



## CHILDREN'S HEART SURGERY FUND

The charity that I wish to propose is the Children's Heart Surgery Fund.

My friend, and fellow walker, Helen Lingard's daughter Molly (when she was 4 years old) received open heart surgery for a congenital heart defect in November 2016 at Leeds Congenital Heart Unit. The treatment she received was second to none and has allowed her to live a normal life with her family and friends.

The Children's Heart Surgery Fund raise money to help the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit at the Leeds General Infirmary. More than 40% of the children who have an operation will need long term care, and each year 10,000 children pass through the unit. They provide valuable equipment, resources and research, as well as providing a support service for both the children and their families along the way. The children are supported every step of the way, from womb to adulthood.

Children's Heart Surgery Fund was founded in 1988. Since then, they have awarded around £6 million in grants to the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit, its patients and their families, as well as funding important research proposals.

It's all thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the general public and the corporate supporters, and by the amazing efforts of the fundraisers.

A large part of what they do is raising money to help the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit provide the best possible care for its young patients and their families. But the work doesn't stop there. They know that caring for people with congenital heart disease involves much more than treating the heart itself, which is why they use a holistic approach to help the heart, mind, family and future.



## Care for the heart

### **The heart**

They fund vital, innovative equipment to help the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit save and improve lives, as well as keep up with the ever-changing technologies needed to treat children and adults in this very complex field.



## Care for the mind

### **The mind**

They believe that caring for the mind is just as important as caring for the body. They help create a restful, positive ward environment for patients and their families and provide play equipment in the playroom, with games consoles, DVDs, toys and craft resources, as well as the resident goldfish.



## Care for the family

### **The family**

Seeing a loved one in the hospital is never easy, particularly if they're very young. They do everything they can to support families practically and financially during their child's hospital stay.

They award grants for travel expenses to ease the financial burden of traveling from across Yorkshire to visit a child and we also fund accommodation close to the hospital so that parents can get some much-needed rest during the evening, knowing that they are still close to their child.

They also offer an invaluable support network of thousands of fellow parents, patients and extended family members on the Facebook Community Group.



## The future

Techniques and technologies are constantly changing, so they make sure they are always aware of what's happening next in the world of congenital heart disease by funding research, clinical posts and projects.

Thanks to their supporters, they have been able to approve millions of pounds of funding for all kinds of projects. From funding cutting-edge equipment to specific research project's, they are always looking to improve lives.

Please find attached some information from the website regarding what happens o the money raised.



28  
Dec

Children's Heart Surgery Fund only exists because of your amazing fundraising and donations. Thanks to you, we've been able to approve some exciting projects for funding.

Read on for some prime examples of how your donations are helping the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit continue their amazing work, looking after families of patients with congenital heart disease. Without your help, we couldn't provide these key resources that can care for a child's heart, mind, family and future.

#### **For the Heart:**

- Two "ECMO" machines – vital cardiac and respiratory life-support systems. You can read an amazing example of how this equipment saves lives in the next edition of BraveHearts!
- 6 additional pulse oximeters, consumables and storage boxes for the "high-risk home monitoring programme". These monitors give patients and families reassurance and extra support from home, helping to identify trends in oxygen levels
- Additional FitBits for the Adult team to help improve and monitor fitness in some patients

#### **For the Mind:**

- An interactive and mobile touch screen TV for Ward 51 to entertain kids and families
- Projector lights for the ward for baby sensory stimulation and a USB charging station for parents
- An interactive floor and projector for Ward 51 allowing patients to engage in fun activities and games – entertainment and therapy combined
- Equipment to enable patients, especially our younger ones, to watch DVDs while undergoing lengthy MRI scans

#### **For the Family:**

- We will be giving home-from-home Eckersley House £ 30,000 for the next 3 years to continue their amazing work providing accommodation for patients' families
- We threw our annual Christmas Party for our families – all had a brilliant time!

#### **For the Future:**

- Dr Malenka Bissel is conducting vital research into the ideal time for valve replacement operations, and funding will allow the team to identify leaky valves in advance of traditional methods
- A year of advanced training for a senior paediatric cardiology trainee to develop expertise in the management of heart muscle disease and rare genetic heart disease in children
- A place on a Masters course in Health & Community Care at Leeds Beckett University for a sister on the Paediatrics Intensive Care Unit (PICU).