



Tree of Hope

*Transforming the health of
sick and disabled children*

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Be More William 

Oakley's NAPA Journey 

Winnie D'Arcy 



ANGELMAN SYNDROME
AWARENESS EDITION!

www.treeofhope.org.uk



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Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1149254 / Scotland SCO42611



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Hello Tree of Hope Family!

Welcome to your first newsletter of 2024.

I feel incredibly privileged to be joining what I can already see is a very special and unique community of people and organisations dedicated to empowering each other to make positive change.

My priority over the coming months is to listen, to learn, and to work with the dedicated team on shaping our future strategy so that we can continue to turn hope into action, making a tangible difference to the lives of children and young people from across the UK.

Key to this will be your voices, ideas, and experiences (and yes that includes you, Oakley bear!). I know the team already have a wealth of knowledge and insights which we will be reviewing as part of our plans, but, I'm also keen to hear directly from you so if you have any thoughts, big or small, about how Tree of Hope can support or work with you, please do get in touch with me directly – my door will always be open.

Thank you for coming on this journey with me, I am really looking forward to meeting many of you soon and here's to a year filled with hope, action, and meaningful change.

Kind
Regards,

Becky






Becky
Andrew
CEO



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Happy New Year (if we're still allowed to say that) and yes, you might have noticed that we've had a little bit of a re-design!

Over the last year, we, along with our fantastic web developers over at Kayo Digital have been working hard to bring you a brand-new website to make navigation easier for our current and future families, as well as offering you the most useful information and resources to help you with your fundraising journey.

We would like to thank some of our families, fundraisers and supporters who helped us last year with our initial research project which informed us about what exactly you would like to see from our website. Of course, if you have any comments or further suggestions about what you would like to see on our website, we would always welcome your thoughts! Please do drop us an email at marketing@treeofhope.org.uk!

Looking ahead to a brand-new year of opportunities, we're really excited to see that more and more of you are planning fundraising events over the coming weeks and months, with many of you taking part in marathons or challenges events! If you or your supporters would like some social media or PR support with your challenge, please do feel free to email marketing@treeofhope.org.uk so that we can support your event or challenge!

As always, we're here to support you with whatever stage of fundraising you're at! Please do pick up the phone for a chat or drop us an email, whether your question is big or small!

Steph, Editor



Facebook Support Groups!

Did you know that we have a Facebook Group for Tree of Hope families, to swap ideas, make new connections and talk to other parents going through the fundraising journey? Well, we're soon going to be expanding this group! We will be launching a brand new Northern Facebook community, giving our families more regional support, tips and advice. Keep an eye out on your emails and socials for more information about this new support group and let us know what you would like to see on our Facebook Support Groups in the future!

You can also head to our current Facebook Support Group and join the community:
www.facebook.com/groups/783305589170924

Our Mascot Competition

We are thrilled to announce the imminent launch of our new website! After months of hard work and dedication from both us and the brilliant Kayo Digital, we hope the new design and features will enhance families and fundraisers interactions with us.

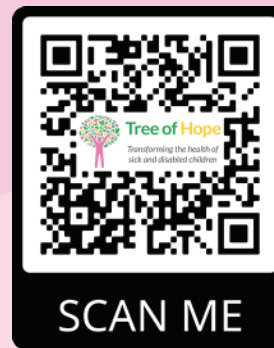
On our launch date, Oakley the bear (right) will be here to help us celebrate with a competition! He will be hiding around the website, ready for you to explore and find, with a jackpot prize of a £50 Amazon Voucher and your very own Oakley bear up for grabs!

Keep an eye out for our launch date announcements on socials and keep an eye out for Oakley the bear, who will let you know more about how to enter our competition! So if you're not already following us, what are you waiting for?!



Oakley's NAPA Journey

Total Raised
£17,349.34
of
£50,000



At Tree of Hope, one of the most common reasons for fundraising that we see, is families needing to fundraise for various forms of therapy, due to a shortfall in NHS provision. NAPA is just one of those therapy centres we work with that our families attend, and with the opening of their first London centre in November 2023, we wanted to catch up with one of our families lucky enough to experience this amazing facility. Read on to find out all about Oakley and his NAPA journey!

