Activity Book
Annual Review 2012

Fun and educational technologies for children in hospices
More packages in more children’s hospices

What a year 2011 was. In June we were announced overall winners at the Technology4Good Awards. We have not stopped there and last year we installed more packages in more children’s hospices than ever before.

We are determined to make 2012 another great year and are already well on the way. We were delighted to be announced Digital Leaders earlier this summer in recognition of our vision of using technology to empower disabled children to communicate, control and express themselves.

At Lifelites we are also renewing our dedication to children’s hospices. Even though the number of hospices continues to increase, we remain focussed on our ambition to provide every one of them with ongoing training, technical support and to install technology that will make a difference to the children at each hospice.

Wherever you are in the UK there is a project near you, giving children in your local children’s hospice the chance to play with their brothers and sisters, make music and films or just do their homework.

None of our work would be possible without the dedication and generosity of our volunteers and supporters across the country. With their help we can continue to put smiles on the faces of terminally ill and severely disabled children in all the children’s hospices around the country.

Thank you.

Heroes, Leaders, Winners!

Digital Leaders Awards

We were commended as Digital Leaders at the beginning of summer 2012. Inviting Simone Enefer-Doy on stage to accept the award, the sponsors commented, “Everyone has been deeply touched by the energy and enthusiasm of the team at Lifelites and the impact of their work on the lives of so many children and their families.”

Winner’s Winner at Technology4Good Awards

We won the Accessibility Award and were declared Overall Winners at the Technology4Good Awards 2011 in recognition of our innovative work using technology to empower disabled children. We couldn’t believe it, and we were delighted to attend the launch ceremony for this year’s awards at the BT Tower.

Digital Heroes 2011

In November last year, we nominated Claire Floyd, a care worker at Naomi House in Winchester, as a TalkTalk Digital Hero. She won!

Claire said, “Winning the regional award was a real boost. The prize money will be used to complement the brilliant Lifelites equipment at JacksPlace, our hospice for young people, but we received lots of press coverage too, which is extremely helpful to our fundraising efforts.

“I can’t thank everyone at Lifelites enough for their continued support as the driving force behind my recognition in the Awards.”
The whole package

We don’t just install life-changing technology and leave the hospices to it. Lifelites provides ongoing technical support, training and, to make sure each project is using the latest and best technology, we completely replace the equipment with a brand new package every four years. However, before we even come close to putting a package into a children’s hospice, we make sure they have the chance to tell us what they need. This was really important to Liz, Head of Care at Douglas House. “You didn’t just tell us what you would be giving us, and that gave us the opportunity to say what we wanted. The meant we could ask the young people what suited them to ensure they get more use out of the Lifelites equipment.”

Thanks to Lifelites, we now have TVs with flexible wall mounts in each room. This means that anyone, regardless of their position in bed, can watch the TV or listen to the radio. And giving us the laptops means that those who want them can use them in their rooms. It feels completely personalised.

Got game?

Every aspect of the Lifelites technology is geared towards helping children in hospices to break down barriers, and nothing seems to reduce isolation quite like video games.

At Acorns in Worcester of boys stay up all hours, thrashing each other at football, exploring new worlds, racing expensive cars and just behaving like any other teenage boys; enjoying games and forging friendships.

Sally at the hospice told us, “Most of the care staff don’t play games, so for the boys it really is ‘their’ thing.” Sally added that she hears strange noises coming from the hospice games room at night, “One lad loves commentating over the football when it’s on, but that’s nothing compared to the explosions and gunfire on some of the games. It sounds stress-relieving!”

Don’t worry, though, this activity is not all about fighting crime in a parallel universe, it provides benefits in the real world, too. Sally explained, “Some disabilities will severely limit the opportunities these boys have to interact. Gaming changes that; it allows them to come out of their shells, encourages them to use their imagination and helps develop their social skills.”

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The difference Lifelites makes to children in hospices is huge. Can you spot what’s missing in the first picture?

