



Celebrating 21 years of care at Children's Hospice South West January 2012 – December 2012



2012 marks the 21st year that Children's Hospice South West has been delivering world class respite care to families from across the South West of England.

Not only does 2012 mark this 21st anniversary but also signals a new chapter in the history of Children's Hospice South West.

With our third hospice opening for overnight stays from January 2012, we will be able to offer more families from across our region the support they so desperately need.

Having Little Bridge House in North Devon, Charlton Farm in North Somerset and Little Harbour in Cornwall, no family will have to travel more than 1 ½ hours to their nearest hospice.

Our hospices provide a home from home, a haven full of love and laughter where families can begin to forget their worries for a while, be a family again and receive the very best care for their child.

'It is an absolutely magical place; when we come back home we're refreshed and ready to pick up the reins again'



1. Helping to raise a smile

To mark our 21st Anniversary year we are inviting Lions International South West to help mark this milestone by remembering the families that have needed our support over the last 21 years, and pledge to help to raise funds to support families who will need our support into the future.

Our hospices are very special places, with tailor-made family-friendly facilities. Soft play rooms give every child a safe place to laugh and play, sensory rooms provide a calming and stimulating environment for children with special needs and teenage rooms give our older children a place to be themselves. The family room is a place for everyone to relax together, whilst the children's bedrooms feel just like home: they all have their favourites.

In 2010, 75% of visits to Children's Hospice South West were with the whole family- giving mum and dad the opportunity to be mum and dad again, and siblings to meet others in a similar situation. Our facilities provide the very best place for the whole family to relax, have fun and support each other throughout the precious time they have together.

2. Practical support

Yet the need of Children's Hospice South West is more than just to provide respite care and fun. Our nurses are expert medical professionals who can provide the very best care for the life-limited children we support. We have 24 hour a day doctor cover provided to all affected children. We support families in emergency situations, to provide medical assistance when a family just can't cope, and for end of life and palliative care for every child who needs us in the South West. We also provide support to the whole family through bereavement both before and after a child has sadly died.



'Looking back I don't know how I would have survived this experience without them, they are amazing people whose dedication shines as a light to families in need. I will never forget all they have done for us.'

3. We need your support

Once our hospice doors are opened to families, our fundraising does not stop: that is only the beginning. We need to continue to provide our world class support year on year to children and families that need our help.

In 2010:

- We opened the 6th bed at Charlton Farm, Bristol
- We laid the foundation stone at Little Harbour, St Austell
- The number of children supported by CHSW increased for the 15th successive year
- We provided 10,000 nights care and support
- We provided 76,000 hours of support
- We served 30,000 meals

New referral numbers to our hospices still increase year on year, with 96 referrals in 2010 alone. This can be due to a number of factors including Charlton Farms' close proximity to Bristol Children's Hospital, a greater awareness of our service across the South West and the increasing number of neonatal and oncology patients as children's illnesses are being diagnosed quicker.

As always we are there for every one of these children but each new referral puts extra pressure on our care team. We will never turn a family away and will always provide the very best care and support that is needed by every life-limited child in the South West.



“When we arrive it is like a door has opened in our lives”

We hope Lions International South West will help celebrate 21 years of hospice care at Children’s Hospice South West. It would make such a difference to us if collectively Lions International South West pledged to raise £21,000 for Children’s Hospice South West. Better yet a pledge to raise £21,000 for each hospice over the course of the year would be amazing.

Here are a few thoughts about how Lions International and its members could become involved and help raise funds:

Encourage members to raise money with a 21 theme:

- Do 21 things to raise a smile
- Do 21 things they’ve never done before over the course of the year and get their friends /family to sponsor them to do it.
- ‘21’ themed events
- 21 mile walk/cycle ride
- Host a mini Olympic event (a 2012 theme, it’s close enough!)
- Treasure hunt with 21 clues

Encourage members to raise money with a family theme:

- Arrange a picnic in the park
- Organise a Summer ‘fun day’ with activities for all the family to enjoy
- Put on a Christmas pantomime and encourage friends and family to get involved

4. How could your fundraising help support families at Children’s Hospice South West?

£21,000 - Could fund 3 minibuses, 1 for each hospice.

Our minibuses are vital to our work, not only are they used for day trips for our children and families but also provide transport to many families who are unable to make the journey on their own, to our hospices.

£21,000 – Could fund a carer at one of our hospices for a year

The work of a carer extends far beyond the medical needs of a child at our hospice, a carer is a friendly face and a listening ear, not only during a stay our hospices but throughout the year any time of the day or night.

5. How we can help support you

Support through local fundraisers

Our local fundraisers will be on hand to support your local fundraising events, providing advice and support, promotional materials to help decorate your event and providing a presence on the day where possible.

Our own events

If members would like to do even more to support Children’s Hospice South West and add to their total then members, their friends and families can get involved in CHSW annual events.



Member engagement

We can offer presentations and speakers at local Lions Clubs, and invitations to our open days at the hospices for your members.

PR and press across whole region

Your fundraising has already done so much for us. Next year, your special support can make an impact across the whole South West region, allowing media contacts to feature your stories from Wiltshire to Cornwall. Our dedicated PR team will work alongside you to devise creative and unique press angles.

You make the difference.

“We have learned so many things through coming to Little Bridge House, but we felt that the most important thing of all has been that we found that love is stronger than death”



...together we can make
the most of short and precious lives

