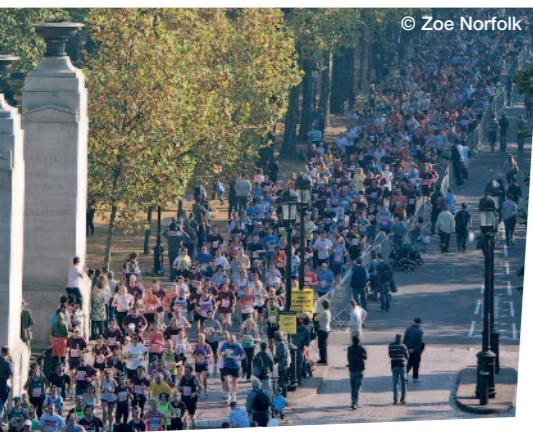


>> EVERY TIME YOU GIVE YOU HELP 4 CHARITIES AT ONCE

SUPPORTERS' CORNER >>



© Zoe Norfolk

Fancy a run?

Childlife has been awarded two places in this year's Royal Parks Half Marathon, taking place on Sunday 11 October 2009. Last year over 12,500 runners were treated to a glorious autumn day for the event which took them through four of the most spectacular London parks and past many of the capital's famous landmarks.

If you are interested in taking part on behalf of Childlife, please contact us (see below) and we will be happy to chat to you. If you would like to read more about the event, please see www.royalparkshalf.com

Keep in touch

We'd love to hear from you and any ideas you have about fundraising or our new newsletter.

Call us on **01252 628072** email info@childlife.org.uk or visit www.childlife.org.uk

Childlife, Westpoint House, 32/34 Albert Street, Fleet, GU51 3RW
Registered Charity No. 1080536

Received with thanks

Regular donations to Childlife are great, but we also really appreciate those special extra gifts you send us. Colleagues at a Nottingham Police station gave £78 – the proceeds of their Christmas raffle – to Childlife, whilst supporter Doris Green collected £80 from people coming along to her regular 'friendship club'. Thank you!

A bumper Christmas

We are pleased to say that our sales of Christmas cards for 2008 were record breaking, with more supporters ordering their cards from us than ever before. We are currently looking at designs for 2009 and we look forward to showing you these in the next issue of *In Touch*.

Or perhaps you prefer sending electronic greetings for birthdays, anniversaries, Easter, Diwali or other occasions? Send them from www.charitygreetings.com/childlife, and Childlife will receive £1 from every order.

WHAT ELSE?

MAKE US YOUR HOME PAGE

Make www.everyclick.com/childlife your home page, use it as your search engine and each time you do, you will raise money for Childlife.

EBAY FOR CHIDLIFE

If you're selling something on Ebay, you can choose to donate any percentage of your final sale, from 10%-100%, to charity. To find out more go to www.ebay.co.uk/ebayforcharity

RECYCLE YOUR OLD PHONE

If you have an old mobile lying around, you can turn it into cash for Childlife, along with ink and toner cartridges from your printer. Go to www.eachonecounts.co.uk/childlife to check whether the phone or cartridge you have can be recycled, then choose Childlife from the 'Charity Partners' list.

A LASTING GIFT

We all know it's important to have a Will in place to make sure your wishes are carried out after you've gone. Why not consider leaving an amount to Childlife in your will to help our charities carry on their great work for years to come? Just ask your solicitor about how to make an amendment to your Will, and let us know if you have included Childlife – thank you!

The newsletter for our amazing supporters

INTOUCH

Issue 40 Spring/Summer 2009

WELCOME!

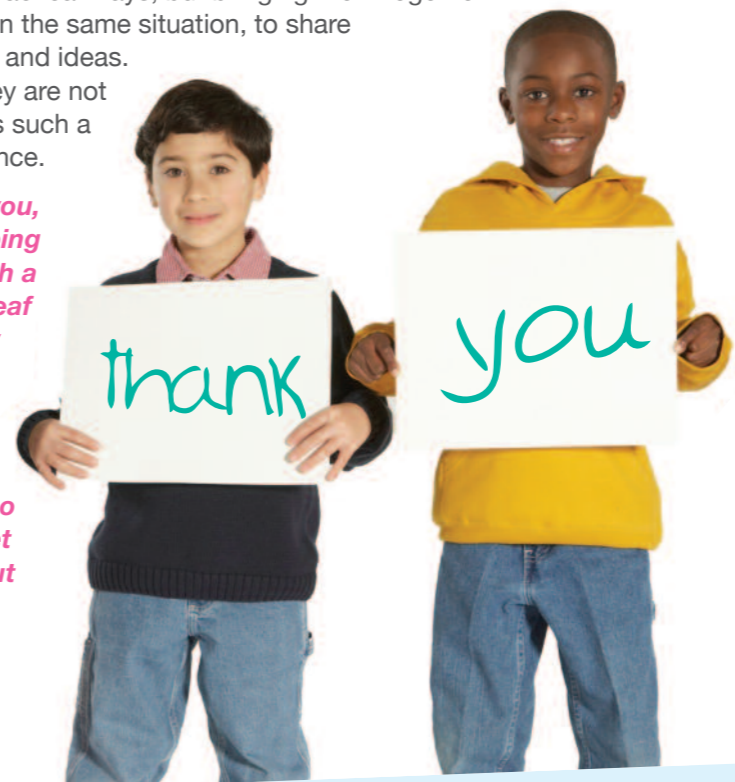
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW-LOOK NEWSLETTER, KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH HOW OUR FOUR CHARITIES ARE USING YOUR WONDERFUL DONATIONS.