1. Adjustable touchscreen computer,
2. Rollerball mouse-switch,
3. Soft-touch ‘Gooshy’ switch,
4. Wireless mouse and keyboard – ideal for wheelchair users,
5. Head-mouse cap
We’ve heard some great stories over the years about how we help children in hospices to be creative. For children with severe disabilities, opportunities to be creative are all too rare. Some children in hospices aren’t able to join in with messy arts and crafts play, and some simply don’t have the dexterity to hold paintbrushes. The Lifelites touchscreen computers allow them to participate and express themselves.

Alan, who works in the care team at Hope House in Shropshire, explained how important these opportunities are to the development and well-being of children in hospices.

“"There’s one child who had very limited movement in his hands but, with the Lifelites equipment, he could use his feet on two touch pads on the floor to create a picture on the screen. He could see what he was doing and he was laughing and giggling because he could do something himself. I could tell by his eyes that he was proud and chuffed to bits. At times like this you realise how good the equipment is.”" He stills camera is used by the whole care team to photograph events and activities for the parents. It’s also really useful for end-of-life care as it enables us to create memory books for families. It’s a service you just couldn’t offer in a hospital and it helps us create positive memories.”

Hasnna Begum, Play and Care Worker, Richard House

We love to hear how Lifelites technology empowers children in hospices. A lot of these children will have multiple severe disabilities and face a life regimented by medication and specific meal times. The chance to take control of anything is rare.

Fundraiser Emma Lloyd wrote to us after seeing the children playing with the equipment at Little Harbour.

“The new equipment is stunning and we couldn’t wait to see the children use it. The generosity and dedication of everyone involved in getting this technology to us is so humbling and inspiring and we feel privileged to be able to work with you.”

She explained our training really brought the potential of the technology to life. From then on the staff knew the Lifelites equipment would become a central part of the care the hospice provides.

Emma summed up the difference the Lifelites technology makes.

“"Now we can show people what our special children can do rather than what they can’t.”" We love to hear how Lifelites technology empowers children in hospices. A lot of these children will have multiple severe disabilities and face a life regimented by medication and specific meal times. The chance to take control of anything is rare.

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Pin the project

There is a Lifelites project in every children’s hospice in the UK. That’s 44 packages of technology, support and training all geared towards changing the lives of severely disabled and terminally ill children across the country.

Can you put the pins on the places where Lifelites packages will be making a difference in 2012?

- **Charlton Farm, Bristol**
  It’s hard to believe it’s been four years since we were last at Charlton Farm. They’re due a new package this year. Can you help us make it happen?

- **Chestnut Tree House, West Sussex**
  Chestnut Tree House needs a new Lifelites package this year. Can you help give the children there a chance to play and learn with the latest technology?

- **Claire House, The Wirral**
  We have been working with Claire House for years – they are due to receive their third package from us in 2012. Can you help?

- **Demelza South East London**
  Mission accomplished! Over the next four years we’ll be coming back to train staff and provide technical support, so your fundraising and support can still help this project.

- **Donna Louise Trust, Stoke-on-Trent**
  Can it really be four years since we last installed a package here? The very latest assistive and fun technology is waiting to arrive in this hospice; can you help us get it there?

- **Grace House, Tyne & Wear**
  We really want to install a package here this year! Grace House is a brand new children’s hospice and we want to make sure the children there get to play and learn with the latest assistive technology. Can you help us?

- **Horizon West, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh**
  Job done! This was the first package we installed in 2012 and complements our work at their sister hospice in Belfast.

- **Martin House, Wetherby**
  We’ve worked closely with these guys to put together one of the most exciting Lifelites projects yet. Curious? Get in touch!

- **St Oswald’s, Newcastle**
  Back again! After installing a package for the young people in the hospice last year, we want to help out the younger ones too!

- **Zoe’s Place, Coventry, Liverpool & Middlesbrough**
  We’ve never worked with these baby hospices before so we are really keen to start in 2012.

