

# the inside story

For our valued supporters

Summer 2024



ELLISON

**When children get together at Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith fun and giggles always follow. Our nurses are devoted to helping them to live their best lives, building happy memories for them and their families to treasure.**

**At the aptly named Sunshine Group, younger children with life-threatening conditions and their families have the opportunity to get together every week at Hope House.**

Friendships are formed, support is available from our care team and specialists in areas such as symptom management and physiotherapy, and everyone has the chance to relax and discuss the things that concern them most.

Our Activities Support Worker Mel and Occupational Therapist Emma run the group and delight

in finding different activities for the children and families to enjoy, from therapeutic swimming to music and craft sessions, and from days out at the seaside to visits from exotic animals.

**“The children have flourished coming to regular sessions, forming friendships with each other and enjoying different experiences,” Mel explains.**

“Parents and carers enjoy time to chat to each other, share their experiences, discuss concerns and many have made friendships and meet outside

the group. They enjoy taking part in activities with their children which then provide ideas for at home as well as making memories in the moment.”

**Ellison (pictured above) and his mum Olivia first came to the Sunshine Group to meet other children and families who were living lives like theirs.**

They had been sheltering at home during lockdown and were feeling quite isolated. After coming to Hope House they have both made lots of friends.

*Continued overleaf*

Olivia says: "Ellison feels comfortable here which helps me to relax too. We've just had a really bad fortnight so being able to talk about that with people who really understand is so helpful. Ellison loves the pool too – we call it his spa day because it helps him to relax for the rest of the day."

Noah (below) visited the Sunshine Group while he was staying for respite care at Hope House. He also got the opportunity to swim for the first time, along with his mum Lucy and baby brother Chester.

"Noah has a rare muscle condition and you could see that he loved being in the water – we all did and it felt so special. We love coming here because it feels so comfortable and the care staff are really welcoming and feel like friends," Lucy says.



NOAH, LUCY AND CHESTER

Halli-Rose (below) comes to the Sunshine Group regularly with mum Georgia and dad Jordan.

Georgia says: "Coming here is amazing because everyone is used to seeing and being with children with complex conditions so we are comfortable and can relax. We've also bought Halli-Rose's older sister to the Sunshine Group to help her understand that there are other children who are different too."



HALLI-ROSE



AXEL AND RHIANNON

Axel and his mum Rhiannon (above) have been coming since he was born. Axel has already had heart surgery and is currently waiting for a second operation.

Rhiannon says: "At some baby groups you can feel a bit judged that your baby isn't capable of doing what other babies are. Here everyone is so understanding and so supportive of each child's own special milestones – they might seem tiny to some people but here we all understand and celebrate together. This group has given us all so much confidence to be ourselves."



ESMAY

Esmay (above) and her mum Kim have been coming to the Sunshine Group since it started two years ago. It is now an important part of their lives and something that they look forward to every Wednesday.

Kim says: "As soon as we come through the gate Esmay gets all excited in her car seat. It's a lifeline coming here every week and speaking to the staff and other parents who really understand your situation. They don't stare and they don't judge your child like sometimes happens in the outside world."



LUKE

Like all the care we provide, the Sunshine Group only happens because of your support.

Please help us to plan for the future and continue to be here for children like Ellison, Noah, Halli-Rose, Axel, Esmay and Luke by taking part in our Summer Sunshine Raffle (details opposite) or donating to our Sunshine Appeal online at [hopehouse.org.uk/sunshine](http://hopehouse.org.uk/sunshine)

# COME AND VISIT OUR NEW OSWESTRY FLAGSHIP STORE

As we went to press with this newsletter, the finishing flourishes were being made to our brand new flagship store in the centre of Oswestry ahead of its grand opening.

The new store, in premises on Smithfield Street that were formerly Argos, is more than three times the size of our existing Oswestry shop in nearby English Walls. As well as selling our usual ranges of new and pre-loved goodies including women's fashion and homeware, the flagship store will also stock furniture.

We are really keen to hear from anyone who has good quality furniture and homeware that they would like to donate.

