



Tree of Hope

*Transforming the health of
sick and disabled children*

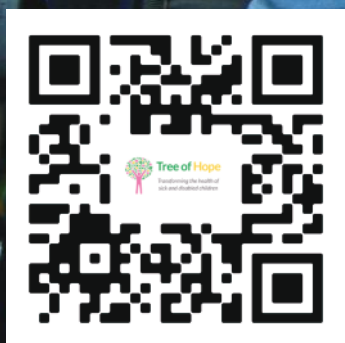
FEBRUARY 2022
newsletter

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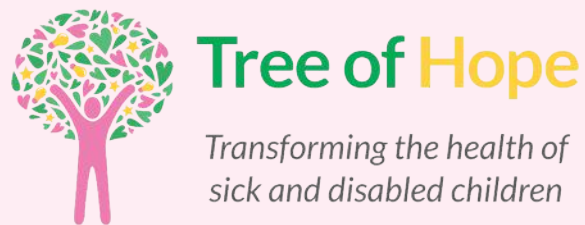
Amazing Amelia's American Adventure



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Tel: 01892 535525
www.treeofhope.org.uk

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Whilst we are still in the midst of Winter, Spring is approaching and days are starting to lengthen and soon thoughts will turn to Summer events and getting outside to socialise and hopefully fundraise. It is never too early to get your plans in place and to encourage others to join you and raise vital funds for your campaign. From Easter Egg Hunts to a Platinum Jubilee Party hopefully this year will see us start to return to some semblance of social normality and enjoy some much needed fun together.

If you need some ideas or even just someone to listen, do call us, we are happy to chat and help out whenever we can. Our small team is about to expand as we have received 3 year funding from The Rooney Foundation to take on a new full-time team member in Scotland/the North of England. They will support families and suppliers across that geographical location, making it easier for us to work closely with you and provide hands-on support when needed. We will introduce you to our new recruit via social media in the next newsletter, so watch this space. Exciting times for us indeed!

As always if you need our help and support, or know a child who would benefit from fundraising with us, please do contact us and we will do the very best we can to help. Do follow us on social media and like and share our content- this helps many more people to become aware of our vital work supporting the NHS to deliver the best healthcare it can to children and young people across the UK.

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

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HELLO



Firstly, a belated Happy New Year! I hope your 2022 has started on a positive note and you feel ready and raring to go for the year ahead.

2021 was another super busy year for Tree of Hope and we've been delighted to see so many families, individuals and corporate fundraisers undertaking some epic events - from the 25k challenge in December and the London Marathon, to the superhero series and sky diving, you've truly outdone yourselves!

The team at Tree of Hope are really excited about 2022 - a really special year for us all, as it marks our 30th anniversary of helping to transform children's healthcare needs!

We have some really special anniversary events planned which we cannot wait to reveal to you in due course, but in the meantime, do make sure you check out our brand-new 30th anniversary family awareness films, created by the incredible Big Picture Charity films on our behalf! They have perfectly captured how your support of Tree of Hope can be

truly life-changing to many children across the UK and why our work is so important to so many!

So, do keep your eyes peeled on the website for what's to come in this exciting year for us, and please do remember to keep in touch and reach out to us if you ever need a helping hand or a listening ear!

Best wishes for the year ahead!

Steph - Editor

WE HAVE MOVED!

As you may have already heard, at the end of 2021, we moved out of our Tonbridge office and back to Tunbridge Wells, a move designed to make the best use of the property we own and to conserve precious funds.

Moving just a week before Christmas and in the middle of

the Omicron Covid peak certainly threw many challenges our way, but we are really thankful to some wonderful companies who helped the move go as smoothly as possible, meaning that disruption was kept to a minimum!

We are now settling into our new premises nicely and are really

grateful for the prompt response of our suppliers who have already updated their records to reflect our new address!

Please rest assured that if you were unaware of our move in December and have recently sent something to our old

office, we do have a redirection put on all post sent to our old address, so this should still safely make its way to our new office!