Oakley is a happy, inquisitive two-year-old who is at his happiest when exploring the great outdoors. Oakley was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), type one 12-weeks after birth, and received Zolgensma gene therapy at just 14-weeks-old which stopped the progression of the disease, but still means Oakley will require a lifetime of physiotherapy, orthotics and specialist equipment. Oakley's family came to Tree of Hope to set up their fundraising campaign to pay for regular private physiotherapy at home, orthotics, and an adapted vehicle.

Oakley's dad, Nick, told us that "Zolgensma is a completely new and unique type of treatment, which saved Oakley's life. We are so grateful that Zolgensma came 'on stream' through the NHS after many years of innovation. The drug is not a cure but we see it as unlocking and giving Oakley the potential to develop. We wonder what the future holds for Oakley and we want to maximise the opportunity for him to progress throughout his childhood. Furthering his abilities will allow him greater levels of independence and choice when he is an adult". Nick went on to say that "he is so busy with appointments, it is hard to give him a normal childhood so far."

Mum, Amy, has given up work to become Oakley's full-time carer which means endless medical and logistical administration, as well as extensive research into the best treatments available. Nick commented that "it can feel a bit lonely - there is only a small group of people who really understand what it's like. We also want to help the NHS further their research into what gives SMA children the best outcomes, by sharing and demonstrating the benefits of certain private therapies."



The family are determined to maximise Oakley's chances for greater independence in the future and have already adapted their home to create an accessible and extended home for Oakley, who was eligible for the maximum council grant towards this, with the rest provided by family. The wheelchair accessible garden, funded by Nick's brother, is also a key feature with level access from the house, allowing Oakley to get outdoors all year round.

Now the family are turning their attention to his booked trip to NAPA in September 2024. To help them raise the funds they need, Nick has embarked on an ambitious North Atlantic Challenge, whereby Oakley's supporters are being asked to walk, row, cycle, or ski "across the Atlantic" to collectively achieve a total of 5,100km, roughly equivalent to the distance from Oakley's home to the flagship NAPA centre in Boston. They also have one friend running the Manchester marathon and another doing a long distance cycling event!

Having supported many families in their fundraising efforts to attend NAPA's flagship centre in Boston, USA, we were over the moon to hear that a new Neurological and Physical Abilitation Centre in London was to open its doors to families from November 2023, so our Family Support Officer, Caroline, was delighted to go and visit!



NAPA was founded in Los Angeles by Lynette LaScala in 2008 and centres around the world offer intensive therapy services to children with a wide range of neurological and developmental needs.

An individualised intensive three-week therapy programme is designed for each child using a combination of speech, physical, occupational and other innovative therapies such as Dynamic Movement Intervention therapy, the Neurosuit and the Spidercag, these being just some of the many techniques they use.

NAPA London's therapists have the highest level of professional qualifications, with many holding professional doctorates in PT, OT and Speech, and all therapists also undergo 12 weeks of training in the intensive model to deliver therapy to the NAPA standard.

One of the things that struck Caroline the most on her



visit was the huge sense of camaraderie between the families. Caroline explained "there is a large parents area where the children can have a break and a snack between therapy sessions, equipped with microwaves, kettles and a fridge to make things easy for the parents, and a relaxing area for the children to unwind". Families are encouraged to connect with other parents via the NAPA Centre Facebook page and Whats App group allowing strong relationships to be formed with other parents sharing a similar experience.

Centre Manager David Grocott first came into contact with NAPA when his son Angus started intensive sessions in the summer of 2018 to treat his quadraplegic cerebral palsy, and quickly saw the impact of the intensive model and the benefits that it could bring, not just to children but their entire families.

David told us "the thing that struck me when I first went to NAPA in 2018 is that it is unashamedly deeply ambitious. Not unrealistic but very ambitious. We also believe in having fun with children, being informal, and never, ever giving up." **He went on to say** "It is my personal aim that every child and parent who comes here comes in and breathes a sigh of relief. We work hard and have fun, and I will do all I can to help families in the UK - We will never give up!"

