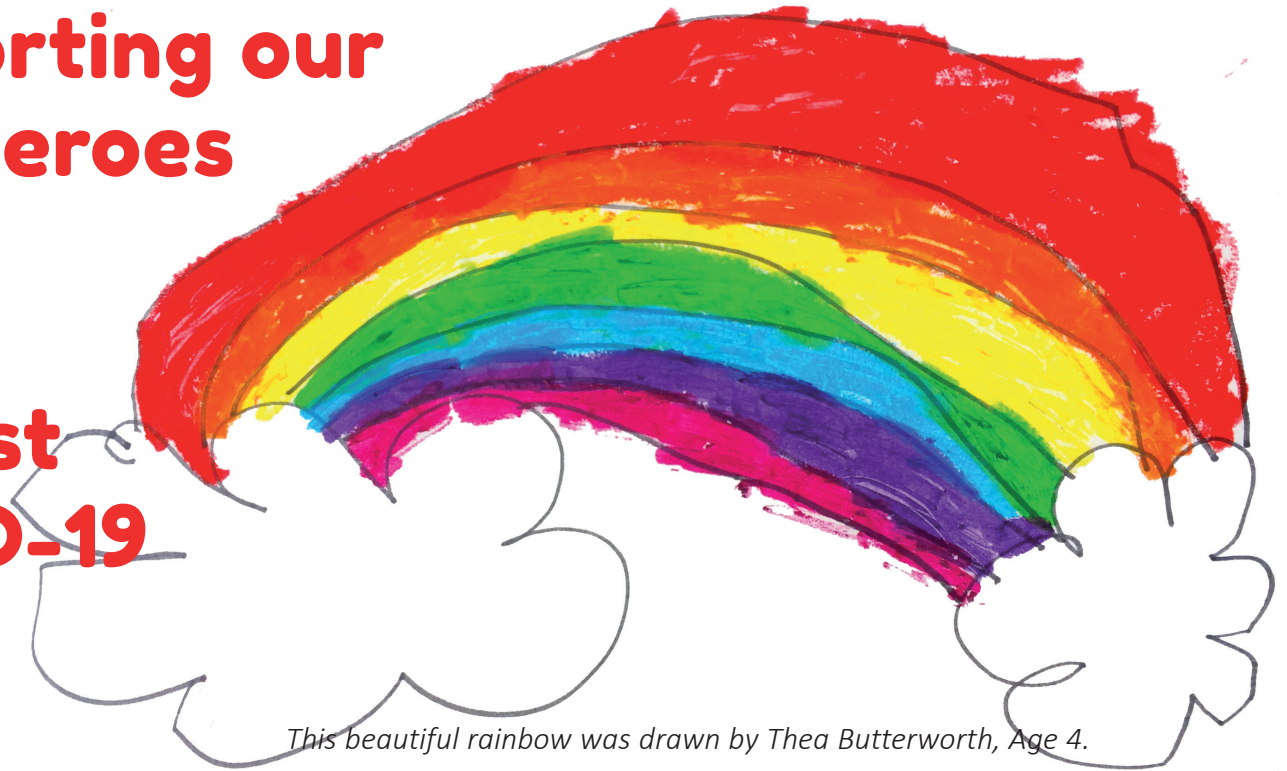


Supporting our NHS heroes in the fight against COVID-19



This beautiful rainbow was drawn by Thea Butterworth, Age 4.

The last few months have been extraordinarily challenging for us all, but as a healthcare charity we were determined to step up and support our fabulous NHS healthcare workers in their battle against the disease. Although the overall risk of COVID-19 is lower for children, many with underlying health conditions are still very vulnerable. The mental health of young people has also been affected by the closure of schools and loss of support networks.

Thanks to your wonderful support, we've carried on making a difference throughout the crisis. MedEquip4Kids Chief Executive Ghazala Baig says: "Just as we went into lockdown in March, we sent out the Spring edition of Something to Smile About along with an appeal for funds. We are delighted that so many of you rallied around to help us in such difficult circumstances."

The funds raised so far have provided:

- Two AIRVO Optiflow units at Royal Bolton Hospital for treating children with breathing difficulties.
- Portable suction machines for children with disabilities in Tameside and Glossop to help keep their lungs clear.
- Toys, games, books and art kits to support children's mental health during the pandemic and in future.



*This lovely card was sent to
MedEquip4Kids
from the children's ward
at Furness General Hospital*

We did it!

