Could you fundraise for Lifelites?

Read about one of our hospice stars

See the impact of our equipment
Welcome to our 2017 Highlites newsletter

We are excited to showcase what we got up to in 2016 and our plans for this year. Please pass our news on to your family, friends and colleagues and perhaps they might like to join in with our fundraising.

You’ll see there’s a lot in here about the projects we installed during the past year. The reactions of the hospice staff, parents and children are really gratifying and we are sure you will agree that they help to reinforce the importance of our work and why we do what we do.

There are also plenty of ideas to show you how you can get involved in fundraising to help us to achieve our ambitious aims. Do get in touch!

Thank you to everyone who helps us to bring our magical technology to children with limited lives. We couldn’t do it without you.

What is Lifelites?

Lifelites provides specialist technology packages for over 10,000 terminally ill and disabled children and young people using every children’s hospice service across the British Isles.

Get in touch!

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The Highlites team

Editor: Hannah Collier Designers: The Tin Can Collective Icons: Freepik
GamesAid reboots its support for Lifelites

GamesAid, one of Lifelites' biggest funders, excelled in their support yet again in 2016 with an incredible donation of over £95,000.

The charity, made up of members of the UK games industry, supports a number of small children's charities each year. They held several fundraising events in 2016, including a record breaking golf day, continuing to show how amazingly generous the games industry is.

Over the years GamesAid’s donations have helped Lifelites expand and develop its work, and this most recent donation will help continue to give children with limited life unlimited possibilities.

Could your company or community organisation support Lifelites? Take a look on our website for more ideas and get in touch with us at info@lifelites.org or call 0207 440 4200.

A year of incredible prizes

How would you like to win the Ultimate Library of 100 Signed Books, or become the proud owner of a limited edition Tracey Emin print? This year we are partnering with the online raffle site Givergy.com and auction site Paddle8.com to offer a host of unique raffles and auctions. Prizes up for grabs include 100 signed books, a collection of art, the Ultimate Film and TV package, a Dream Gardening package and the Ultimate Rock ‘n’ Pop goodie bag.

Keep your eyes peeled on our website, Twitter and Facebook pages for these amazing money can’t buy prizes! For information on how to enter, please visit lifelites.org/get-involved/enter-one-of-our-raffles

We go overseas

It’s official! Lifelites is now donating and maintaining packages of magical technology for children using every children’s hospice service in the British Isles. In 2016 our network expanded to include services in Jersey and the Isle of Wight, and we are now making plans to support Rebecca House on the Isle of Man.
Our technology enhances the lives of thousands of terminally ill and disabled children and young people across the British Isles every day. One of those very special people is 24 year old Craig. His dad Geoff spoke to our Chief Executive Simone.

Craig was born with a rare genetic condition called Neurofibromatosis. The result of a genetic mutation, his condition can cause a number of medical complications. These are so severe they have been close to fatal on several occasions.

Although he used to be like any other child and was able to walk and talk, Craig is now confined to a wheelchair and is unable to speak. He requires round-the-clock care from his mum Denise, his dad Geoff and a fantastic team of carers. Geoff said: “It got to the point where I had to choose between my job as an engineer or Craig; I chose Craig.”

Geoff tells me that Craig refuses to be held back by his condition and found his life completely transformed when he was given an iPad. The iPad has an app which enables Craig to communicate, ProLoQuo2Go. The app is pre-programmed with over 10,000 words and is easily adaptable to the user’s preference and caters for a wide range of fine-motor, visual and cognitive skills.

Craig has a section on the app called ‘Craig’s corny jokes.’ He has a great sense of humour and even has a section for insults. At the press of a button his iPad says: “My dad is a fat bacon pig.” Geoff tuts, rolls his eyes and says: “I don’t care what he calls me, as long as he’s still here to call me it.”

As well as using the iPad for fun and games, Craig can also use it to tell his carers when he is in pain, which is potentially life-saving.

Self-confessed technophobe Geoff explained: “The only time Craig is stressed is when his battery runs out. The iPad is everything to him. It’s his world. It’s his lifeline.”