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You can Google© ‘Lifelites Project Map’, or access it from our website.
Get involved!
We pride ourselves on developing meaningful relationships with our supporters, wherever they are in the country. Last year, they did more than ever before, which meant that we could too! If you’d like to know more about how you and your colleagues, friends and family can help us please get in touch!

Here are just nine of the many ways you can help to change a child’s life through the power of technology. Can you find them all?

Volunteer
Fundraise
Run
Cycle
Hike
Jump
Expertise
Photography
Overdress

Do the things you love

“Whatever the problem, nothing seems to be too difficult for Lifelites, as technology moves on, so does Lifelites. Our children, however severely disabled, are able to use the equipment for themselves giving them a level playing field with their brothers and sisters.”

David Strudley CBE, Chief Executive, Acorns Children’s Hospice

“Thanks to Lifelites, it does not matter that a child cannot communicate in the traditional way anymore - non-verbal communication is not a problem for our children.”

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Chris Neate, a care team nurse at Little Harbour, called to tell us about the difference the Lifelites technology has made to one of the boys in his care.

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“The most striking difference the Lifelites equipment has made is to Adam; a teenage boy with muscular dystrophy. The Lifelites equipment seems to set him free from the confines of his condition. Adam uses the computer with the mouse and onscreen keyboard and he can type as fast as any able-bodied person.

Most importantly for Adam, the Lifelites equipment has given him the ability to stay in touch with friends.”

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Follow the numbers and see what the dots make!
With a little help from our friends

Nothing we do would be possible without our supporters. We are really grateful for all the helpful and generous friends we have met and enjoyed working with over the last year. Can you help match our friends to the words about them?

Donations by type

- 50% Trusts
- 31% Companies and staff
- 15% Community groups
- 3% Individuals

Finances 2011

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>£’000s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing technology for children in hospices</td>
<td>344</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of generating funds (including investment fees)</td>
<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance*</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>467</td>
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</tbody>
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Our performance compared to 2010

- Increase in income: 35.9%
- More projects were completed: 31%
- Reduction in expenditure: 12.8%

To request a copy of our detailed Annual Report and Accounts 2011, please call us on 0207 440 4200. Alternatively, it can be viewed on our record on the Charity Commission website www.charity-commission.gov.uk.

* Thanks to the generosity of the RMTGB, Lifelites does not have expenses for office or accountancy services.

Once again, the trustees of Children with Cancer have chosen to provide Lifelites with a substantial donation to enable them to continue to assist children and young people with cancers who use children’s hospices.

Laura Gill represented her company and Lifelites at the BUPA 10k event this year. We are really excited to see where our partnership with this software security company takes us.

Project assurance experts by day, running, cycling and fundraising evangelists by weekends.

Our founders The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys continue to provide Lifelites with offices and accountancy services at no cost helping Lifelites overheads to a minimum.

Pip Tyler, Vice Chair of this charity said, “The technology Lifelites provides has such a positive impact on both the children and their families and we’re thrilled that we can help them offer this to hospices throughout the UK.”

We have been partners with these people for a number of years now and they are simply tireless. We love hearing about all of the in-store fundraising antics and we are extremely grateful for their support.

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Did you see our video in January? It was entitled ‘It’s not just about Britain’ – and we are grateful to everyone involved.

There are people who would have a lot more fun if we did not have access to the technology that Lifelites provides.

With a little help from our friends...
Team Lifelites, Our Patrons

Lord Young PC, DL
Joined Lifelites: 2010
Special skill: Legal eagle and business brain

Peter Bowles
Joined Lifelites: 2007
Special skill: Ambassador and all round nice chap

Baroness Finlay
Joined Lifelites: 2007
Special skill: Palliative care champion

Lady Kalms MBE
Joined Lifelites: 2010
Special skill: Volunteer champion and charity activist

Lord Cadogan KBE, DL
Joined Lifelites: 1999
Special skill: Philanthropy and advocacy

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Printed on 50% recycled paper with minimal wastage. All information correct at time of printing.

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