Our phone number remains unchanged and so you can continue to call us on **01892 535525** but if you need to send something to us at our offices, please note our new address:

Tree of Hope
61-63 Camden Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
TN1 2QE





George, enjoying nature!

Give George Freedom!

We are constantly inspired by the strength and bravery of our families and however difficult life can be, the smiles almost always shine through! Tree of Hope have been supporting George and his family for a number of years now, to help fund a complete house adaptation project, to ensure George feels comfortable, rather than challenged, in his home. Read on to find out more!

George lives in Middlesex with his Mum Anita, Dad Ian and twin brother Edward. George has a rare chromosome disorder and is the only person in the world with his particular chromosomal rearrangement. After a busy year, we caught up with Anita to see how their project plans and fundraising progress is going.



George and Edward!

On speaking about George's condition, Anita told us, "Being unique like George has its own challenges, in that there isn't a classic pathway like there is for other known disabilities, where support and referrals are more automatically offered...so from the start we have had to find support ourselves."

George's condition means that many aspects of his health are impacted. Anita explained "George has seizures that are unique to him so he can't be diagnosed as epileptic, similarly in that he is visually impaired and has characteristics of ocular albinism but a diagnosis can't be given for George as it doesn't fit with the classic diagnostic criteria." Anita went on to say, "He is also deficient in growth hormones, but the typical treatment used wouldn't be straightforward for George as there is no information on how it would affect him."

Anita also said, "Even planning for the future, it's hard because we don't know what things he will need, versus what he needs now, things change

all the time. For example, George has taken his first steps this last year, so the task of levelling the floor, although still relevant, has changed from being about manoeuvring his wheelchair to making the floor safe so that he doesn't trip when moving from one surface to another, so it's that sort of thing that's really difficult."

On asking Anita how the family manage George's condition and his challenges, she told us, "Everything we do, we don't do it consciously, as it's just our normal. George's needs come first, and we've all made changes to our lifestyle to suit George's needs." Anita also said "It's a very careful balance of being George's Mum, Dad and brother to being his advocate, therapist, carer and PA as well."

The family enjoy spending lots of time together at home. On asking what they get up to, Anita told us, "For us it's really about the simple things. We're a very close-knit family and do most things at home. We're very lucky that we have a nice big garden and I'm teaching the

boys to connect with nature and grow their own food (George loves playing with the earth!)." Anita went on to say, "George's brother got a local award recently for making a bug house in the garden!"

For many families navigating the pandemic has been particularly challenging and George's support network completely broke down as a result of this. "A lot of our support unfortunately disappeared in the pandemic. We didn't have the grandparents around, we didn't see any of our family, the after-school support clubs disappeared, the bespoke support for George went, the overnight respite stopped too... and that really highlighted the importance of support for us." Anita went on to say "Even now, we're struggling to get back all of the support we had before and that can have a real impact on your mental health."

Anita has become a volunteer at the local Parent Carer Forum to help families in similar situations. Anita told us "Doing this has really helped my own mental health and it's helped me think that we're not the only family in our situation. It's really powerful being able to connect with other families that 'get it', and to share experiences with them - for that it's been great."

On asking what they would like to achieve for George, Anita answered, "I think ultimately what we want for George is for him to be safe and happy and for him to be able to express himself."

She went on to say "There's been a lot of talk about inclusion and equality in the press recently and this has shown that unless people know about a disability, it's hard to understand what the barriers are. Whilst it's brilliant other disabilities get a lot of attention, what about those other, less well known and sometimes rare disabilities that nobody really knows about? So, ultimately, I would really love the world to be a place for George where people are willing to accept him as he is and for there to be no barriers."

Anita went on to say "On the fundraising side of things, it's about him achieving independence and exploring choices."

George's family are fundraising for a series of vital home adaptations for George to access his home and for it to be adapted for him. Anita said, "It's not necessarily about making life easier, it's about making a home for George, rather than a home for us that he has to cope with and that restricts him. I would love him to be able to safely make choices about where he goes and what he does at home in the same way his brother does."

