and become a track star!"

On asking what Ellie and Chris ultimately want to achieve for Oona, she told us: "We want her to be able to live as independently as possible, and to have the confidence to keep grabbing every opportunity that comes her way. She's an amazing human being, and I just want her to keep kicking down those barriers to have whatever future she chooses."

"As a parent of a child with a physical disability there are struggles, financial, emotional, and physical, but also great, euphoric highs, hilarity and pure love."

We asked how their fundraising journey with Tree of Hope is going so far. Ellie told us, "I was very nervous about fundraising. We deliberated for a long time about it, but we needn't have. Tree of Hope made the process easy and have been hugely supportive. They gave great advice about how to use social media, which I was particularly nervous about, and even got her on the front page of our local paper."

Ellie also talked about the support from the community and how this has helped. "The support from our community, and their generosity, has been



Oona with Mum, Ellie

tremendous. When I read people's comments I feel like everyone is cheering for her, and that helps us keep going. It's given all of us, including Oona, a huge boost."

Ellie went on to say "We very quickly realised enough for the item Oona most urgently needed, so her specialist splints and shoes are already updated. The old ones were getting really tight, so this was a huge relief. We picked them up and payments were made to the clinic direct by Tree of Hope. It was stress free for us."

On asking what advice she would give to families who are looking to fundraise, Ellie said "Just sharing your story, some photos and videos, and sharing the smiles when your child reaches a milestone, goes a very long way. There is a lot of goodwill, and people really enjoy being part of a child's journey I think, whether it is helping them to walk, or just seeing them having fun. Families like ours usually don't have time to organise huge events, but their contacts might be willing to help. Oona's brother is making badges and soap to sell locally, and their dad has initiated a very exciting project with a record label called Touched Music. They are currently working on a special release in aid of Oona's campaign, and we are so excited about this!"

Follow Oona's Journey on Facebook and Instagram

@LittleRedWheelchair

See her fundraising campaign

www.treeofhope.org.uk/one-small-step-oon/



Fundraising News



Golf Day

We were so pleased to be able to go ahead with our annual Golf Day in August at Westerham Golf Club. We had 9 teams taking part which was amazing, and the sun shone for us! We raised just over £4200! Special thanks to Handelsbanken Tunbridge Wells for their sponsorship and Tesco Pembury for their donation of cupcakes and of course thank you to everyone who took part. We hope to see you again next year!



#DoTheDistanceAnyway

Our Campaign Do The Distance Anyway launched in September and continues to run throughout October!

With so many events and challenges being cancelled you can DoTheDistanceAnywayfor Tree of Hope and complete your challenge or distance whilst choosing to support our amazing children and families and help us relieve the burden on our amazing NHS.

We have a group of ladies running 26 miles in October, one of our volunteers setting herself a dancing challenge and our Fundraising Manager will also be cycling 40 miles in October!

You're not too late to join and Do The Distance Anyway!



#ChildrenHelpingChildren & #TeensHelpingTeens

Over the summer we launched our campaign aimed at young people in the community to help raise money for Tree of Hope. Of course most of us were in lockdown during this period and schools were closed – so we had to be creative with our ideas – and we were.

Kai decided he would do a litter pick, and Freya who was doing virtual work experience with us baked cookies and delivered them to friends and family.

It's not too late to get involved during the school holidays or if you find yourself isolating and schooling from home. A resource pack is on our website or you can email Karen.Warner@treeofhope.org.uk - we'd love to hear from you!



Asda

Asda Tunbridge Wells have continued to support us over the last few months with donations of raffle prizes and a £200 donation from their in-store charity collection. We are so grateful to them; they are a joy to work with!



Trust & Foundations

We want to say a big heartfelt thanks to organisations who continue to show us support for the work we do to support our families and children, especially during the pandemic.

2020 has seen an unprecedented increase in application competition and to those who continue to support us, as well as new organisations that we have applied to for the very first time and been successful, we are so grateful.

Our amazing NHS wasn't built to support the amount of people it does and Tree of Hope is helping to bridge the significant funding gap, by helping families to fundraise in effective and efficient ways. We're really pleased this is being recognised and we look forward to building those relationships with funders in the years to come and sharing our great work!

We look forward to being able to publicly thank those who would like to be in the coming weeks and months.

Individuals

We have been lucky to have some great individual fundraisers challenging themselves and raising money for us over the summer. Ben has raised over £1200 by running 100 miles in a month and Anthony raised over £400 by walking 50 miles in one day – Wow! Well done guys!



Harrison & Eddie's SDR & Rehabilitation Journeys

Here at Tree of Hope we've been supporting children for almost 30 years and a large portion of our children have needed help accessing operations, therapies and equipment to help with physical conditions such as Cerebral Palsy. Here are two young men who are both on separate journeys but both striving to achieve the same goal in becoming as independent as possible!

Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) is a procedure that helps to relieve spasticity and tension in muscles so can make a significant difference in helping a child's movement and comfort, promoting healthy development.

Harrison and his family live in Stoke and who are well into their SDR and rehabilitation journey!

Harrison has Cerebral Palsy due to a bleed on his brain and being starved of oxygen at birth and affects his muscles and movements in both his arms and legs. He had SDR back in 2017 to release tension in his muscles and to help him live pain free.

Despite his challenges, Harrison is a bright and happy character and whose family are incredibly proud of him for showing such bravery and determination throughout everything.

SDR is really the beginning of a child's journey so the aftercare and therapy required years afterwards is what determines the effects of the procedure.

Lydia, Harrison's Mum, told us "After the procedure Harrison was able to sit up independently which is something he has always needed support with. It helped him to toilet train as the position he needs to be in to do this he couldn't get in before and he was pain free almost immediately. She went on to

say, "He hasn't complained once about his spasms he used to get in the night which meant I would have to massage constantly to help his pain management and he's also learnt how to kneel independently, which wasn't possible before."

SDR provides the chance for a child to begin the journey in making steps to being able to walk and the amount of therapy is crucial to helping this become achievable. Lydia told us, "His standing and walking has also improved, there's still quite a lot of work to do to improve this but the therapy is a big part of helping him to do this."

On asking what significance the family's fundraising will have going forward, Lydia told us: "In our area, community physio support is a bit hit and miss and Harrison doesn't get any support from the NHS, so we have to fund this privately. He needs extra equipment to help with the physio and he also needs a new wheelchair

as the ones the NHS offer just aren't suitable for what Harrison needs to be comfortable and fully supported, so the fundraising will help us to achieve all of this to help Harrison."

Independence is something all of us root for and children like Harrison are no exception. Lydia explains: For Harrison, I think the aim is all down to independence so he can do things for himself. He's really into his Play Station but has to do everything with his left hand, so whilst I help him, he just wants

Harrison working hard with a smile as he keeps up with his vital rehabilitation regime!



A euphoric day for Eddie at SDR Fitness Wales! Keep up the great work Eddie!

to do things like that for himself and will always try and find a way to do things without help."

Putting a child through an invasive procedure is a very daunting prospect for parents who only have their best interests at heart. Lydia told us: "Knowing Harrison is much more comfortable and seeing the outcomes, I'm just so glad we did it, it's definitely one of the best decisions we've ever made!"

Further down the country in Mid-Devon, Eddie's family are at the beginning of their fundraising journey to help fund his SDR procedure and therapies and are steaming along with their fundraising already!

Eddie suffered a bleed on his brain shortly after birth and when Eddie wasn't meeting baby milestones including sitting and walking, an MRI scan confirmed that the bleed on the brain had caused damage resulting in Spastic Cerebral Palsy, affecting Eddie's lower body.

Eddie's SDR procedure will help to reduce muscle stiffness and help him to learn to walk independently with the help of specialist therapies and physiotherapy.

This is huge for a child like Eddie and very exciting progress as Lowri, Eddie's Mum told us, Eddie describes, "When I walk with my feet, I am free!"

Eddie's rehabilitation is hugely important as Lowri explains, "It involves 2 years of intensive physiotherapy, the first six months alone is 3-5 sessions per week and thereafter it is assessed at reviews at hospital at 6 months, 12 months and 2 years after the operation."

Eddie's family have thrown themselves into the fundraising spirit and kicked

off their campaign during lockdown having raised £15,000 in 2 months!

Eddie's family have been particularly active on social media and can be found at Eddie's Every Step Counts.

Due to restrictions and having to find slightly more creative ways of fundraising they have not let Covid get in their way and have had lots of fun and interesting things going on and have had their local community backing them all the way!

Eddie has even fundraised for himself by completing a sponsored 5Km trike ride with his little sister. Mum Lowri told us "He smashed his target and ended up doing over 7km!"

Lowri is also entering into the spirit and had a wacky sponsored hair-do and this month is going completely bald in aid of Eddie's campaign! Their local hairdresser in Bampton, The Salon have donated their services, so huge thanks to them for their support!

As we enter the autumn months, Eddie's friend from school is also running a Pumpkins for Eddie competition, which invites families to carve pumpkins for donations and enter into a competition.

Tree of Hope families benefit hugely by being registered with a charity and Eddie's family have been able to access Gift Aid, Trust and Foundation Research, Marketing and PR opportunities to boost their awareness in their local and surrounding areas as well as a dedicated Family Support Service providing fundraising support and guidance to help drive successful fundraising, adding significant value to fundraising and much more effective than traditional crowdfunding.

Lowri told us: We've experienced people being very generous to our campaign so far and businesses within the community, also UK wide companies we've had great support from. They have sponsored Eddie's trike event and Bampton Scout Group have also donated. Tree of Hope have been a great support and have helped with a lot over the phone."