Last year, we asked our supporters to tell us what they liked about our newsletter and what we could improve. We've listened to what you said, and hope you'll agree that *In Touch* makes it even easier to see how you are helping children across the UK every day.

Many of those children and their families say the feeling of isolation that often comes with illness or disability can be one of the toughest things to deal with. All our charities are committed to not only helping families in practical ways, but bringing them together with others in the same situation, to share experiences and ideas.

Knowing they are not alone makes such a huge difference.

Thanks to you, we are helping families with a disabled, deaf or seriously ill child overcome the many difficulties they face, so they can get the most out of life.



childlife

4 charities helping children

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Joanna goes from strength to strength

EVEN THOUGH JOANNA NOW LIVES HER LIFE IN A WHEELCHAIR, AND HAS TO RELY ON OTHERS FOR MANY THINGS, SHE'S NOT LETTING IT HOLD HER BACK.

When she was just 13, Joanna was diagnosed with Friedreich's ataxia, a rare neurological condition that has attacked her ability to walk, balance and co-ordinate movement. Now nearly 16, Joanna has gone from strength to strength. Her teachers say she is quick-witted, mature beyond her years and is expected to do well in her GCSEs this summer. Her school also nominated her for a Citizenship Award, which she was delighted to win. Clearly everyone thinks highly of this very special girl.

[Continues overleaf >](#)

Childlife helps children by raising funds for 4 special charities.



FOCUS >>



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Joanna is convinced that Ataxia UK has had a huge part to play in her life. "There's something about going to a monthly meeting where people have a similar condition to me, or understand what it's like to be in a wheelchair. Just going makes me feel more confident about life, about myself, about everything, and lets me get on with being me!"

One of Ataxia UK's priorities has been the expansion of its regional branches to enable families affected by ataxia to come together to share information and support each other. The generosity of Childlife supporters has helped to speed up the development of this important network.

Four years ago there were just 10 branches and support groups across the country. Now, thanks to Childlife supporters like you, there are an amazing 40! n

ACORNS

A high note for Acorns children
A magical musical event at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena gave some lucky Acorns children a community experience they'll always treasure.

Living with a life-limiting condition can be very isolating for a child. Acorns Children's Hospice believes passionately in children being given the chance to live their short lives as fully as possible. A recent Young Voices school concerts project brought them together with children from all over Birmingham, to take part in a concert they'll never forget.

Jo Saunders, Activities Team Leader at Acorns in the Black Country said: "We do a lot of activities within the hospice but we also like children to get out into the world and mix in mainstream activities.

"In November we joined in with the Young Voices project at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, having worked with a group of children and siblings to practice songs ready for the big day. We joined 6,000 other children to sing our hearts out with a live band and dancers.

"The young people had a great time, it was a magical experience and so positive to be performing with so many other local children from all walks of life as well as professional performers."

Music is part of the range of inspiring activities that Acorns employs to help care for children and support their families at the hospice. Children take part in activities that match their interests, stage of development and ability. Some play the guitar while others bang happily away on drums.

Of course these things all cost money. Instruments, transport to and from the concert, teaching time – it all adds up. Whatever activities the children enjoy – from music at the hospice to a special event like the Young Voices concert – it's all thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, who help make it possible. n



NDCS

A great start for Matthew
When Rebecca and Adam discovered their three-day-old son was deaf, they were devastated. Now, thanks to the NDCS, life is looking up for their little boy.

At first, Matthew's family felt very isolated and were unclear about how they could make sure Matthew had the same opportunities and chance of happiness as any other child. Then, when he was eight weeks old, an NDCS Family Officer came to visit and told them about the charity's weekends for parents who have just discovered their child is deaf.

"We met a lady who lived only a few miles from us and suddenly we didn't feel quite so alone," says Rebecca. "You just don't meet parents of deaf children often in your daily life – our friends are really supportive but nobody really understands in the same way as another parent in the same position."

Now nearly three, Matthew's speech is 'coming on in leaps and bounds'. He is popular with hearing children at his pre-school and can keep up with them on all levels. Thanks to your support Matthew now feels like he belongs. n

WHAT'S NEW?

ATAXIA RESEARCH SHOWS POSITIVE RESULTS

A breakthrough in the treatment of ataxia symptoms has been made by Dr Mark Pook at Brunel University. Research funded by Ataxia UK showed improvements in ataxic symptoms could be possible through the use of therapeutic treatments. Friedrich's ataxia, which affects around 1 in 30,000 people, is still the most common inherited form of ataxia amongst children.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Sir Michael Parkinson is calling on grandparents of deaf children to get actively involved in an innovative project which will encourage them to form a strong bond with the deaf child in their family and provide the support they need.

During the two-year *All Together* project, run by NDCS, grandparents from across England will share their experiences of having a deaf child in their family, and contribute to new resources that will help other people in this situation.

MAKE TIME FOR PLAY

Playday, the annual celebration of children's right to play, takes place on Wednesday 5 August 2009, with the theme *Make time!* Hundreds of fantastic events will be taking place across the UK to celebrate Playday, from small neighbourhood get-togethers to big public events.

Playday 2008 was a huge success, with over 550 events nationwide and more than a quarter of a million children enjoying a great day out. Playday is co-ordinated by Play England, part of the NCB, which your support helps to fund.