On speaking about the fundraising, Anita explained, "It was really slow going at the beginning. It felt like I was asking all the people who knew me for money and that made me feel uncomfortable." Anita started her fundraising by chopping her waist length hair up to her shoulders and raised £1000. "That was amazing" she said, "but then I didn't have a clue what to do next!"

A colleague Anita works with at J2, a creative agency, cut off his beard in support and soon enough the whole agency was right behind George's mission and the two

"I would really love the world to be a place for George where people are willing to accept him as he is & for there to be no barriers."

branches of the agency set up a distance competition on static bikes which raised an amazing £35,000 in sponsorship from staff, clients and personal contacts.

Anita told us "I've been blown away by the kindness and support...One of our biggest clients did a social media campaign for us to drum up interest and that brought in a bit more for us too!"

Anita explained how Tree of Hope have helped, "I think the enthusiasm has been a big thing and not just saying what you could do, but following it up and actively making this happen for us. Things like the PR for example, we were in all the local papers and all of a sudden people were calling me and telling me they've seen this article and wanting to help...it gave us a real boost, just knowing that others were behind us and supporting the campaign"

On asking Anita what advice she would give to families who are looking to fundraise, she told us, "Don't



George and his cheeky grin!

just let it slip and think you can't do anything else, like I did!" Anita said laughing. Never think that it's over and that it's all down to you, as that's the mistake that I made, I thought it was up to me, but there were lots of people waiting for me to ask and asking how they could support us, and I never realised that."

Offering advice to parents on a similar journey, Anita said "I think the most important thing is to not be hard on yourself and know that you're doing a great job and to always remember that...accepting that makes life a lot less stressful." "I would also say that it's ok to accept that your child isn't going to do everything you dreamt they would do. Focus on what makes your child happy, then you'll be a lot happier. But it can take time to come to terms with a diagnosis that will affect them for the rest of their life and it's all part of the process of acceptance."

You can make a donation here!



See George's fundraising campaign at

<https://www.treeofhope.org.uk/givegeorgefreedom/>



Whizz-kidz

move a life forward

Here at Tree of Hope, we are always on the lookout for organisations who can provide invaluable support to our families throughout all aspects of life, so we are delighted to introduce you to Coastal Coaching Sussex, who can offer a listening ear and a guiding hand through stressful and emotional circumstances.

With over five years of coaching experience, Coastal Coaching Sussex was established in September 2020 by Sarah Wilson, who prides herself on offering an impartial service to help support individuals through a variety of different challenges. We caught up with Sarah to find out how she may be able to help our families, including the parents and siblings of sick and disabled children.

Sarah explained that "What we've learnt, particularly these past few years, is that it's really important to have someone objective to speak to, to unburden their worries and concerns in a non-judgemental and impartial situation". All members of the family can be affected in different ways by the situations faced when raising a child or children with additional needs, so Sarah aims "to help people navigate through thoughts, feelings and emotional difficulties in a safe and non-judgemental environment".

For other children within the family unit, they may suffer with confusion, anxiety or bullying at school and "I can also work with potential resentment that siblings can feel when perhaps their life landscape has been altered".

This can also be applicable to parents who "maybe feel guilty for feeling resentment or grief for the life they expected with their child, which could be totally different from the life that they are currently living. They may have given up a career that they loved because of looking after their child and they may miss elements of their old life". It may be painful for parents to speak

to other family members or a partner about this, and so "I like to be able to give people the opportunity to speak to someone about how they really feel, and give them the freedom to express themselves, without judgement".

Parents may feel particularly challenged in their own relationships, with less time to spend together as a couple or perhaps in some instances, where a break-up between the child's parents has occurred, there may be a dissonance between what the parents think is best in terms of care for their child. Sarah helps to support her clients in their relationships with each other, to ensure that the support network for their child is as strong as it can be.

Once establishing the individuals' biggest pain points, Sarah works with that person to "establish what is real and what isn't. I would look to assure the individual about what they can realistically do in their situation to find a positive perspective, or I would perhaps signpost them to other organisations for more specialised support".