Getting creative for better mental health



Since the coronavirus outbreak, over 80% of young people with conditions such as anxiety, depression or OCD have reported a worsening of their symptoms. Our contacts at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) told us how difficult things are.

A clinical psychologist at an inpatient unit says: "No leave or visits are allowed for our young people, who are now stuck on the ward indefinitely with only digital family contact and only outside time in our small garden area. It is affecting young people's motivation and there is a lot of hopelessness."

An art therapist working with young people told us: "Staff are unable to support young people face-to-face and many are now providing support by phone or video link. For the young people to engage with therapeutic creativity fully, we want to be able to send tailored kits of art materials/instruments to their homes."

We're providing packages of resources such as games, books, sensory toys, and art kits (pictured) for any CAMHS that needs them to continue supporting their patients' mental health creatively during this difficult time.

Bathtime at Kings Mill School



Laraine says: "All of the young people enjoy the bathing experience some preferring the lights to the bubbles, others enjoying the two together and they all love the fact that they can lay in the bath with their favourite music playing."

"It is an amazing piece of equipment that has provided a whole new sensory experience for many children who previously did not like having a bath due to mobility, behavioural and communication barriers."

We were so grateful for the support of Help for Health last year with a grant of £10,000 to help us fund a specialised bath for disabled children at Kings Mills Special School in East Yorkshire.

Laraine Hancock at Kings Mill told about one of her pupils, Owen, who loves relaxing in the bubble bath. Due to his physical disability he is unable to access a bath at home, so the two nights he stays over at the Residence he is able to do so and feels relaxed and refreshed afterwards.

We need your help!

Scanner to treat patients with COVID-19

Alder Hey Children's Hospital needs a sealed ultrasound scanner to help treat COVID-19 more safely. The scanner will be used to monitor empyemas, which are associated with pneumonia, in patients diagnosed with or suspected of having the virus.

One of the biggest challenges of treating COVID-19 is ensuring everything is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, especially when there is a high level of demand for limited equipment. Because this scanner is clinically sealed, it can be thoroughly disinfected, hugely decreasing the chance of cross-contamination.



Vital monitoring equipment for Royal Bolton

It's essential that children's vital signs are checked when they are first admitted and then throughout their stay to pick up any underlying problems. We're supplying new blood pressure monitors for Royal Bolton Hospital, which have inbuilt oxygen saturation monitoring and temperature measuring, meaning that one device can test all the vital signs. These machines will help staff to quickly and accurately assess the health of all children with minimal intrusion.

Learning in comfort for pupils at Foxfield



Foxfield School in Birkenhead meets the needs of secondary school pupils in the Wirral with complex learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Many of the pupils also have physical disabilities. The school has asked for our help to provide an Acheeva Graduate Bed, a special bed which allows disabled pupils to work in a supported, balanced lying posture. Head teacher André Baird says: "Children recovering from major surgery need to be comfortably supported and positioned in the classroom, so that they can make a successful return to full-time education as soon as possible."

If you can help us fund any of these projects, visit www.medequip4kids.org.uk

Fundraising News

35

years of improving children's health

In 1985 our charity was set up by a local couple after their little girl became seriously ill with meningitis and was treated at Booth Hall Children's Hospital in Manchester, where she made a full recovery. To show their gratitude, the couple began fundraising for equipment the hospital couldn't afford. Since then the charity has raised over £24 million for children's healthcare.

We truly appreciate everyone who donates, fundraises or volunteers for us. As always, we'd like to mention a few in particular.

- The Co-op Community Fund are supporting us once again this year with generous donations for projects in Warrington, Bury and Burnley.
- Forever Manchester set up an emergency CoVID-19 fund to support organisations in Greater Manchester. We were delighted to receive a grant to provide resources for CAMHS in the region.
- The David Family Foundation helped us to fund two AIRVO Optiflow units for treating children with breathing difficulties at Royal Bolton Hospital.

Young fundraisers help us win grant for CAMHS

In April the VINCI Foundation awarded us a grant of £5,000 to provide resources for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so grateful to VINCI and to our contact Mark Evans at Nuvia UK (part of the VINCI Group) for recommending that we apply for the award. Mark is dad to Ruben and Elena, two outstanding fundraisers who raised over £15,000 for Warrington and Halton Hospital in 2018 to build an outside play area. Since then Ruben and Elena have received the British



Citizen Youth Award and set up their very own Active Kids Foundation. The pair is keen to help MedEquip4Kids with future projects and we're thrilled to have them on board.



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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