

**Winter 2022**

**Magic Medic  
brings joy  
and laughter  
to kids in  
hospital**



This October we celebrated Play in Hospital Week by visiting the children's wards at Royal Bolton Hospital and Stepping Hill Hospital along with the wonderful clown and "Magic Medic," Louby Lou. Part of our mission at MedEquip4Kids is to improve the hospital environment for young patients, who often feel anxious, stressed or bored during their stay. We fundraise so that Louby Lou can visit the hospitals once a month throughout the year. With her magic tricks, jokes, singing and balloon modelling, she brings a smile to even the most unwell children.

We've been working with Louby Lou for twenty years and her fabulous shows have lifted the spirits of thousands of poorly children in North West hospitals. It is well known that helping children to feel calmer and happier can have real benefits for their recovery from illness. On the inside page, you'll meet a few of the children feeling the effects of Louby Lou's magic. In August we partnered with Louby Lou to hold a fun Summer Party at The Trafford Centre. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and to Kids Planet Day Nurseries for sponsoring the event.





# We did it!

## Louby Lou works magic for kids at Royal Bolton

Six-year-old Emma has complex bowel, bladder, and kidney problems and is usually under the care of Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Pamela, Emma's mum brought her to Royal Bolton Hospital because of an extremely high fever caused by an infection. Emma was very brave, and thanks to the hard work of the doctors and nurses at the hospital, she began to feel better, but was still understandably upset with her stay in hospital.



Children's entertainer Louby Lou performed a magic show, sang with Emma, and even created Emma's favourite animal, an octopus from some balloons! Emma said: "Louby Lou was fantastic. I liked the magic tricks". Emma's mum also loved the performance, and added: "This has cheered Emma up massively, thank you."



Seven-month-old Gwendolyne was brought to the Royal Bolton Hospital after sustaining a fracture to her right thigh. The doctors and nurses at the hospital set about repairing Gwendolyne's leg by fitting her with a traction splint to raise her leg to ensure it healed in line with her hips. Gwendolyne cheered up when Louby Lou entertained her and mum Joanne with gentle music and balloon modelling. Joanne described the experience as "fantastic", and said "I wish Louby Lou could visit every day!"

## Heart monitor supports safe births in Warrington

The birth centre at Warrington General Hospital now has a new mobile telemetry unit, which allows the baby's heart to be monitored remotely during birth. Because the unit is wireless, it gives the mother more mobility during labour. This helps reduce the perception of pain, aids the natural processes of labour and birth, and helps the woman to feel more in control. As the machine is waterproof, it can also be used in the birthing pool. We are so grateful to everyone who supported this work, in particular the VINCI Foundation via our sponsors at Nuvia, the Medicash Foundation, and our young fundraisers, 11-year-old twins Ruben and Elena Evans-Guillen



Pictured above (left to right): Paula Quinn, Head of Talent Development and Communications at Nuvia, Ruben and Elena Evans-Guillen, Andy Abernethy, Head of Marketing at Medicash, Evelyn Glarvey, Project Co-ordinator at MedEquip4Kids, and Sarah David, Fetal Surveillance Lead Midwife at Warrington General Hospital.



# We need your help!

## New respiratory equipment for Tameside General

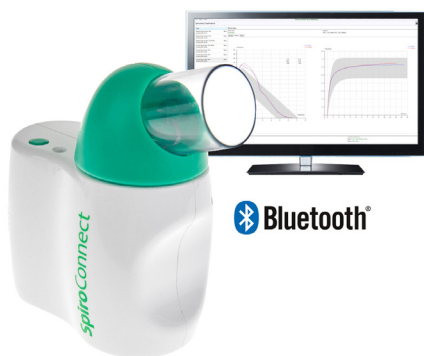


Image supplied by numed healthcare

Tameside has the highest emergency hospital admission rates in England for children with asthma. The Children's Outpatients Department at Tameside General Hospital is in need of a new SpiroConnect system to diagnose and monitor asthma and other respiratory conditions in their young patients. Spirometry is a simple test that is carried out using a device called a spirometer, a small machine attached by a cable to a mouthpiece, which measures how much air you can breathe out in one forced breath. The SpiroConnect system connects the spirometer wirelessly to a PC or tablet, meaning the spirometry can be performed in real-time on the screen. The system uses the most advanced technology to ensure that it is extremely stable, reliable and accurate.

## Breastfeeding support for new mums and babies

Breastfeeding is known to be beneficial to a baby's health as the mother's milk contains antibodies that offer lifelong protection from disease. Some mothers have chosen to breastfeed their baby, but have to be separated from their child when it is born for a variety of social care reasons. The team at Blackburn Birth Centre want to purchase a double breast pump to help the birth mother to express milk, which can then be fed to the baby, giving it all the nutritional benefits this provides.



## Creating hope for children in crisis

We are still fundraising for resources to support Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), including the Bolton and Wigan Home Intensive Treatment team, who work with young people aged 13-18 and their families who are in crisis due to their situation or trauma. The team told us: "We support children and families to understand the triggers to the crisis, to understand the emotions they are feeling, and to cope with any intrusive thoughts. We do this by suggesting and creating "hope boxes" with them, informing them of techniques such as craft making, using distractive toys, drawing, painting, and colouring. Having the resources allows the young people to feel they are not struggling alone."

If you can help us fund any of these projects, visit

[www.medequip4kids.org.uk](http://www.medequip4kids.org.uk)



# Fundraising News

## Birch Moto Services supports local healthcare

We recently visited one of our community partners, Birch Moto Services. Pictured is Site Operations Manager, Andrew Bamber, who is supporting our application to the Moto Foundation. Thanks to Andrew for giving us the opportunity to hold a fundraising day at the services in aid of local hospitals.



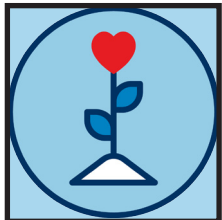
## Golf Day goes with a swing

Our annual golf day at Bramall Park Golf Club was a great success with fantastic sunny weather and over £8,000 raised for children's healthcare. Top places were held by James Gallagher Builders, OB Payments, and Hall & Pickles, closely followed by Nick Crosswaite's team, in a close fought competition. Thank you to all the companies that took part, especially our main sponsor Specialist Risk Group, and congratulations to our lucky winners!



## Thank you to our coin count volunteers

As one of The Trafford Centre's charity partners, we're invited every two months to count the coins collected from their famous fountains and use the proceeds to support our projects. This time we'd like to thank our wonderful volunteers from Clarke Willmott and Sage for helping us to wash, dry and sort £1,250 worth of coins, which will help us fund new medical equipment.



*Leaving a gift to a charity in your Will is one of the most wonderful and significant ways you can continue to transform the*

*lives of others beyond your lifetime. For more information call 0161 798 1600*

## Upcoming events!

**3 December – Shimmer Ball**

**7 December – Cathedral Sing-along**

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