Sarah would then equip each individual with a set of tools best suited to them to find a positive outlet in their own time - for example, "I teach about journaling to get thoughts out of their heads, so even when I'm not working with them directly, they have that outlet" available to them.

If you are interested in having a chat with Sarah to see how she might be able to help you or a member of your family, please email families@treeofhope.org.uk. We will

then pass your contact details on to Sarah who will get in touch to arrange a meeting on zoom, which is a completely free service.

If you then decide that you'd like to proceed, Sarah will create a personalised plan and let you know the set price for her services, which can, in most cases, come from your campaign funds. Anyone can access Sarah's services, as her sessions will be virtual, via zoom!

Sarah's support truly is invaluable in dealing with the challenges that you are facing, but it can also help improve family relationships and dynamics, helping each family member to unravel and understand the root issues of whatever they are struggling with. Sarah truly loves what she does and is so excited to work with our wonderful families.



Tree of Hope believes in partnering with likeminded organisations that we can really pack a punch with, to ensure families get the support that they need and one of those is Whizz Kidz, an organisation that is working hard to transform the lives of wheelchair users across the UK and supporting them to become confident and independent.

We met with Whizz-Kidz virtually (as is the done thing these days!) back in September last year to learn more about one another and how we can work together for the good of families across the UK, who are caring for their disabled children. With a £1.5 billion funding gap in children's disabled service provision, organisations like ours are helping to bridge that gap as much as possible through providing families a solution to fund therapies, house adaptations, operations, as well as equipment, which all comes at an eye-watering cost.

Whizz Kidz provide a range of mobility equipment to meet the needs of children and young people with a physical disability to give them independence

at home, school and at play and have transformed the lives of 18,000 children and young people since 1990.

Joanna Fashan, Associate Director of Engagement & Policy at Whizz Kidz told us "Whizz-Kidz is delighted to partner with Tree of Hope, to support young people and their families. Many families face tough choices when it comes to healthcare for their child and having a charity like Tree of Hope to support with their fundraising efforts offers support and reassurance in difficult times"

Whizz-Kidz is the UK's leading charity supporting young wheelchair users. Joanna explained: "Our vision is a society in which every young wheelchair user is mobile, enabled and included. We empower young wheelchair users by providing the equipment, support and the

confidence-building experiences they need, and campaigning for a more inclusive society".

Families who have children with a disability often need many aspects of support to assist them and this is where partnerships like this really provide value to families and can help to reduce the amount of physical fundraising a family need to do.

In the thick of the pandemic, our equipment requests went up by 137% and we continue to help hundreds of families get access to vital equipment, so get in touch with our Family Support team if you need help accessing a piece of equipment and we will put you in touch with the Whizz Kidz team if they can help too!





Amelia and her 5th birthday cake!

Amazing Amelia's American Adventure!

For some children, the journey to independence is forced to take a slight detour, and in Amelia's case, this means travelling to the NAPA Centre in Boston! Amelia has Cerebral Palsy and is currently unable to walk independently, so parents Chris and Charlotte aim to travel to the USA with Amelia, so that she can benefit from an intensive course of personalised therapies, with the aim of leading her through the next stage in her journey to independence. Read on to find out more about the family's aspirations for Amelia and her Amazing American Adventure!

By the date Charlotte Green was due to go on maternity leave from work, her little girl Amelia was already 10 weeks old. Amelia is a happy and noisy little girl who loves reading, swimming and singing. Her mum Charlotte says "she would sing nursery rhymes all day long if she had the chance!" Amelia comes from a very close family and likes to visit her Nanny Lyn and Nanny Noo Noo almost every weekend, and if her favourite food, apple pie, is on offer that is a definite bonus!