Free collections can be arranged in Oswestry and the surrounding area online at [hopehouse.org.uk/furniture](https://hopehouse.org.uk/furniture) or by calling the retail team on 01691 672607.

We have been appealing for more volunteers to help us run the store, with a whole host of opportunities on offer from sorting donations of goodies, to mending and upcycling, photographing items for eBay and window dressing. Two of our longest serving Oswestry volunteers, Diane and Mary, have also been starring in a poster campaign as part of our recruitment drive.



Our head of retail Suzanne said: "We are really proud to be investing in Oswestry at this time and are confident that, because of the fantastic support we have in the area, this move will help us to raise even more money to fund our vital services for local children with life-threatening conditions and their families."

We have also given our fantastic stores in Oteley Road Shrewsbury and in Welshpool facelifts in the last few months and feedback from our supporters and volunteers is that they look pretty amazing!

Pop along next time you are in the area – you won't be disappointed!



**Summer Sunshine Raffle**

**1ST PRIZE**  
**£3,000**

**2ND PRIZE**  
**£1,000**

**3RD PRIZE**  
**£500**

**4TH PRIZE**  
**£250**

**5TH PRIZE**  
**£250**

**DRAW DATE**  
**Wednesday 19th June 2024**

Buy tickets online at [hopehouse.org.uk/raffle](https://hopehouse.org.uk/raffle)

**ONLY £1 PER TICKET!**

# WHETHER YOU **DONATE**, **FUNDRAISE**, **PLAY OUR LOTTERY**, **DONATE TO** **OUR SHOPS** OR **VOLUNTEER**, YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO US

## IN 2023 THANKS TO YOU WE RAISED:



**£1,200,000**  
in our shops



**£1,800,000**  
through  
fundraising



**£1,300,000**  
from our  
lottery players



**£1,500,000**  
from incredible  
gifts in Wills



**£185,000**  
from regular  
monthly gifts

# **614** dedicated volunteers donated more than **84,000** hours

of their skilled time to help in our hospices, shops and at fundraising events

**84 pence** in every pound that the hospices spend is on providing care and support for the most vulnerable children in our communities

Your donations funded **42 weeks** of care - statutory funding paid for just 10 weeks

# All of our specialist care and support for children with a life-threatening condition **HAPPENED BECAUSE OF YOU!**

 **236**  
**children**

with life-threatening conditions

**received the help they needed when they needed it**

**171**



**children stayed**

at Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith for

**2,778 nights**

of planned respite care

and **333 nights**

of crisis and emergency (unplanned) care

  
**1,307**

**therapy sessions** were enjoyed by the children at Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith, including physiotherapy, sensory play and swimming



**42**

**babies** diagnosed with a life-threatening condition before or after birth were supported by our nurses



**171**

brothers and sisters used our **Sibling Support Service**



**56**

**children who died** and their families received holistic care



**1,812**

**counselling and bereavement support** sessions helped families during their child's illness, or after their child had died

 **85** 

bereaved families found comfort remembering their child at our special **Remembrance Events**

**Thank you so much**

## MEET OUR MASCOTS



**We are so excited to introduce Hope House Hippo and Tŷ Gobaith Tiger who can't wait to meet all of our amazing supporters.**

Looking very smart in their Care Team scrubs, they will be out and about in the community visiting our shops and fundraising events.

**They are very friendly and love appearing in selfies, so if you see them please pop over and introduce yourselves!**

## DON'T FORGET TO GIFT AID

Help us to claim

**25%**  
**more**

on your donations

*giftaid it*

**Did you know that if you are a UK tax payer you can increase the value of your donation by 25% at no cost to yourself by signing a Gift Aid declaration. That's 25p extra for every £1 you donate!**

If you are sending a donation by post or donating online, simply tick the Gift Aid box and we will be able to claim Gift Aid on past donations (for four years) and future ones too. If you are taking pre-loved goodies to our shops please ask staff about how to Gift Aid them too.