As a parent of a child with additional needs himself, David understands the challenges and obstacles that parents face, but recognises that "working with charities such as Tree of Hope enables us to bring more people more choice in therapies. It'll be great to see what can be achieved in the future!"

Tree of Hope are delighted to be helping families like Oakley's to raise the funds they need to attend the NAPA Centre. Oakley's dad Nick shared his advice to families looking to fundraise, explaining "try using all of Tree of Hope's tips. They have been really helpful, particularly at the beginning when I didn't really know what I was doing. I would also suggest looking at what other fundraisers are doing for inspiration. We have been blown away by the support we have received from public as well as friends and family."

www.treeofhope.org.uk/fundraising-for-oakley



SCAN ME

Total Raised

£23,595.00

of

£30,000

Be More William

William Goodson (aka #BeMoreWilliam) has been part of the Tree of Hope family since 2019. Over the years, his family have fundraised for garden adaptations, a specialist bed, mobility equipment, and contributed to a life-changing house adaptation. In 2023, William's parents completely smashed their fundraising with a series of EPIC fundraising challenges which they named 'Hundreds of Miles 4 Hundreds of Smiles'. Read on to find out about the variety of challenges they took on!



To honour the amazing effort that William puts into life every day, and especially when faced with adversity, Emma and Andy (William's parents) undertook a huge number of challenges in 2023. William has Angelman syndrome, a severe neurogenetic condition and means William has life threatening epilepsy, a life limiting lung condition and has had support from a young age to support his movement, mobility and his motor function. The family have fundraised since 2019 but the need for their fundraising to increase was brought to the fore when William faced a fight for his life just before Easter 2023 after a routine operation led him down a path into level 2 respiratory failure, collapsed lungs, early sepsis and acute respiratory distress syndrome. Despite being only given a 20-40% chance of survival he is now back at school and very much enjoying a hectic social life once more!

Inspired by William's positive outlook and his joy of giggling and smiling, Mum Emma and Dad Andy with little brother Eli in tow decided to launch their

'Hundreds of Miles for Hundreds of Smiles' challenge throughout the course of 2023 with the aim of raising money for regular therapy sessions and various pieces of equipment including a running buggy/offroad wheelchair and a trike, so that William can join his family on adventures.

Between them, Emma and Andy completed 12 hardcore challenges over the course of the year, and mixed with fitting in training, both working full-time, caring for William, as well as Emma's recovery from major knee reconstruction in September 2022, they certainly didn't make things easy for themselves!

But it doesn't end there! The dynamic duo started 2024 as they meant to go on with a New Year's Eve run together. This year will also see Emma tackle her 5th and 6th world major marathons in Tokyo and Boston, and Andy will be running 10 (Yes,10) Ultra 50km marathons in 10 days in July!!

Emma

- 14th May – **65-mile Ride for Helen** – completed in 4:31
- 27th May – **100-mile Ride London** – completed in 6:46
- 23rd June – **118-mile Tour De Sizewell Ride** on the hottest day of the year!
- 16th September – **2-mile swim** to complete the London Classics medal – Completed in 1:55
- 7th October – **Chicago Marathon** – completed in 4:59:24

The Goodsons!

- 18th December – **Portsmouth Trail Marathon** – running together in 5:12
- 31st December – **53-mile combined run!** Emma ran 16 miles and Andy ran 36.75 miles in a time of 6:18:04 seconds, placing 3rd!

William's needs are always at the forefront of their minds, and so they are determined to raise as much money as possible, to make his day to day life as comfortable as possible.

Telling us about the highs and lows of their fundraising year, Emma explained "My hardest event was the Tour De Sizewell ride at work last year because I was still not recovered enough from Ride London and it was the hottest day of the year. Andy's was the 200km due to the extreme fatigue of running for 30-hours.



Emma was interviewed by BBC Sport!

