

Hi Joe,

I would like to make a nomination for next years walk please.

The charity I would like to nominate in **The Sick Children's trust**.

The reason I want to nominate them is that they provide an invaluable service to families all over the country who need to be close to their children when they are seriously ill in hospital. They have accommodation at the Sheffield Children's hospital which is where local children are usually taken who have life threatening illnesses and need to be cared for in intensive care or critical care.

As you know my son had a brain haemorrhage in 2012. He was unable to move or communicate for many months, but was aware of what was going on around him. Because of the Sick Children's Trust we as a family we were able to stay with him for all his waking hours, for the whole 6 months he was a patient there. We had use of a shared flat with comfortable facilities. Imagine how traumatic it would have been for him if his family weren't able to be there, and how difficult it would have been if we would have had to travel home last thing at night, and try and get back before he woke in the morning (or had to sleep on a chair by his bedside). On several occasions we were woken by a phone call in the night when his life was in danger, thankfully we could quickly put on our dressing gowns and head off to the ward.

I feel very strongly that because we used this charity in our hour of need we should try and give back to them as much as we can. My daughter has raised some money when she did a run a couple of years ago, I would like to be able to add to this.

It's the sort of charity that until you need it you wouldn't know it existed, or that there was a need for it (or you might assume that sleeping facilities for parents might be provided by the NHS). After sleeping the first night on the sofa in the intensive care unit, to be told there was somewhere we could have a shower and a bed was music to our ears during such a traumatic time.

I have copied this from their website:

'About us

We believe every family with a seriously ill child in hospital should be able to stay together, just minutes from their child's bed during their treatment.

That's the future we're working towards. With your help.

The Sick Children's Trust believes keeping families together significantly improves the recovery of seriously ill children. We provide free, high-quality 'Home from Home' accommodation, as well as emotional and practical support, to families with sick children in hospital in the UK.

The Sick Children's Trust was founded in 1982 by two paediatric specialists, Dr Jon Pritchard and Professor James Malpas, who believed that having parents on hand during hospital treatment benefited a child's recovery. We are the longest-serving charity providing 'Home from Home' accommodation in the UK.

We currently have ten houses offering clean, comfortable accommodation where the whole family can stay close to their sick child's bedside, and we are constantly looking for opportunities to extend our geographical coverage, or to improve our existing facilities in light of changes in paediatric care provision.

On average, 2 million children in the UK require hospital treatment each year. Every day, children are diagnosed with serious and life-threatening illnesses or have terrible accidents that leave them fighting for life. They often have to be transferred to specialist hospitals far from home to receive critical medical treatment. Life for their whole family is suddenly thrown into complete turmoil.

We work with the hospitals, supporting them in their role and providing complementary support to our families. We relieve some of the emotional and financial strains at a very stressful time, providing an essential service free of charge for up to 146 families every night, 365 days a year.

Whilst staying at one of our 'Homes from Home' is free of charge, it costs us **£30** to support a family for one night. We rely entirely on voluntary income to meet this cost.'

The website is : www.sickchildrenstrust.org/

Thanks

Jackie