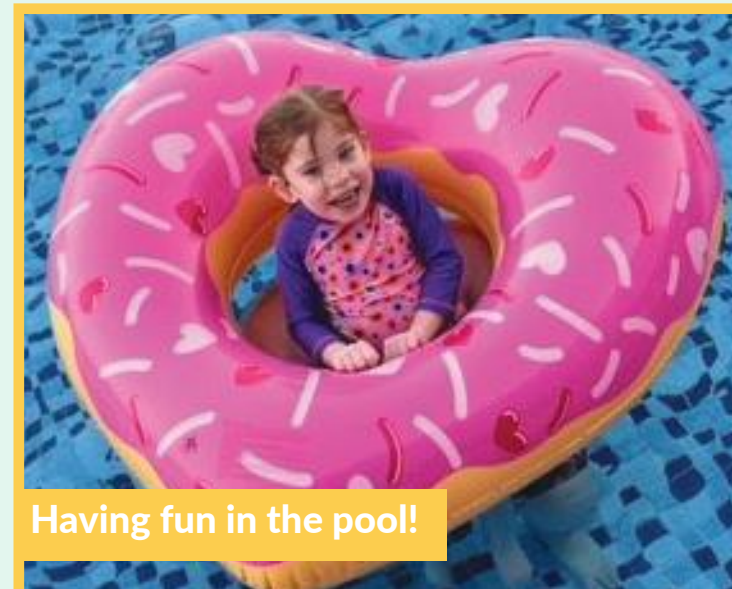
Amelia has recently started school and really enjoys joining her friends in the

playground in her walker for PE lessons. However her premature arrival resulted in Amelia being diagnosed with cerebral palsy along with some visual impairment, meaning she is unable to get around independently.

Parents Chris and Charlotte Green started fundraising with Tree of Hope in November 2021 with the goal of getting Amelia to the NAPA Centre in Boston, USA, in August 2022 for a concentrated three week personalised physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech



Amelia with a tasty treat!



Having fun in the pool!

& language therapy programme in an intensive setting, with the aim of helping Amelia achieve the next step in her journey to independence.

"The most challenging aspect of Amelia's diagnosis is its impact on her ability to be independent" said Charlotte. "She is unable to walk independently to the toy shelf and pick what she wants to do, so she is always reliant on us to help her make choices. She can only discover the things we want her to, for example she has never opened a cupboard by herself".

Due to Amelia's diagnosis the family have entered a whole new world of therapies and equipment, not to mention learning lots of new terminology. Hearing about the other experiences of other families who have attended the NAPA Centre inspired Chris and Charlotte to fundraise for Amelia to attend, with the aim of increasing her independence as she gets older. "There is some wonderful stuff out there that you are just not aware of until you need it. The NHS provision has been good but with so many priorities they can not cover everything they would like, or provide the intensive physio that Amelia needs."

The innovative aspects of NAPA's treatment

therapies. The intensive nature of the programme mean they have the time to understand the child's abilities and really understand what makes them tick".

Amelia will be taking part in Dynamic Movement Integration (DMI) - a comprehensive intervention that incorporates current research on neurorehabilitation, technologies, and methodologies. This therapeutic technique is used by physical and occupational therapists to treat children with gross motor impairments by improving and/or provoking a desired action with great emphasis on alignment, sensory integration and function. The goal is to promote progress toward developmental milestones.

The family have an exciting programme of fundraising planned featuring a sunflower growing competition, Easter egg raffle and (because Charlotte and Amelia's aunt are keen bakers) afternoon tea boxes! The main focus though is on planning a black tie gala night for the summer.

Amelia's uncle has also raised over £300 by doing dry January, although with a new baby and a house move also in January, maybe he is wishing he'd chosen a different month!

The family were drawn to Tree of Hope to

also appealed to the family. Chris said "The physio and speech and language therapy available in the UK are quite traditional. I like the fact that the NAPA centre are thinking a bit more out of the box in the ways that they apply the

support their fundraising as they saw it as a way of unlocking new ideas and opportunities to support Amelia's campaign and also gave the campaign authenticity. "The support we've received so far has been great" said Chris.

Just a couple of months into their campaign the family have already raised over £1000 towards their £10,000 target, a brilliant start and we're proud to be behind Amelia's campaign!

You can make a donation here!



Amelia at her nativity!

"The most challenging aspect of Amelia's diagnosis is its impact on her ability to be independent"

See Amelia's fundraising campaign at:
<https://www.treeofhope.org.uk/amelia-green/>

Or follow Amelia's journey on Facebook at:
[@AmazingAmelia2022](#)

Fundraising News



Thank you!