Emma also told us that the couple both enjoyed some incredible highs with "my favourite event being the Chicago marathon without a doubt, and Andy's was between the 100-miler for surprising himself and the

Andy

- 31st December 2022 – **The Answer Ultra Challenge** – 2nd place
- 13th January – **Chocathon marathon** – 1st place!
- 18th February – **Moonlight Challenge** – 3rd place!
- 1st April – **Double Marathon** – 8th place in a time of 9:35
- 20th May – **100-mile run** – 6th place and completed in 21:30:05
- 1st July – **Saltmarsh 75-miles**, 4th place in 16:38:07
- 30th September – **200km run** – 5th place and completed in an epic time of 29:50:48



Chocathon because it was an accidental win! I also really enjoyed Andy's achievements – I'm super proud of him!"

On discussing some of their most memorable moments, Emma recalled "I did manage to totally splash Andy in the face by ploughing through a muddy puddle... I hate mud so I avoid it usually at all costs, so Andy had no idea it was coming!" She went on to say "I think it was a slow burn revenge from February 2012 where Andy jumped on a bottle of Lucozade at the Brighton Half and covered me head to foot in Lucozade sport!"

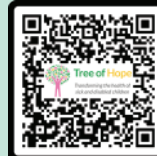
Congratulations to Emma and Andy on such a fulfilling (and busy) year of fundraising last year! We're wishing you all the luck with this year's growing list of challenges! Check out William's fundraising page below to keep up to date with their progress or donate to #BeMoreWilliam, or visit the Goodson's Hundreds of Miles for Hundreds of Smiles fundraiser here: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hom4h0s

Our Impact in 2023

2023 has been and gone and it's been a pleasure getting to know so many more new families. It's been a privilege to help families navigate the healthcare solutions they need, which often come at very high costs, where the NHS can't support and this is where our Family Support team step in, to help inspire confidence and provide advice and support to fundraise effectively.

Tree of Hope families are never on their own and we have assisted over 700 families this past year to help them on their way to achieving their fundraising goals. We work closely with families and ensure parents work with their healthcare teams, to ensure the safest and best outcomes are reached for their children.

Scan the QR code to read our full 2022/2023 impact report. Here is a snapshot of the difference Tree of Hope has made to children's lives over our last financial year:



SCAN ME



£42,771

was spent on autism assistance aids and therapies including autism assistance dogs

With awareness of autism having increased in recent years, Tree of Hope is diversifying the support we give to families with a variety of conditions.

£282,924

bought over 161 pieces of specialist equipment

including orthotics, assistive technology for communication, car adaptations to make vehicles wheelchair accessible, specialist wheelchairs, hot tubs to provide hydrotherapy at home, Innwalks, specialist play and sensory equipment.



£71,886

was used on healthcare expenses

that parents source with the help and advice of suppliers and healthcare teams. Our service enables parents the strength and confidence to help themselves and with the world of healthcare constantly evolving, there are additional aids out there available to all kinds of conditions prescribed with the guidance of healthcare professionals.



£36,272

was spent on the additional family living expenses

incurred when a child is in hospital or having specialist treatment in a location not near home, allowing a parent to stay with their child with less financial pressure at home. Daily Living Allowance is something we have offered to parents to claim for a number of years but given the inflated costs we have seen this year, the requests for this have increased significantly in light of inflation.



£48,990

was spent on operations

This includes specialist treatments for rare diseases and conditions, cancer treatment and Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR). The NHS' funding criteria means the amount of SDR operations we fund have reduced, but the therapy on the NHS is still minimal in comparison which is where our services have increased.



£311,035

was spent on specialist therapies

and support including physiotherapy and rehabilitation, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, music therapy and therapies associated with autism.



£108,882

was used to support home adaptations

including creating safe gardens and outdoor spaces for children with mobility / sensory / learning difficulty issues, making homes accessible for those in wheelchairs and with physical disabilities including adapting bathrooms and bedrooms to give children access and comfort when at home, and installing stairlifts.