Since the age of 17 Craig and his family have been regular visitors at Martin House children’s hospice in Yorkshire. Martin House was the first hospice to receive iPads from Lifelites. In 2016 we donated even more, all with our special drop proof covers and loaded with specialist apps, including of course, ProLoQuo2Go. They cost £650 each, but Craig’s story alone is enough to prove that they can change lives, so we think they’re worth their weight in gold.
Our hospice stars

We meet some wonderful people in our work. For this issue, we thought we’d tell you about our friends at Bluebell Wood and how the children there have benefitted from our magical technology.

We first donated to Bluebell Wood when they opened their doors in 2008. They care for children and young adults with life-shortening and life-threatening conditions in South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and parts of North Lincolnshire. The children there received brand new equipment from us in December 2016. This included:

- An Eyegaze
- A mobile Magic Carpet
- A waterproof camera
- A large touchscreen computer
- A printer
- iPads
- Switches
- A wide variety of different games and programs

This equipment has a huge impact on the children at Bluebell Wood. When we last visited we met Leona.

Her mum Jayne said: “She has had so much thrown at her. In one year alone she had nine operations and was so incredibly ill, but she’s such a little fighter and always bounces back.”

Despite using a wheelchair and having limited mobility, Leona immediately took to the Magic Carpet. Jayne said: “Leona loved watching the fish on the magic carpet, and playing games with the Eyegaze. She can’t use an Xbox, so playing with Eyegaze was such a fun experience for her, and you could tell she knew what she was doing. She was mesmerised.”

Liz Webster, Director of Care at Bluebell Wood, said: “We are so grateful to Lifelites for their incredible donation and their continued support over the years. Our vision is to help all our families live with love and laughter, and thanks to this magical equipment we will be able to do just that.”
2016 was another incredible year for Lifelites. We installed brand new packages of our magical technology at children’s hospices across the British Isles and continued to provide support for staff.

We travelled up and down the country delivering training and technical support, and were available round-the-clock through our helpline to ensure that the equipment is kept working for these children for whom every second counts.

Here is what some of the staff at the hospices have had to say about last year’s donations:

Carole Dixon, children and young adults service manager at St Oswald’s, said: “The equipment Lifelites provides is invaluable to the children and young adults at St Oswald’s, and is without a doubt one of the main reasons they look forward to staying with us! Regardless of their disabilities they want to do everything they see their peers doing, and the Lifelites equipment makes this possible.”

Clare Walton, senior care assistant at Zoë’s Place said: “It has been wonderful for the parents to witness just what their children are capable of, using the Lifelites technology. We are so thrilled to have this and cannot thank everyone enough who made it happen.”
We provide so many amazing pieces of equipment for children in hospices. Here we focus on the Magic Carpet.

What is it?
The Magic Carpet is a portable system which projects images and games onto any flat surface – such as the floor, wheelchair tray or bed – which children can play with. It comes pre-programmed with hundreds of different applications for learning and play, with the potential to create your own as well.

This incredible piece of equipment gives children - who are very often seriously ill and may have limited mobility - the chance to escape the confines of their condition and embrace a world of make-believe. They can fly a plane, splash in the sea and even play football.

Providing opportunities like this means so much to a child whose life is so restricted by their condition. They can let their imaginations run wild and control something for themselves.

When we delivered a Magic Carpet to Julia’s House, one of the carers said: “It’s absolutely amazing. We had a child who couldn’t actually believe what she saw. Her eyes were on stalks. She can’t do an awful lot for herself so it was incredible for her.” Another member of the team said: “We could even use it for end of life care. Some of the applications are so soothing and relaxing. You could put pictures of the child’s favourite things on it, things that are special to them. You could even record their parents’ voices.”

How much does it cost?
The Magic Carpet costs Lifelites £7,500. At Zoë’s Place baby hospice in Middlesbrough they told us they had wanted a Magic Carpet for years.

The hospices’ own fundraising is concentrated on providing services and support for children and their families, so they simply could not buy the vital equipment Lifelites is able to donate to them, thanks to your support.