We have had some very busy fundraisers over the last few months – thank you to everyone who has supported us – here are a few highlights!

Daytime Healthcare

Thank you to the Team at Daytime Healthcare who raised money in the run up to Christmas by holding a baking competition. Not only did they enjoy lots of yummy treats but also raised over £290 for us.

Christmas Raffle - Thank you to everyone who contributed to our hamper prizes!

This year we held our first Christmas Hamper Raffle – and are delighted to say that it has raised over £600.

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets as well as those who contributed to make three amazing prizes. Here are just a few on the list to thank! Neptune Tonbridge, Asda Tunbridge Wells, Waitrose Tonbridge, The Tunbridge Massage Company, Hoopers Tunbridge Wells, Bluewater and Blue Diamond Garden Centre.



Our Incredible Community Supporters

Tonbridge Grotto

Big thanks to our friend Claire Allen from Bubbly Bouquets and Books who hosted an amazing Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. The event was really well attended by local, small businesses and it was lovely to see so many people supporting local.

Santa's grotto was very popular with over 100 children visiting Father Christmas. We would like to thank everyone involved with making this such a special day for everyone. All proceeds from the Grotto have been donated to Tree of Hope – an amazing £600. Thank you so much!



Our 30th Anniversary

We have lots of amazing events to look forward to this year as part of our 30th Birthday celebrations. We are always looking for volunteers to help support our events because we are a very small team. If you would like to be a part of some fun events, or your employer offers volunteering days as part of their CSR, please do get in touch!

Take a look at pg. 14 for more information on what we have planned!

Our Individual Fundraisers

Ricky – Spartan Challenge

Ricky runs a local window cleaning and jet washing business and has been connected with Tree of Hope for many years. In 2020 he planned to take part in his first Spartan Race, and then Covid hit! After two cancelled events Ricky was finally able to complete his challenge at the end of 2021 – and was awesome!

Ricky enjoyed it so much, he is doing another in 2022.....and wants to beat his time!

Big thanks to Ricky and his supporters



Yomi - London to Brighton

Yomi took part in the London to Brighton Cycle Ride in 2021 and raised an amazing £690. This is his story.

"Although challenging, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of taking part in the London to Brighton cycle event. I took up cycling about a year ago as part of my rehabilitation following an achilles' tendon rupture. I subsequently signed up for the event to encourage regular training and to provide an opportunity for me to raise money for a charity.

Professionally, I have worked as a GP in south London for about 16 years. Consequently, I have had the privilege to witness first hand the dedication and hard work of parents, family members and professionals in trying to ensure the best outcomes for children with Autism Spectrum disorder. Despite its best efforts, the NHS is not often able to provide timely access to individualised support options, which I feel is critical for the best outcomes. I was lucky enough to come across your charity which provided assistance with this"



25K Challenge update!

In a month where people are usually eating mince pies, drinking mulled wine and watching chestnuts roast on an open fire while sitting on the sofa, we had a number of valiant people take up our 25K December challenge. The challenge was to 'do 25K your way'. Some people cycled, some people ran, and some people went for long walks in the woods. One adventurous person did two lots of 25 kilometres, totalling 50K across December, on behalf of someone else who couldn't complete the challenge. This activity was a win-win for everyone involved; funds were raised to support the work of Tree of Hope, over £1500, and the challengers were kept active in December.

If you missed out on this challenge or are looking for one to do this year, there's options for you. We've got some Royal Parks Half Marathon places and Dragon Boat races. Head over to our website for more information on how to get involved.

Here's a picture of Nick and Julianne, who finished their 50K on Christmas Eve with a walk in Ashdown Forest



Jaxson and Baine's Big Plan!



The cheeky little lads with an infectious smile, Jaxson and Baine!

