



The RWT Charity Newsletter

Making a real difference to the lives of our patients, their families and staff.

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter

In a glitzy awards ceremony, which took place on Thursday, November 11th at Wolverhampton Racecourse, we were delighted to be crowned winner in the 'Kindness in the Community' category at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2021.

The judges were impressed by how our charity adapted during the pandemic, commenting on how innovative ideas helped to drive donations whilst using funds to invest in technology that kept people connected during periods of restricted visiting.



Read more:

www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk/news/article/black-country-chamber-business-awards-winners-announced/

Autumn 2021



Christmas at RWT

Christmas in hospital can be a very difficult time for our patients, their families and loved ones. Our dedicated, hard-working staff give up time with their own families to continue to provide excellent standards of care throughout the festive season. This Christmas will be particularly difficult due to the challenges of COVID-19. Restrictions on visiting and Christmas present donations have had to be put in place to keep everyone safe.

We are launching our Christmas appeal this year – please help us in any way you can by purchasing an extra gift and donating it to the 0-19 service.

Your support will make the festive season a special time for our young patients in hospital, those that are vulnerable at home in the community and their siblings.

If you wish to make a donation, your generosity can help us to support our patients, their families and staff throughout the festive season and into 2022.

All donations, no matter what size will be gratefully received and could help us to provide the following...

- **£5** could purchase activity books and pens to help entertain dialysis patients while they receive their weekly treatment.
- **£8.40** could purchase two patient comfort packs with everything they might need during their hospital stay such as toiletries, ear plugs to get a good night's sleep and special anti-slip socks.
- **£10** could purchase a set of PJs for one of our patients on the children's ward, so that they do not have to wear hospital gowns whilst awaiting treatment.
- **£25** could purchase a tracksuit for our patients on the rehab unit to ensure they are as comfortable as possible when doing their exercise therapy in the gym.
- **£50** could purchase additional snacks for a ward of patients with dementia, particularly those with eating or swallowing difficulties.

The RWT Charity & Volunteer Awards 2021

Celebrating 25 years of our charity and volunteers' achievements

The Charity and Volunteer Awards is a highlight in everyone's calendar as it gives us the opportunity to thank all our dedicated supporters and volunteers and give them the recognition they rightly deserve.

Due to the government social distancing guidelines and legislation; this year's celebration is a little different, however this does not mean that we are any less grateful for all the support we have received throughout the year.

We decided to host a virtual event and although it is not as interactive as our previous events, this does not take away from our message of thanks and huge appreciation for everything that our supporters and volunteers continue to do for us.

The RWT Charity Special Recognition Awards

These special awards recognise individuals or organisations that are or have been active supporters of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity. Without their support, the charity would not have been able to have helped enhance patient care and experience at the Trust.

Please see below to read more about our supporters who were presented with awards during this year's Charity and Volunteer Awards.

Fundraising Champion Award

This award recognises either a recent outstanding achievement in relation to fundraising in aid of The RWT Charity or an achievement that has been consistently built up over a period of time.

We are pleased to announce that this award has been presented to Jason Guy. Jason, owner of recruitment firm Staff Today, chose to fundraise for the Trust's Neonatal Unit after his daughter Olivia was born

premature in October 2020. He has completed several different fundraising activities over the past year, from selling his book 'Tales from the Tape', to the Three Wise Men following a Star – Steve Bull – from Birmingham Children's Hospital to New Cross Hospital.

To date, Jason has raised and donated a total of £13,726.91 and he isn't stopping there! With future fundraising plans underway, he hopes to soon pass the £15,000 mark.

We would also like to give congratulations to Pamela Harvey, who has been presented with the highly commended award for Fundraising Champion.



Young Fundraiser Award (for ages 25 and under)

This award recognises a young person who is dedicated to supporting The RWT Charity, going above and beyond to raise funds or awareness.

We are delighted to honour Ricardo, a brave little boy, with this award. Ricardo is the sibling of Tiffany Benjamin-Mcfarlane who is the longest patient to stay on the children's ward at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. She sadly only spent three months at home during her short three years of life. Her conditions meant that she was unable to go home as her brain stem had been affected after suffering from extensive bleeding to her brain and lungs prior to birth. Tiffany sadly passed away September 2020 and since then Ricardo has helped his and Tiffany's Mum Stacey and Grandmother Linda; to support the ward in making things as easy as possible for patients, their siblings, and parents.

Corporate Charity Ambassador of the Year

This award recognises special individuals who, with the support of their employer and work colleagues, have made an exceptional contribution to the work of The RWT Charity, whilst motivating their colleagues to support and raise funds.



