

Winter 2023

Game-changing equipment supports children with asthma



We recently provided a Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FENO) machine for the Community Children’s Nursing Team at Tameside General Hospital for use with young patients with asthma, a common condition affecting one in 11 children in the UK. As well as coughing, wheezing and breathlessness, asthma can leave kids tired all the time, and in severe cases may be life-threatening. Tameside has the highest emergency hospital admission rates in England for children with asthma, making it vitally important the team have all the best equipment available.

Pictured above is 11-year-old Evie Driscoll using the FENO machine. The device measures nitric oxide in the breath to give an indication of the level of inflammation in the lungs, which helps in the diagnosis of asthma and in the ongoing monitoring of chronic asthma. Paediatric respiratory nurse Amy Gray says: *“We show patients their level of airway inflammation using the FENO machine, either reassuring them if they are anxious or demonstrating that they can get better control over it. This is an absolute gamechanger for our service and patients at Tameside.”*



In October we visited Firwood High School in Bolton, which caters for pupils with special needs, to witness the impact of the Acheeva Bed and postural equipment we provided. The innovative bed enables disabled pupils to maintain a comfortable posture, facilitating their inclusion in class, while the postural equipment allows them to sit, lie and breathe comfortably during interactive sessions. We were delighted to receive this lovely thank you card from the school.

We did it!

New games for teens at Nottingham Children's Hospital



We supplied five boxes of toys and board games designed for teenagers, which are being used in 12 wards at Nottingham Children's Hospital to help distract young people from their illness or while awaiting treatment. Jamie-Lee Phillipson, Hospital Play Specialist says: "We really lacked resources for our teenage patients, so this donation has been very beneficial. It is so nice to see young people have fun and laugh whilst in hospital. Our patients and their parents tell us how much fun they have playing games as a family."

Hummingbird Project achieves measurable impact in 2022-2023



We're delighted to report another successful school year for the Hummingbird Project. The six-week course takes a preventative approach to tackling mental health issues in schools. Our analysis is showing significant reductions in anxiety and depression symptoms, and improvements in hope and wellbeing. We were honoured to speak at a recent University of Bolton conference on "Global Health: Addressing Inequalities." Project Lead, Ian Platt, and CEO, Dr Ghazala Baig, gave presentations on the Hummingbird Project and its positive impact, especially for schools in deprived areas.

A graduation message from Dr Ghazala Baig

In July our CEO, Ghazala Baig, received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bolton for her services to healthcare. In her speech, Ghazala mentioned the inspiring legacy of her father, Karim Din, who received a Queen's award for helping to integrate the Muslim community into Manchester. Ghazala talked about the importance of giving, concluding: "Science has proven that the act of giving increases our own happiness as well as that of the recipient, making it one of the most powerful wellbeing activities there is. We all have so much to give- not just money, but time, effort, knowledge, patience and compassion."



We need your help!

Respiratory equipment for winter months

Macclesfield District General Hospital need four bedside pulse oximeters, which are used for monitoring oxygen levels in children with respiratory conditions including chest infections, asthma and croup. They also support children on non-invasive ventilators and those who have had surgical/anaesthetic intervention such as ear nose and throat, dental abstractions, orthopaedic and abdominal procedures. At busy times, especially in the winter, more children are admitted with respiratory conditions and there are not always enough machines on hand. The extra pulse oximeters will help the nursing team provide safe care during these busier times.

A better night's sleep for parents in Leeds

The Children's Assessment and Treatment Unit at Leeds Children's Hospital has 22 beds for young patients who are unwell and need to stay overnight, but parents, who must always accompany their children, have no place to sleep. Parents and carers experience a lot of stress while their child is in hospital, and it is important they are able to rest. The unit needs four chair beds and six manual recliners. The chairs can be quickly transformed into beds and are ideal for families who are likely to stay more than 24 hours. The recliners are more suitable for resting. We estimate they will last at least five years and will be used daily, benefiting a minimum of 20,000 people.



Louby-Lou brings magic to Royal Bolton

For many years we have funded "Magic Medic" Louby-Lou to entertain kids in hospital by performing magic tricks and getting everyone singing along to popular songs. This year we are raising funds for Louby-Lou to provide 12 visits to the children's unit at Royal Bolton Hospital. The senior play specialist at Bolton says: "We consider her a huge benefit to the children during a potentially difficult and stressful admission. Louby-Lou allows for normality, socialising and in turn brings joy and respite from hospital treatments and procedures."

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

www.medequip4kids.org.uk

Fundraising News

Golfers raise over £6,000 for kids in hospital

A hot September sun blazed overhead as 16 golf teams arrived for a shotgun start at Bramall Park Golf Club to enjoy a great day out on the green and raise funds to provide essential medical equipment and facilities to benefit children's health. In the evening the teams were treated to dinner at the club, followed by prize-giving and a raffle. Congratulations to our tournament winners from Hall & Pickles (pictured right). We'd like to thank all the companies who took part, sponsored holes or donated prizes, as well as Bramall Park Golf Club for hosting a fantastic event, and Alan Tattler of Specialist Risk Group, who organised the day.



Jonathan Birbeck completes Manchester Half-Marathon

Our corporate partners Core Talent have shown their support once again as staff member Jonathan Birbeck took on the challenge of the Manchester Half Marathon in October. Well done and thank you to Jonathan for raising funds for MedEquip4Kids.

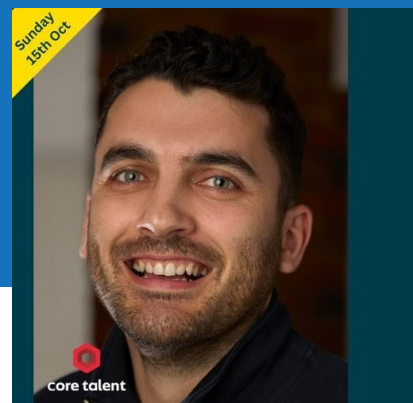
Celebrating our Trafford Centre partnership



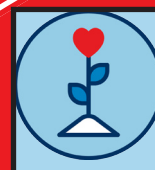
September marked the official end of our partnership with the Trafford Centre, which has generated an amazing £32,561 for the charity in total, enabling us to fund extra medical equipment to benefit children in the North West. We'd like to thank our volunteers from Sage and Clarke Willmott LLP and all the individuals who came along to help us count and sort the coins collected from the Trafford Centre's fountains every two months. A special thank you to the fabulous team at the Trafford Centre, especially Richa Patel for all her advice and encouragement.

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Dates for your diary
29 March 2024
Quays Duck Race



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



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