Making vital home adaptations that are specific to a child's individual needs can be truly life changing for both the children and the rest of the family too, enabling extra independence, the opportunity to be part of family time, and allowing children the chance to develop in a safe and comfortable environment. Tree of Hope support families like Jaxson and Baine's in their endeavours to make crucial home adaptations, which will give the twins the space to thrive as they get older.

Raising a disabled child as their needs grow and develop can be a costly endeavour, but for Kayleigh, mum of twins Baine and Jaxson, the costs are doubled to facilitate the ever-growing needs of both of her boys, who have both been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy.

Whilst their individual needs can vary between them, Kayleigh and her family are in need of making life changing home adaptations to allow for more space for the boys to navigate through the house, to have their own bedrooms, and a fully kitted out wet room, as well as the space to store their medical and specialist equipment, including their two wheelchairs.

When describing her boys, mum Kayleigh described Jaxson as "very boisterous, loud and such a character. He likes to pretend he's the hulk! We

got him these hulk hands and he loves to smash and growl – he's so funny! Baine is the complete opposite – he's more soft and delicate, and every morning he tells me that he's missed me during the night".

The boys both love playing, doing arts and crafts and taking part in any sort of hands-on interaction. Kayleigh said that their "neighbour brings different stuff round every week to do with the kids. Last week they did baking and she's also brought all her pencils and sketch books round" which the boys look forward to doing each week!

Everyone who knows Baine and Jaxson know that they are such cheeky little lads and always face life with a smile, despite the many challenges that they face on a daily basis. When they were born at 31 weeks, despite being observed in the neonatal unit for three

weeks, they were progressing really well, and it wasn't until their 6-week check-up that there was any concern about the boys' health.

Kayleigh said that the health visitor noticed that "Baine was having abnormal movements like jerking and twitching, so we went to the hospital to get him examined. The doctors did



The boys as newborns!

investigations and Baine had to have an ECG, but while the results came back to say that there was abnormal brain function, he didn't have any underlying conditions" and so no diagnosis was given.

However, when the twins were 11 months old, it was clear that they weren't reaching their early milestones as "they weren't rolling, and they weren't head lifting. We had an MRI but had to wait months due to Covid", and it wasn't until after undergoing multiple tests that both Jaxson and Baine were diagnosed with quadraplegic Cerebral Palsy (a mixed picture of spasticity and dystonia affecting all 4 limbs), global development delay and periventricular leukomalacia. The doctors described Baine's brain as "like a sponge which will only intake so much, like when a sponge is filled with water, it can't take any more in. The diagnosis was a shock to have".

Kayleigh explained that since their diagnosis "it has been a whirlwind of emotions with lots of ups and downs. To have these beautiful boys that now have these lifelong conditions, I don't think we have processed it fully yet. At the beginning when all this happened, I wouldn't say I underestimated the task ahead, but it wasn't until a few weeks ago that it really hit, that this is serious and we're becoming squashed, as we just don't have the space", which is why the family have turned to Tree of Hope for help.

The family love the house that they live in, but due to having two boys with additional needs, they need extra space to navigate normal daily tasks, to enjoy family time, and ultimately, to store vital equipment for both Jaxson and Baine, as well as their 2 other children. Kayleigh explained that while "the boys get a government grant each for the adaptations, it isn't enough for everything they need from start to finish".

The family have plans to extend their home to ensure that the boys will each

have their own bedroom and a wet room on the ground floor, as they are now becoming too heavy to carry up and down the stairs to get them "in



Smiley Jaxson and Baine

and out of the bath, up and out of bed, or changing them if they get dirty, and it's hard when my partner isn't there". Kayleigh suffered a back injury a few years ago and explained that "there's only so much lifting I can do. They are only going to get bigger, and with everything I do, I do it two times over, so it makes life easier having a wet room downstairs".

"It's ok to ask for help and there's nothing to be ashamed of"

To support their independence, Kayleigh also hopes to install hoists across the ground floor so that they can move around the house freely, as well as opening up the doorframes

because "their two chairs only just about fit through our doors" currently.