The winner of this award is Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club. The Trust and the club have always had a close working relationship. We honoured them with this award because of their generous donations over the last 18 months.

Thanks to a partnership with Wolves Foundation and Fosun, the owners of Wolves, over 250,000 items of PPE were donated with additional personal protective clothing (PPE) to help protect Trust staff and patients in their fight against COVID-19.

This included 41,000 surgical face masks, 2,200 coveralls, 6,500 protection masks, and 400 pairs of goggles.

The club have also made a six-figure donation to the Trust, and through the Wolves Foundation and Wolves Wishes initiative, have donated food parcels to Trust staff staying in the Novotel in Wolverhampton city centre. In addition, Wolves former players, ex-managers and supporters made a donation of £51,071.23 led by former captain Karl Henry. This donation helped fund the kitting out of the new two wards that were built at New Cross Hospital during the pandemic.



Ricardo helped to make up activity packs for lots of different occasions (including Tiffany's 4th Birthday, Christmas and Halloween) so that young patients on the ward have fun arts and crafts to do at the bedside. Ricardo also helped to bag up packs of sweet treats and toiletries for young adults on the ward. Ricardo recently helped to organise a sponsored walk with their cousins and friends (totalling three miles) in Disney fancy dress; to help purchase two special projectors for the ward so that children and their siblings can enjoy movie nights in the playroom (post COVID-19) as well as enjoy movies from their bedside.

Family donates cuddle cot to Trust with support from 4Louis

A cuddle cot has been donated by a bereaved family who wanted to give back to a local NHS Trust in memory of their daughter.

Leanne Bryan, 33, gave birth to Isabella at Gloucester Hospital on her husband, Alan's birthday in May 2015 when she was stillborn at 23 weeks and 5 days. Up until then, the pregnancy had been smooth, so the loss came as a real shock, and they were completely devastated.

Since Isabelle's passing, the family have embarked on a few different fundraising activities, such as a pub quiz and raffle, a little tuck shop at Leanne's work and Alan also ran the Great North Run, "which was not to be underestimated with all the hills."

The couple have since had daughters Sienna, four, and Elenora, who has just turned five months old. The family of four visited us at New Cross Hospital to present their donation of a cuddle cot, after charity 4Louis advised of local Trust's who would benefit from this donation. This donation of a cuddle cot provides a unit which is compact, discrete, and designed to fit in to a Moses basket to keep the environment homely at such a traumatic time for our bereaved parents. It will enable families to spend longer with their children once they have passed away.

Alan said: "When my wife delivered Isabella, we were able to remain in the hospital with her for a day or so, as we had access to a 'cold cot'. This was a really valuable time for us to process this as a couple and to bond with our little girl, albeit she had already passed away. We learned that the box was from a small family run charity organisation called 4Louis, that was founded after they lost their own, and that they provide the cold cots and also ongoing support for bereaved families. Their work had helped us so much and given us those precious



memories that we would treasure, and we feel like we are forever in their debt. We really wanted to give back and support their amazing work in whatever way we could.

"Although it's really bitter-sweet, being able to do this is a very proud moment for us. We want Isabella to be remembered and to have her name out there. For us, this is a positive way that we can achieve that and help in our small way to make a difference for other families."

Sarah Blackburn, Senior Sister on Paediatric ED, said: "We are extremely grateful to Alan and Leanne for the donation of a cuddle cot. It is incredible that under such awful circumstances they found the strength as a family to fund raise to help other parents in the same situation. This resource will be invaluable to the staff and patients that attend ED. It will give parents and extended families much needed time and space to spend with their babies. Our nurses endeavour to provide the best possible care to all our patients and this will enable them to deliver the highest standard. This selfless act, I am sure will bring comfort to parents facing the loss of a child. Thanks also to the 4Louis charity who arranged for Alan and Leanne to deliver their cot to us."

Thank you



BabyPrem

Thank you to our friends at Babyprem for their support again recently. Nikki Farrington, Specialist Nurse Bereavement & Family Support on our Neonatal Unit contacted us as the team wanted to be able to provide special clothing for some of our tinier patients that have sadly passed away. It is important to make the time that parents spend with their babies as

special as possible and part of that is them having the opportunity to dress their baby in clothing that they have chosen.

Babyprem responded to our request and generously donated several outfits in a variety of different sizes to ensure that we have a selection for parents to choose from.

Leanne Bood, Charity Development Manager said: "We are very grateful for the continued support that Babyprem have shown us over the last seven years. Their donation of clothing will hopefully go some way in helping to make things easier for our bereaved parents as they will get the opportunity to select clothing that they would like their baby to wear."

For further information about the charity or how to support it, please contact our team on 01902 694473 or email rwh-tr.fundraisingteam@nhs.net