Tree of Hope

Transforming the health of sick and disabled children

£85 per person

CHARITY GOLF DAY

Nizels Golf Club



THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2024

Stableford Competition - Teams of 3 and 4

Bacon Baguettes & Coffee, 18 Holes of Golf and a 2-Course Meal

Nearest The Pin and Longest Drive Competitions, Raffle and Auction



SCAN ME

www.treeofhope.org.uk/event/charity-golf-day-nizels

Please contact Karen.Warner@treeofhope.org.uk for more info or to book!



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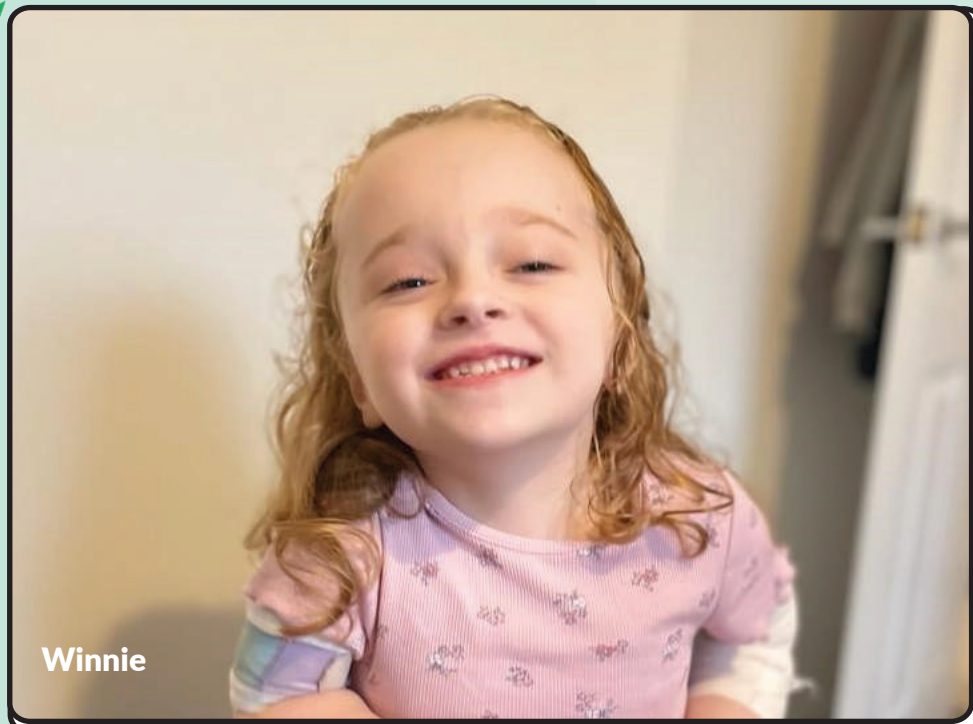
Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1149254 / Scotland SCO42611

Winnie D'Arcy's Story

Total Raised
£24,459.00
— of —
£50,000



SCAN ME



Winnie

Raising a sick or disabled child doesn't just mean purchasing one mobility aid, or simply attending a few therapy sessions. For many children, it can affect all aspects of their life, meaning they need support with their home set up, accessing various types of therapies, purchasing multiple items of specialist equipment, and needing an adapted family vehicle. Winnie's family need to raise funds for her multiple needs, so Tree of Hope are here to support their journey throughout!

Seven-year-old Winnie lives in Essex with her Mum, Emma, Dad, Steve, and little sister, Haze. Winnie is a determined character who knows exactly what she does and doesn't like and is a huge nursery rhyme fan, so much so, she requested that guests to her recent 7th birthday party sang 'Incy Wincy Spider' rather than Happy Birthday!



Winnie's birthday

The day Winnie was born, it was noticed that she had an arm fracture. Subsequent X-rays then revealed numerous fractures and curvature of the spine, which raised some red flags that all wasn't as it should be, and Winnie later received a diagnosis of Osteogenesis Imperfecta (also known as Brittle Bones or OI) at the age of 3 months. She was referred to Great Ormond Street Hospital and has been under their care ever since. Winnie is a full-time wheelchair user and has undergone seven operations to help strengthen her bones and physical health, but despite this has still suffered numerous fractures. Winnie is also affected by a bleeding disorder which is likely to cause issues in the future and also has a diagnosis of autism.

