Giving kids with limited life unlimited possibilities

Annual review
2017
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What is Lifelites?

Lifelites is the charity working to enrich the lives of children and young people with terminal illnesses and disabilities using every children’s hospice services across the British Isles. We do this by donating the latest assistive and inclusive technology, specially adapted for children with a range of needs and abilities. This is provided completely free of charge, along with training for the hospice staff, ongoing technical support and equipment maintenance.

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Registered charity number: 1165791
Welcome
FROM OUR CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It has been another incredible year for Lifelites. We have been overwhelmed with the support we have received to ensure we can donate our packages of magical technology for children using every children’s hospice service across the British Isles. We have to say a very big thank you to all concerned.

This support means we are now providing more cutting edge equipment than ever before, and portable technologies are enabling us to reach more children than we ever thought possible.

Please read on to find out more about the children we help – and those who help make it possible.

The support we provide

Every child using every children’s hospice service across the British Isles has access to magical technology from Lifelites. Our donations include equipment, installation and ongoing training and technical support. In the last financial year we:

- Travelled over 30,000 miles delivering and maintaining equipment and providing training
- Reached over 10,000 terminally ill and disabled children and young people
- Raised funds to provide 20 services with over 800 pieces of equipment
- Delivered 47 days of training for hospice staff

Mike Woodcock
Chairman

Simone Enefer-Doy
Chief Executive
How our technology changes lives

We aim to provide equipment that every child, regardless of their ability, can use to play, be creative, control and communicate. We believe that nothing should prevent a child from enjoying the life-enhancing benefits of our technology, and have equipment for everyone, even if the only thing they can move is their eyes. Here is just some of the magical technology we provide and the costs over the four year life cycle of our packages:

Magic Carpet

The Magic Carpet is a portable unit which projects an image or game onto the floor, a wheelchair tray or bed which children can actually play with. It is perfect for children who have difficulty walking or moving unaided, as the child can use it in whatever position they’re comfortable in. They can crawl around on it or have it projected on them while they are lying down, and the colours and sounds are fun and engaging. Ultimately, it gives them the opportunity to escape the confines of their condition and do things they never dreamed of doing, such as splash in a fish pond, or play football, all in the comfort of the hospice surroundings.

Cost: £7,495
**Eyegaze**

This is an eye tracker which enables a child to control a computer just with the movement of their eyes. It is perfect for children with limited mobility who are unable to communicate. They can now tell their parents and carers what they’d like and how they’re feeling. It can also be used to play games with their brothers and sisters or be creative with art and music. For a child who previously couldn’t express themselves, this is life changing. It gives them a sense of control and independence that they never would have had otherwise. One parent, Wendy, said: “We cried when we saw how easily our daughter used the Eyegaze. Incredible. She can now actively make choices for herself.”

**Cost: £3,546**

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**iPads**

Lifelites’ iPads are fantastic tools for children with a range of conditions and are easy to hold in our special drop proof cases, which also make them virtually indestructible. They can act as a communication aid, increase independence, assist with learning and provide the opportunity to have fun and be creative. They are great for children with learning disabilities because we load them with a whole host of apps suitable for a range of abilities.

**Cost: £700**

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**Switches**

Switches are special mice for those who can’t use a conventional mouse. They come in all shapes and sizes to help those with different disabilities to operate a computer and everyday electrical items. Some vibrate and light up when they are touched, encouraging children who aren’t used to being able to control anything for themselves to join in with activities. They can switch on their own light or hairdryer or join in with cooking. In a life where everything is controlled for them, thanks to Lifelites, they can now make their own choices.

**£50-£150 per switch**

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If you think you could support us to donate and maintain more equipment like this for children in hospices, please visit our website at [www.lifelites.org](http://www.lifelites.org), or contact us on [info@lifelites.org](mailto:info@lifelites.org)
Heavenly's story

Heavenly had to have surgery for a brain tumour at the age of six, but complications left her with a number of disabilities. Since using the equipment provided by Lifelites she has discovered a whole new world of fun and communication.

"The iPad has made such a difference to Heavenly's life. I could go on forever about how important this tech is to her; the whole family can use it to communicate and play with her."  
Kelly, Heavenly's mum
Heavenly wasn’t born disabled, but was diagnosed with an ependymoma brain tumour at the age of six. During the operation which ultimately saved her life, she suffered a stroke which robbed her of her speech and the use of her limbs and eyesight on her right side. After winning her fight with cancer she was diagnosed with a rare condition called poikilothermia, which means that she cannot maintain a normal body temperature and lives with hypothermia every day. Her body temperature has been as low as 18°C.