## HOME GROWN VEGGIES

### ON THE MENU!

**The children at Hope House are so excited about getting the chance to grow and eat their own fruit and vegetables this summer.**

Our gardener Luke has been working on a brilliant project to clear a disused patch of grass beside the hydrotherapy pool and turn it into a kitchen garden.

"It will be completely accessible for all the children, with movable raised planting beds that you can reach from wheelchairs, and a greenhouse with doors at each end so even children who need to stay in bed can join in the fun," he explained.

"We've had amazing support from local businesses and so far the project hasn't cost a penny. I'm also hoping that we might be able to get donations of fruit and vegetable seeds and plants too."

**A huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the ground works so far including: Evans Construction, Evans Aggregates, TG Builders Merchants, PG Skips, Select a Skip, Jewsons Oswestry, DNT Group, Ridgeway Rentals Ltd and Breedon.**



**LUKE**

# A CALM AND COMFORTING PLACE TO SAY GOODBYE



THE PROJECT TEAM ON THE SITE OF THE EXTENSION

**Work is about to begin on an extension to Tŷ Gobaith to create a bespoke suite where children can be nursed at the end of their lives, and their families can be looked after too.**

Bereaved parents who have been supported by the hospices have helped shape the project by giving feedback about their own experiences and suggesting ideas for the layout and features.

Our projects manager Polly explained: “Parents told us that they really found comfort in the views and surroundings at Tŷ Gobaith and that it would be good to have them as part of the end of life suite, as well as a feeling of light and space and privacy to say goodbye.”

Once completed, there will be a spacious child’s bedroom that includes a comfortable seating area for families and has large glass windows across two sides overlooking the stunning estuary views and gardens. There will also be a large, fully accessible bathroom and a separate ‘clinical room’ where staff can prepare medicines and treatments.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

The new suite will link back into two existing bedrooms, that can be used by family members.

**The new suite is costing in the region of £550,000 and has been funded through generous donations including the National Lottery, the Albert Gubay Foundation, the Moondance Foundation and Morrisons’ Building a Legacy Fund.**

## OUR SUPPORT IS HERE FOR ALL BEREAVED PARENTS

**Our skilled counselling team provides support to all children and families who use our hospices, but did you know that we can also help families in the wider community whose child has died?**

Through a network of qualified BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) approved counsellors, we offer free and confidential bereavement counselling to any close family member who has been affected by the death of a baby, child or young person up to the age of 18 when they died.

This support is available from three months to five years

after the death of a loved one, and to anyone living in our catchment area of Shropshire, Cheshire, Mid and North Wales.

At the moment we are offering face to face counselling in Oswestry, Conwy, Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham and Denbigh, as well as telephone counselling and online counselling via Zoom. We are also planning to introduce Welsh language counselling.

**To find out more please visit [hopehouse.org.uk/bereavement-counselling](https://hopehouse.org.uk/bereavement-counselling) or call our Pathways Administrator on 01492 554443.**

# SIGN UP NOW

## FOR THESE FABULOUS 2024 FORTHCOMING EVENTS!

**Eat Cake Week**



**MAY**  
20TH - 26TH

**Classics at the College**

**JUNE**  
1ST

**Arabian Nights Ball**



**JUNE**  
15TH

**Yr Wyddfa Sunset Trek**

**JULY**  
27TH



**Cycle Challenge**



**AUG**  
11TH

**Harry's Duck Race**



**SEP**  
1ST

**Wing Walking**



**SEP**  
12TH



**Sky Dive**

**SEP**  
28TH

**Chirk & Penrhyn Dark Runs**

**OCT**  
19TH

**Telford & Conwy  
Dark Runs**



**OCT**  
26TH

**Final Moments Matter**

**NOV**  
17TH & 18TH

Find out all the details at  
[hopehouse.org.uk/events](https://hopehouse.org.uk/events)

## THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

Gifts in Wills fund almost half of all the vital care we provide to children and families. Our future is in your hands.

[hopehouse.org.uk/wills](https://hopehouse.org.uk/wills)

**MYLES**