

Young fundraisers Ruben and Elena

win Diana Award

We're thrilled to announce that Ruben and Elena Evans-Guillén, aged 10, from Warrington have been recognised for their exceptional charitable work by The Diana Award. The twins were nominated by MedEquip4Kids for the award, established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

During the virtual ceremony, The Duke of Sussex spoke movingly about his mother's legacy. He said: "There is great need for young leadership and there is no greater time to be a young leader. I believe in you. We believe in you. And that belief in your own ability to change the world in doing the right thing is what makes you a force to be reckoned with."

Amazingly, Ruben and Elena, who both have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), have spent the past four years running, trekking and cycling at weekends to raise money for charities including MedEquip4Kids. The pair have learned to manage their condition and channel their energy into activities that benefit their community, while also challenging negative perceptions of ADHD.

Last year the twins helped us secure a grant to provide resources benefiting children's mental health during the pandemic. They completed two Superhero Challenge 100km cycles, funding two lung suction machines (see inside page). In 2021 they embarked on their 100 Acts of Kindness campaign to fund a wireless heart monitor for Warrington Birth Centre. Through their dedication they have given thousands of young people better access to high quality mental and physical healthcare.



We did it!

Portable lung suction machine helps Heidi enjoy the outdoors



Last year MedEquip4Kids provided new lung suction machines for ISCAN (Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs) in Tameside and Glossop, which supports 655 children in the community with disabilities and complex health needs. Some of the children require regular suction treatment to keep their lungs clear of mucus and allow them to breathe more easily.

One of the children to benefit from the new equipment is six-year-old Heidi Land, who has complex needs as a result of hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy (HIE) at birth. HIE occurs when there is a lack of oxygen and blood flow to the brain, during or shortly after labour, and can cause injury to the brain.

Heidi's mum Sarah says: "Having the new suction machine has been great for us and Heidi. It's much smaller and less noisy than the other ones, and so makes it easier to get out (when Covid allows!) Heidi has complex needs so this new suction machine fits in to a bag on her chair really easily. She needs suction several times an hour, so having it handy is necessary for us.

"We managed a trip to the seaside last summer. Heidi loves fresh air and being outdoors. The suction machine wasn't too heavy as we took Heidi's wheelchair across the sand dunes! Thank you to those who have made this possible. It might not sound much to some people, but it makes a huge difference to us."

MedEquip4Kids Chairman Brian White awarded MBE



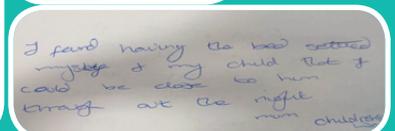
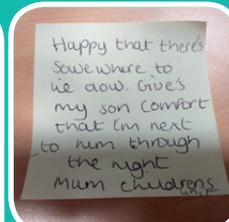
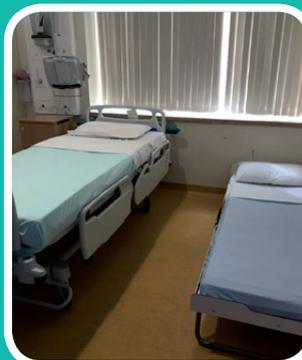
We're pleased and proud to report that Brian White, our Chairman for the past 20 years, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021 in recognition of his services to the community. Ghazala Baig, Chief Executive, says: "Brian brings such enthusiasm and tireless energy to everything he

does. As a charity we have benefited enormously from his leadership, his personal qualities and his impressive network of contacts."

Brian says: "I am humbled and honoured to receive this award. It is a reflection on the great work carried out by MedEquip4Kids over the last 36 years, and a testimony to the equipment they have provided for hospitals and more recently, their mental health provision."

A better night's sleep for parents

Thanks to a grant from the Zochonis Charitable Trust, we were able to provide chair beds for the children's ward at North Manchester General Hospital so that parents can get some sleep when they stay overnight with their sick child. Vicki Healey, Children's Ward Manager, says: "This has had such a positive impact on the wellbeing of our children knowing their parent or carer is close by. But also for the parent being able to sleep comfortably next to their child has made such a difference to how they have responded to staff during difficult times on the ward. The difference a good night's sleep makes is priceless."