Her combined diagnoses mean Winnie and her family face a number of challenges in their daily life. Winnie struggles socially and due to her brittle bones, it is challenging for the family to get out and about together. Mum, Emma told us that "It is hard to find things to do that are safe for Winnie as well as being enjoyable. If we go to the park we have to go early or very late when it's not busy. If I could put a load of bubble wrap around her I would!" Emma also told us "Home has become our

haven where we can invite family and friends over and know that Winnie is safe." The family have found Winnie's condition an isolating experience as Dad, Steve has given up work to become her full time carer, and Winnie's little sister, Haze has a very different experience to her peers due to her sister's additional needs.

The D'Arcy family joined Tree of Hope in February 2023 and with amazing support from their family, friends and local community, have raised an impressive £24,459 in just 10 months. One of their fundraising highlights from the past year was a Boxing Day Duck Race, suggested by a friend of the family! Costing £5 a duck, a whopping 520 rubber ducks took part in the race for the first-place prize of £250 and plenty of runner-up prizes too! This funny fundraiser raised a brilliant £2,800!

Fundraising Duck Race



Another fundraiser, supported by the local community, was a Physical Activity Day. Emma told us it "was a really great day. We had recently moved to the area so it was a good way to meet people. Not only did we raise £1216, but it was also really beneficial for my physical and mental health. People are already asking about the next one, so it will definitely be repeated in 2024!"



Winnie's Wellness event

A family friend of Winnie's also got involved in the fundraising by holding a sponsored haircut. Alf Brown had his hair cut after six year's growth, and not only raised £2080 for Winnie, but he also donated his hair to the Little Princess Trust who will turn his hair into wigs for children who have lost their hair through cancer treatments.



Winnie's new wheels!

Having had a booster start to their fundraising, the family have recently been able to use some of their hard-earned funds to purchase a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) which has already had a very positive impact on the family's ability to get out and about together. Emma said "The WAV has been a great family car for us. Not having to lift her wheelchair in and out has made all the difference to mine and Steve's backs! It has been a godsend and we're so chuffed to have raised the money for this through fundraising."

Further fundraising is very much needed for Winnie so the family can continue their campaigning to help her in every way possible. Hydrotherapy is vital for Winnie to practice muscle building and allows her to do so in a safe environment and reduce her fracture risk. The family also wish to change the flooring in their house so Winnie can independently use her wheelchair around the home. Emma commented "Our dream is that Winnie will one day be able to have some independence. If she could learn to weight bear for a few moments, that would be massive for her independence."

Winnie has had several operations and each operation can cost the family in the region of £1500 in terms of expenses, so with this in mind, Winnie's supporters have already begun planning various exciting fundraisers for 2024 including a springtime afternoon tea, a marathon, and a firewalk!

On asking Emma about the support they have received from Tree of Hope so far, Emma said "We have found everyone at Tree of Hope to have been really supportive. If we have any questions, we always get a swift response back." **She went on to say** "Working with Tree of Hope makes us feel very secure and we love the fact that it means our fundraising is very transparent. I sometimes found it hard to keep track of all the funds and payments, but Tree of Hope now manage all that side of things for me. Fundraising doesn't feel like a pressure anymore, it feels like fun!"

Follow Winnie's progress at <https://www.facebook.com/wishforwinnie>

www.treeofhope.org.uk/winnie-darcy/

Our Fundraising Stars!



NFU Mutual's Christmas Jumper Day

Corporate and school support

Thank you to:

- **Plumbase** who generously donated £1100, via one of their employees
- **Simply Sports** (via Christopher Hull Sports Tonbridge) for their continued support through their customer loyalty scheme
- **Liliwaste Tonbridge** for their Christmas fundraising, raising £250
- **NFU Mutual Tunbridge Wells & Flimwell** for their Christmas jumper day raising £211
- **Schools at Somerhill Tonbridge**, who raised £538 at their Christmas Fair in December
- **Holmewood House School in Tunbridge Wells**, as part of their charity adoption. So far, they have raised £1077 from their summer fair, fireworks event and Christmas fair!



