

Breathing equipment to help hospitals prepare for winter

For 35 years MedEquip4Kids has provided our NHS with equipment used to support patients with breathing difficulties, including AIRVO Optiflow units, C-PAP machines and ventilators. Hospitals have always faced increased pressure during winter as more patients are admitted with respiratory illnesses such as severe chest infection, asthma or bronchiolitis. This year the COVID-19 pandemic will stretch existing resources even further, so we're launching a special appeal to make sure every hospital has the respiratory equipment they need to get through the challenging months ahead.



Images of AIRVO™2 System
kindly provided by
Fisher & Paykel Healthcare

MedEquip4Kids recently provided two AIRVO units for Royal Bolton Hospital and also supplied the children's unit with new saturation monitors, which are used to check patients' oxygen levels. Ward manager Jayne Simpson says:

"During winter months our admissions of children with respiratory conditions increase, so these monitors are vital to us being able to safely monitor children. They will allow us to monitor more children both continuously through their stay with us and at intermittent times during their visit. Staff will find the additional units make their jobs easier."

We did it!

New device makes blood tests easier



Blood tests and cannulation are common procedures for babies and children in hospital. The AccuVein AV400 device illuminates veins below the skin, making them easier to locate and reducing stress and pain for the patient.

We provided an AccuVein AV400 for the outpatient's unit at Sheffield Children's Hospital, where it has been put to excellent use. Nurse Manager Donna Pooley says: "The team are really appreciative of this equipment as it now ensures staff can always wear gloves when trying to feel for veins that have previously been difficult to palpate, which given the current pandemic is even more essential. Below are comments from staff."

"The AccuVein is helpful, especially when the vein is deep or you can't feel it with your finger." - Rachel

"The AccuVein is useful when you have a baby and the veins in their arms are not so easy to see." - Jo

Hummingbird Project returns to schools

Our Hummingbird Project of mental health workshops is back in schools from November, with a new remote learning option available. Hundreds of students will benefit this term and next in Chester, Ellesmere Port, Bolton, Manchester and Liverpool. As part of the course we'll be discussing the impact of COVID-19 and how to take care of yourself and others during the crisis.



Boost for mental health in Greater Manchester

Thanks to support from Moto in the Community and the Moto Birch Services, we were able to fund resources for Beyond Psychology, a children's mental health service based in Rochdale. Staff are finding the resources very useful and the young people have been enjoying them too.

We have also supported Junction 17 in Prestwich, an inpatient service for young people aged 13–18 with complex mental health difficulties. We provided sensory and fidget toys, autism and anti-anxiety toys, ear defenders, board games and other activities, musical instruments, bean bags, eye pillows and books. Occupational Therapist Harriet Allen says: "Thanks so much for providing us with these resources, we really appreciate it. I know the young people will be very grateful."

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our CAMHS appeal, most recently the Schreier Foundation (£3,000) and Barratt Developments PLC Charitable Trust (£1,000).



We need your help!

Help mums and dads stay with kids in hospital

New fold-away beds for the children's ward at North Manchester General Hospital will allow parents or carers to stay comfortably overnight and reassure children who are sick, afraid and alone in hospital. The medical team told us: "Ensuring our parent's health and wellbeing needs are met is really important and a good restful night's sleep is crucial to this." We're providing 15 beds and have raised half the funds needed so far.

We previously provided much-appreciated chair beds for Wigan Infirmary



Better treatment for babies with jaundice

Jaundice is a common condition in babies, but can be serious if left untreated. The neo natal unit at Wigan Infirmary is in need of two new Bilisoft phototherapy units, portable models which can be used to treat jaundice in the home environment instead of the baby being readmitted to hospital, which is very upsetting and stressful for the family. Unlike traditional phototherapy units, with the Bilisoft the mothers are able to hold and cuddle their babies while they have phototherapy.



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

Extra support for mums during labour

Warrington Hospital's birth centre provides a home birth-like setting with two birthing pools and minimal medical intervention. The centre needs an additional mobile telemetry unit, which is used to monitor the baby's heart during birth. Because the unit is wireless, it gives the mother more mobility during labour, reducing her perception of pain and aiding the natural birth process. It can also be used in the birthing pool.

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

Fundraising news

Louby Lou Christmas Party

For many years we've supported children's entertainer Louby Lou to visit hospitals and make kids smile with her delightful magic shows. This year she's here to lift our spirits with a fabulous online Christmas party on Friday 4th December at 5pm. Join us for singing, dancing, prizes, games and giggles!



For more information, visit www.medequip4kids.org.uk.

Young Superheroes cycle for charity

Fabulous fundraisers Ruben and Elena of the Active Kids Foundation are gearing up to take part in the Superhero Winter Wonder Wheels challenge in aid of MedEquip4Kids.



The Active Kids team will be clocking up an amazing 100km cycled over the next month to fund portable suction machines for ISCAN (Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs) in Tameside and Glossop. The new machines will benefit kids with health conditions or disabilities by keeping their lungs clear. Already Ruben and Elena have helped us to win a grant of £1,000 towards the project from the Persimmon Community Champions scheme. Thank you so much to everyone at Persimmon Homes for supporting children's health.



Co-op supports our communities



It's what we do

The Co-op Community Fund in Warrington, Burnley and Bury have supported us over the last 12 months and raised an amazing **£5,752** for local children's healthcare projects. We're so grateful for their support.

Special thanks to

Bowdon Business Club

We'd like to mention Bowdon Business Club this year for their continuing enthusiastic support of the charity. The club has given a total of £4,350 from their group funds and individual involvement in many of our events. Pictured is Evelyn Glarvey, who made this beautiful rainbow rug while completing a sponsored sit-a-thon on her drive.



Call for volunteers!

If you could help us next year with fundraising events at Trafford Centre, please get in touch with janey.hellmen@medequip4kids.org.uk.

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