Could you help?
Could you help us provide our magical technology to a children’s hospice near you? If you’d like to fundraise, take a look at our website for ideas: www.lifelites.org
Where do we hope to go in 2017?

We have an exciting year ahead with lots more packages of magical technology due to be delivered to children in hospices across the British Isles. So wherever you are there’ll be a Lifelites project near you. Could you help us fundraise for your local Lifelites project? You can give a child the opportunity to have fun, be creative, communicate and control something for themselves.

If you would like to support any of the Lifelites projects, please get in touch and let us know. You can email info@lifelites.org or call 0207 440 4200.
Could you fundraise for Lifelites?

Can you help us bring a little Lifelites magic to children in hospices? To provide a hospice with one of our packages costs just over £1,000 a month. There are currently 54 children’s hospice services across the British Isles. Here’s a few ways you could help us raise funds:

**At home**

If you have a hobby, why not use it to raise money? If you love running, sign up for one of the many runs that take place across the country. Or if you want to challenge yourself, why not be a bit more adventurous and take part in our abseil? If you’d prefer something a bit tamer you could host an event such as a quiz and ask your friends and family to come along.

**At work**

Does your workplace have a chosen charity? Why not nominate Lifelites to benefit from your fundraising? You could have a bake sale, a fancy dress day or take part in a group event such as a long distance cycle. Why not take on the London to Paris bike ride?

**At school**

Could you suggest that the funds from your child’s next non-uniform day at school go to Lifelites? Or you could hold a concert or a sponsored silence? The possibilities are endless.

**At your local club**

If you are part of a local club, be it anything from a book club to a golf club, there is always something you could do to fundraise for Lifelites. Perhaps you could have a book sale or a golf tournament?

Please get in touch with us if you are doing some fundraising and we can support you. Call or email us on 0207 440 4200 or info@lifelites.org.
We couldn’t do it without you

Our fundraisers are our heroes. We simply wouldn’t be able to help so many terminally ill and disabled children without their support.

They participate in a wide variety of activities at home, at work and at their local clubs. Here are just a few of their amazing feats from 2016.

Ivor and Wendy Macklin opened their beautiful garden in Kent to the public in the summer and donated the cake stall proceeds to Lifelites. They raised £1,000.

Paul Flowerday raised £4,000 when he donned his Santa suit for a 10k run in December.

London property company Capco raised an incredible £8,000 from their annual golf day.
Passion Pictures raised £825 when they held a raffle for us at their Christmas party. Prizes in the raffle included London Eye tickets and a voucher for afternoon tea at the Waldorf Hotel.

Future Games of London employees Eugenio, Murari and Xavier, and others took part in the Superhero Run in Regents Park, London. They raised £781.

In June 2016, seven Freemasons took part in a mammoth one day motorbike ride, visiting Masonic centres in 12 different Provinces. They raised a whopping £5,000.
Why does Lifelites need your support?

We asked the hospice staff why your donation matters.

“This donation from Lifelites of the amazing, cutting edge, interactive equipment, will open up a whole new world for the children and young people we support and make a huge difference to their experience at the hospice.” Dott Gillespie, director of care at the Donna Louise Trust

Yes! I would like to help with a gift of: £

I enclose a: □ cheque □ postal order □ CAF voucher Please do not send cash

Please complete all relevant sections and return your completed form with your donation to: Lifelites, 26 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5BL.

My personal details

First name ______________________________ Surname _______________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Postcode ________________________________________________________________________

Phone number ______________________________ Email _________________________________

☐ We would like to keep you up to date with how your support is making a difference.

Please tick if you're happy for us to contact you from time to time.

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer, Lifelites can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate. Please tick if you can (only UK taxpayers should complete this section).

☐ Please treat all qualifying gifts of money made to Lifelites (Charity no. 1165791) today, in the past four years and in the future as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities and amateur sports clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify and the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. I will notify you should I choose to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or if I no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains.

Signature ______________________________ Date ______________________________

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