Tesco, Pembury's toy donation

Bluewater Giving Tree Gifts

Christmas Donors

Last year we were also supported once again by the **Bluewater Giving Tree** and **Tesco Pembury** at Christmas, with a toy collection for our families in Kent. Huge thanks to Will at **Aylesford Couriers**, who was our very own father Christmas and delivered goodies to our Kent families. Thank you to the customers who so generously donated items.



We are always looking for new charity partnerships, big and small, so if your team would like to support a small but mighty charity like Tree of Hope, please get in touch!

Corporate Charity of the Year Adoption

We are also super excited to announce that we have been chosen by **Wards Estate Agents** across Kent as their charity of the year. We are excited to be working with them over the next 12 months. Watch this space for their fundraising news and inspiration.

Branch Managers Gemma Duckworth (Paddock Wood) and Daniel Forster (Meopham) will also be running the Brighton Marathon in aid of Tree of Hope... what a team they are!



Skylark Golf Club

Our wonderful Golf Clubs

Skylark Golf Club – Steve Browning's captaincy year will be coming to an end in March, so we wanted to thank everyone at Skylark Golf Club for the support over the course of the year, and of course thanks to Steve himself who was so dedicated to making this year a success, raising an amazing **£13,626!**



Faversham Golf Club, Old Cock Pheasants Golf Society also supported us during 2023, thanks to **Ray Beedle** nominating us as his chosen charity during his captaincy year. Ray has supported Tree of Hope, along with his wife and our **Patron Jane Beedle** for many years. They raised a brilliant **£2,710!**



Young Soloist, Penny

Celebration of Christmas

Last year we hosted a Celebration of Christmas at St Nicholas Church Sevenoaks, a beautiful venue, with such helpful staff! Thank you to our performers, supporters, trustees and audience for bringing a festive feel to our event. Of course, special thanks to our sponsors Werry Consulting, Pure Nails and Handelsbanken Sevenoaks for their support!

Save the Date!

7th April – BRIGHTON MARATHON – 2 spaces still available!

12th April – LONDON MARATHON MY WAY – 3 spaces available for the virtual marathon!

9th May – CHARITY GOLF DAY, NIZELS. More info on page 9!

31st August – DRAGON BOAT RACE – BEWL WATER – A great group/team building activity!

June – September – DINE AND DONATE!

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Karen Warner at challengeevents@treeofhope.org.uk



Gareth Munn

Finding the Funding

The diagnosis process can be a daunting time for families, who desperately want answers, as well as a plan for the months and years ahead. When faced with the possibility of having to fund life-changing therapies, mobility aids or even expensive treatment courses, families can naturally feel overwhelmed with the prospect, so it is important to take the time to fully understand your options. This is where Tree of Hope can help, as we can help families take back some control with their child's future healthcare needs. Read on to find out about Gareth's own experience.

Gareth Munn of The Private Investment Office is a valued supporter of Tree of Hope. Gareth first found out about Tree of Hope when researching funding options for his daughter, who had been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. We asked Gareth if he would share his story of finding the best possible funding routes for his daughter, which he kindly agreed to!

"When our daughter was born, there were no complications at birth and no sign of any issues until she showed signs of physical developmental delay at around 12-months-old. So for us, compared to many parents of children with disabilities, the journey has been one of constant change and discovery, in terms of what support she might require and what medical interventions might be appropriate, but also in terms of what is available and what our daughter enjoys and is capable of doing. Unfortunately, much of this does not come without cost, which is why a flexible approach to funding is so useful to us.

Everyone knows how special the NHS is, but sometimes the sheer scope of it can be overwhelming and difficult to navigate (our daughter currently works with 9 different specialists), and the reality is, given the huge amount of work they do across the country, there are some areas (and this applies to both your treatment and ironically your physical location) which are better served by the expensive private sector.

Peripheral items, which are not necessary but have, without a doubt, had a material impact on our daughter's progress and overall wellbeing, like adapted tricycles, non-standard walking frames, 1:1 swimming lessons, hippotherapy, etc. are all often equally

expensive and can add up quickly.