Harrison and Eddie continue with their fundraising campaigns, which you can check out and support!

www.treeofhope.org.uk/eddies-every-step-counts/

www.treeofhope.org.uk/harrison-brown/

You can also follow their journeys on Facebook!

[@eddieseverystepcounts](https://www.facebook.com/eddieseverystepcounts)

[@HarrisonbrownSDR](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisonbrownSDR)

Christmas Campaign

Christmas is coming and we have lots of virtual Christmas events being planned which we can't wait for!



Instagram Christmas Fair

Online Christmas Workshops including:

Christmas bake a long with Great British Bake of finalist Jane Beedle

Christmas sew a long with a special guest from the Great British Sewing Bee

Wreath Making workshop

Online Christmas Shopping & Fundraising Parties

...and a few more surprises along the way – so keep an eye on our website and social media!



Support Tree of Hope

Tree of Hope offers hope to seriously ill and disabled children living in the UK and their families by helping them to raise funds for vital operations that the NHS can't provide, therapies and treatments needed for rehabilitation and improvement, and specialist disability equipment and/or adaptations to a family home.

We need your support to make a difference!

You can help to improve the lives of children with complex disabilities and illnesses by making a regular donation or a one-off gift to Tree of Hope.



Your gift will enable Tree of Hope to:

- continue providing the legitimacy of belonging to a well-respected charity to hundreds of families, enabling them to access funds for their child that would not be possible otherwise
- offer online giving platforms for fundraising, making the fundraising journey far more simple for the family than it could be otherwise
- provide advice and guidance on the best ways of fundraising, and giving support throughout a family's fundraising campaign, including dealing with invoices and suppliers, and sharing news of other families in similar positions, reducing the stress for families in very difficult situations

- You can donate by cheque which needs to be made payable to 'Tree of Hope'. Cheques can be posted to our address: Tree of Hope, Salford House, 19-21 Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent. TN9 2RN

- You can donate by paying directly into our bank account, details below:

Tree of Hope

Metro Bank

Account Number: 21862665

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Payment Reference: TOHGDonation

- You can set up a standing order from your own bank account for a monthly donation using the above bank details
- You can donate online via www.treeofhope.org.uk using the Donate to Tree of Hope button. We use a platform called Go Cardless which pay us via direct debit. DD are used for either a monthly or one-off donations.
- To donate by text, text 'TOHDONATE' to 70085 with the number of how much you would like to donate between 1-20. The cost of a standard rate message plus the amount donated will be debited. All donations can be gift aided.
- You can set up a donation or a fundraiser via Facebook, please visit facebook.com/treeofhope. [childrenscharity](https://facebook.com/childrenscharity) for details and set up.
- You can now donate by shopping on Amazon, Easyfundraising and selecting Tree of Hope on the list of available charities, this is a great way to support, just remember to click Tree of Hope

Remember to Gift Aid where applicable to add 25% to your donation at no extra cost. Please contact accountsreceivable@treeofhope.org.uk to obtain a gift aid declaration form.

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How we help...



Tree of Hope helps children and young people with a disability or illness by supporting their families to raise the funds that they need to pay for specialist care that is not available through the health care system.

Our staff team support Tree of Hope families by:

- Assisting with the creation of a Tree of Hope online fundraising campaign via Just Giving
- Making fundraising tools and advice available to parents
- Ensuring staff are available on the telephone
- Enabling each campaign to claim gift aid because it is part of registered charity Tree of Hope
- Putting families in touch with other families in similar situations for moral support
- Giving greater exposure to campaigns nationally through being associated with a well recognised charity brand
- Support with managing funds and paying invoices

www.treeofhope.org.uk
01892 535525

Who We Help...

- Children under the age of 18, with access to funds up to their 25th birthday
- Children anywhere within the UK
- A child suffering from a disability, illness or autism

Medical Conditions we have helped families with (not an exhaustive list)

Cerebral Palsy
Retts Syndrome
Downs syndrome
Global Developmental Delay
Hypermobility
Congenital Hypotonia
Epilepsy
Visual Impairments
Meningitis complications
Lebers Congenital Amaurosis
Dravet Syndrome
Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy Injury
Dystonia

What you can fundraise for

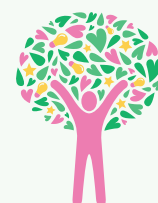
Equipment including but not limited to trikes, hydrotherapy pools, specialist pushchairs & sensory equipment

Therapy, including; physiotherapy, horse riding & swimming lessons

Operations and treatment inside and outside of the UK

House Adaptations including sensory gardens and bathroom adaptations

Please remember to include all your fundraising needs at the start of your campaign. Speak to our Family Support Team on 01892 535525 for advice.



tree of
HOPE

The fundraising charity supporting children's healthcare needs