While the adaptations will primarily support Jaxson and Baine's growing needs, Kayleigh knows that it will also have a positive impact on the rest of the family, as the twins currently share a room with their sister, which can be disruptive for her because "if Baine's crying, then everyone else in that room is awake". By offering them all extra space and more independence it gives the children "a better quality of life and to make life at home easier. Life is

difficult anyway, so the adaptations are to give them a better life, fun and space to do that!"

When asked about their fundraising plans Kayleigh explained that "because of covid, we've been restricted with what we can do, but I would love to do a sky dive for them. It's an achievement being thrown in the deep end and facing a fear. We also have a small network of people who are understanding and are aware of the boys' situation, so when an event comes up, they will definitely be hands on!"

Kayleigh urged other families who were considering fundraising with Tree of Hope to "just do it because every

little helps. No one asks to be in this situation or to be in a vulnerable position, but you just have to take what help you can, and learn that people do care about others." She explained that "it's ok to ask for help and there's nothing to be ashamed of. I felt a bit overwhelmed but since speaking to Tree of Hope again, I've signed up to loads of Facebook groups to post about the boys, and I've raised more money".

As their needs are life-long, having the home adaptations will enable Jaxson and Baine to have some independence, it will support their mobility and overall health, and will enable the family to create some kind of normal.

You can make a donation here!



Follow Jaxson and Baine's journey here:

<https://www.treeofhope.org.uk/jaxson-peters-and-baine-peters/>

Or check their progress on Instagram
[@jaxsonandbainesstory](https://www.instagram.com/jaxsonandbainesstory)



OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

2022 is a really exciting year for Tree of Hope as we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary! Not only are we looking forward to some really special events which we cannot wait to share with you, but we are also loving the opportunity to look back over the last 30 years to see how far we have come as a children's charity, and to celebrate just how many families we have helped in our 30 years

Founded in 1992 by Corinne Gardner, Tree of Hope Children's Charity was born out of a desire to help families to raise funds for treatments and services which were not easily available through the NHS. Corinne sadly passed away in June 2019, but her wonderful legacy lives on throughout the work that we continue to do with families and children across the UK, so that anyone needing our help and support, are able to receive just that!

Throughout the years, our goal has remained the same as we continue to help the families of seriously ill or disabled children, so that they have the opportunity to access everything that their child needs.

Over the past 30 years, we have continued to grow and develop, meaning that our dedicated team can provide more help and support

than ever before. We are now able to provide weekly creative fundraising ideas and strategies, our funding opportunities have increased, and we continue to seek out partnerships with healthcare organisations with a shared mission, to ensure that children can access the treatments and services that they need.

What's more, this year, our team of 9 will be expanding as we take on another family support officer based in the North! Providing that all important emotional support, our new Family Support Officer will be helping us strengthen our services to families in the North of England and Scotland, offering invaluable guidance through their fundraising missions.

30 Years of transforming the health of sick and disabled children is an accomplishment too exciting to miss, and because of that, we are

putting on some wonderful events to commemorate this achievement. From a summer fair and family picnic, to an open garden, annual golf day and many other events which we're yet to reveal, we really hope to see as many people there as possible, as it is testament to our incredibly loyal supporters that we have been able to develop into the charity that we are today – without your help, none of this would have been possible.

To get the party started early, you can help us celebrate by starting your very own 30-themed fundraising event or challenge. Take a look at some of our suggestions, but the ideas are only limited by your imagination! If taking part in our 30th anniversary celebrations, do let us know how you plan to help us raise vital funds for Tree of Hope! You can email marketing@treeofhope.org.uk



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, 61-63 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2QE

- 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

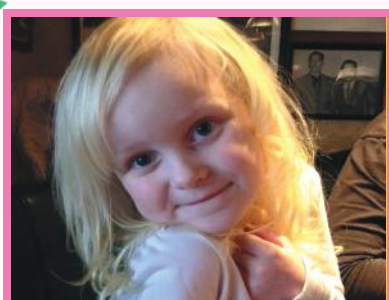
Payment Reference: TOHGDonation

- 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 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 every time you shop.

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

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

Transforming the health of sick and disabled children

**www.treeofhope.org.uk
 01892 535525**