Finally, there are a number of additional therapies and surgeries which find the grey area between NHS support or not; you'll see a number of stories on the Tree of Hope platform right now about SDR which is a surgery many parents with Cerebral Palsy want for their children and can lead to good outcomes, but is not currently well supported by the NHS. This surgery is phenomenally expensive when done outside of the NHS, with bills in excess of £60,000 being common.

The long and short of all of this is that fundraising ends up being a fundamental part of any disabled child's journey, and why Tree of Hope can be such a powerful partner.

Unlike traditional crowd funding sites, at Tree of Hope a registered charitable 'pot' can be set up for the child in question, with funds then distributed as and when required- rather than for a specific 'goal'. Not only does this mean gift aid is claimable, it creates flexibility and security for the parents and means money does not have to be raised for each therapy/piece of equipment/surgery on an individual basis. Should money be raised for a surgery that the medical advice then changes on, there's no need to have an awkward discussion with fundraisers as the money can remain in the charitable pot and be used for other more relevant things at a later date.

The Tree of Hope platform, and the support the team provides in terms of fundraising and advice, can be a truly life changing resource for many families."

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 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



How to donate

There are many ways to donate to Tree of Hope or a child's campaign. Take a look at some options here or visit our website here to find your preferred method: www.treeofhope.org.uk/ways-to-donate/donate-to-us/



- 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. (If cheques are intended for a particular child rather than the charity as a whole, please ensure the child's name and campaign name are written on the back of the cheque)
- 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 donate online via www.treeofhope.org.uk using the Donate to Tree of Hope button.

BECOME A FRIEND OF TREE OF HOPE!

To become a Friend of Tree of Hope, simply complete the form below, tear it off, and return it to our office and we'll do the rest.

I/We wish to become a Friend(s) of Tree of Hope

Subscription Rates (please tick as appropriate)	
Monthly Donation of £10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Donation of £100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Title	
First name (s)	
Surname	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
I/we would like to stay in touch as part of the Tree of Hope Friend initiative. If you would rather not hear from us, write 'opt out' here:	
Please specify your donation method:	
I have completed my standing order with my bank & referenced: TOH friend	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have set up via Tree of Hope website: www.treeofhope.org.uk/donations	<input type="checkbox"/>
I wish to send a cheque	<input type="checkbox"/>
BACS/IBAN Transfer: Name of Account: Tree of Hope, Bank: Metro Bank Sort Code: 23-05-80, Account Number: 21862665	

We will only use your personal details in the ways you have consented to. We will not pass your details on to any other organisation. Please see our Privacy Policy for more detail, at <https://www.treeofhope.org.uk/terms-of-use/privacy-policy/>



Become a friend of Tree of Hope and help us on our mission to help as many sick and disabled children across the UK as possible.

For £10 a month or £100 a year you will receive:

- ▶ Monthly updates about families and how your funds help
- ▶ Annual Thank You letter from the Chairman & Impact Report
- ▶ Invitations to networking events
- ▶ Tree of Hope bear
- ▶ Tree of Hope trolley tag
- ▶ Tree of Hope rollerball pen

There are several ways to become a Tree of Hope Friend; bank transfer, cheque, standing order, or sign up online here: www.treeofhope.org.uk/friends-of-tree-of-hope/

To pay by cheque, please return this completed slip to 'Tree of Hope Friends', 61-63 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2QE or email Karen.Warner@treeofhope.org.uk.

Once your donation has been made, we will be in touch and put your welcome pack in the post and send you a gift aid declaration form if your donation has been made offline.



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

Some medical conditions we have helped families with

- Cerebral Palsy
- Retts Syndrome
- Downs syndrome
- Global Developmental Delay
- Hypermobility
- Congenital Hypotonia
- Epilepsy
- Visual Impairments

- Meningitis complications
- Autism
- Dravet Syndrome
- SMA
- 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.

www.treeofhope.org.uk

Contact us:

@ info@treeofhope.org.uk

☎ 01892 535525

Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1149254 / Scotland SCO42611



Tree of Hope

Transforming the health of sick and disabled children