We need your help!

Playtime at Nottingham Children's Hospital

Attending hospital can be a distressing and anxious time for a child, especially for those whose treatments are unpleasant or cause pain. We're fundraising for games and toys to help distract young patients in all twelve wards of Nottingham Children's Hospital.

Jamie-Lee Phillipson, Hospital Play Specialist says: "Our role is to normalize a child's stay in hospital as much as possible, and the one thing all children and young people know how to do is play. So having good facilities really will help aid their recovery and help to create a positive experience for the duration of their stay. Having a better range of toys and equipment to choose from equipment will not only keep children entertained whilst in hospital, but will help us facilitate their care play programmes and help with their learning, development and recovery process."

New device makes blood tests easier

We have previously supplied several hospitals with an AccuVein AV400, a handheld medical device that illuminates veins below babies and children's skin, allowing the nurse or doctor to see and access them more easily. The efficiency of the device helps to reduce stress and pain for the baby or child and avoids the need for sedation.

This year we want to provide another AccuVein AV400 for the children's day care unit at Royal Preston Hospital, where it will be used to help treat over 2,000 children a year. Senior Staff Nurse Abigail Pemberton at Royal Preston says: "Our aim is to provide the best possible care by making this a painless and positive experience. This can be very challenging when veins are not visible and the vein finder is an invaluable tool which helps to identify veins and makes a huge difference to the child's experience."



Safer care for acutely ill children

The children's and neo natal units at Tameside General Hospital need a variety of new equipment such as blood pressure monitors, baby scales and specialised cots. They have also asked us for a Carescape patient monitor, which provides safe care for respiratory patients and those being treated by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Catherine Isherwood, Children's Unit Manager, explains: "Children are often quite sick when they are admitted. The monitor allows a patient to have continuous cardiac monitoring whilst they are on a medication infusion. We mainly use the monitors on patients who have taken overdoses and have to have an infusion of medication to help protect their liver, or patients on continuous insulin infusions, or patients on life saving asthma medication. When the medication infusions are running, it is very important to monitor the child's heart rhythm and be able to recognise any abnormal readings. We often have lots of children admitted with the above conditions at a similar time with only one monitor currently on the ward."

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

Fundraising News



Trafford Centre pledges another year of support

Over the last 18 months MedEquip4Kids has benefited from the coins thrown into fountains by shoppers at the Trafford Centre, which has raised

a fantastic £8,100. This partnership was due to come to an end in December, but the Centre has now announced plans to extend the partnership.

Zoe Inman, Centre Director at The Trafford Centre, said: "Following more than a year of lockdowns and a challenging time for the charity sector, it was only right for us to extend our partnerships with these three fantastic charities."

Our plans for the rest of this year include a children's party, static cycle, gift wrapping and carolling at Christmas, and cleaning and counting the coins from the fountains. If you can help with any of these activities, please email info@medequip4kids.org.uk.



Bowdon Business Club member

Richard Whitehurst to run London Marathon "I was delighted when MedEquip4Kids offered me the chance to run in the London Marathon. It's always been a challenge I wanted to take on. To tell the truth, I'm a terrible long distance runner, but started racing triathlons a couple of years ago. MedEquip4Kids is special to me because it was founded at Booth Hall Hospital in Manchester, where my Nan used to be a teacher"

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RichardWhitehurst2>

Thanks to:

- We're so grateful to our regular Home Money Box and standing order donors for your loyal support during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has meant a great deal to us knowing we could count on you. A special thank you to those who gave a little bit extra to help us through the difficult times.
- Sage UK has donated £8,500 to support CAMHS.
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust has awarded us with £30,000 to support our ongoing work and to promote good mental health through our Hummingbird Project.
- Tesco Bags of Help has funded resources for CAMHS, medical equipment at Royal Bolton Hospital and Phototherapy equipment for RAEI Wigan Neo- Natal Unit.
- The Co-op Community Fund have helped us provide equipment in Wigan, North Manchester and Blackpool.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 26th September
Great Manchester Run 10k

Sunday 3rd October
Virgin London Marathon

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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