Heavenly uses the Lifelites equipment at Acorns in the Black Country and loves using the iPads. Her mum Kelly told us about the impact they have had on her: “The iPad has made such a difference to Heavenly’s life. I could go on forever about how important this tech is to her; the whole family can use it communicate and play with her.

“Heavenly is unable to speak, and over the years she has used a range of different communication tools but once she started using the iPad suddenly she was a completely different child. Also, due to her condition, she can’t go out a lot and isn’t currently able to attend school, but she can use the iPad to stay in touch with her friends, keep up with her education and play games with the whole family. It has given her so much confidence.”

Despite going through so much, Heavenly, who is now 12 years old, is able to use the Lifelites iPads and other pieces of Lifelites equipment to have fun, be creative, communicate and control something for herself.

If you’d like to help us to continue to support children like Heavenly, find out how you can get involved here: www.lifelites.org
Meet the team who help change short lives

We rely on our expert training and technical support team to ensure that we are delivering the best service possible for children using hospice services. They work to keep the technology in good working order and make sure the staff know how to get the best out of it for the children they work with.

Each package that we donate for children in hospices has a four year life cycle. Initially we consult with the hospice staff to understand the children they care for. Then we research and purchase the most up to date, cutting edge technology that is best suited to the children’s needs. We deliver and install it and provide in depth training for the staff. After that, we will continue to provide technical support and training whenever it is needed.

The team are also involved in organising our annual conference, which is an opportunity for hospice staff to come together, learn about Lifelites and our work, network and share best practice.

Between them they support the Lifelites project at every children’s hospice service in the British Isles.

See IT Work, our technical support

Bryan owns See IT Work – the company which has been providing our technical support services since 2012. They help research the technology, search for the best deals, install all of the equipment and make sure it is all kept in good working order for these children for whom every second counts. They provide our technical support helpline – which the hospice staff can call whenever they need help, even if they just can’t remember how to turn it on!

Bryan and his team spend a lot of time travelling across the country providing this service, which is paid for by Lifelites and is completely free of charge for the hospices.

“I feel privileged to work with Lifelites, to make a difference to a child’s life with technology. It’s not just about donating it, but ensuring it’s the right equipment and it works for the children, so they can enjoy the opportunities it brings.”
Caroline, our training manager

Caroline joined us to set up our specialist training department in 2014. She oversees all of our hospice training projects, including running training sessions, creating and distributing training resources and dealing with any queries the staff have. She originally worked as a teacher before moving into training.

“It's so important that staff are supported to get the most from the equipment we provide. It's always a pleasure to work with staff who are so excited to learn how to use the equipment to create more opportunities to play, communicate and be creative with the children they care for.”

Katherine, our trainer

Katherine is based in the Midlands and joined the Lifelites training team in 2016 to help us respond to the requirement for more hospice staff training. She spent the first 17 years of her career working in neurophysiology, before moving to the charity sector. She works with Caroline to support the hospices with all their training requirements.

“I'm passionate about making memories. Our equipment helps make memories and enhances quality of life for the children and families. It's my pleasure to provide staff with the help they need to get the most out of the equipment and give children the opportunities they deserve.”

Without such an experienced team, we couldn't deliver our magical technology projects. Please read more of this annual review for details about our technology and the families it has helped.
PUTTING LIFELITES

We work with every children’s hospice service across the British Isles, so wherever you are there is a Lifelites project for children from your area.

Our hospice packages are worth £50,000 over their four year lifespan, including the cost of our research, the equipment, installation, staff training, technical support and equipment maintenance. After four years, we will then aim to return to the hospice with a brand new package of the latest assistive technology.
OUR SCHEDULE AND AMBITIONS 2016-2019

2016 ★
- Bluebell Wood, South Yorkshire
- Charlton Farm, Somerset
- Chestnut Tree House, West Sussex
- Claire House, The Wirral
- Demelza SEL, London
- Donna Louise, Staffordshire
- Hospice@Home, Isle of Wight
- Jessie May Trust, Somerset
- Martin House, West Yorkshire
- NICH Horizon House, County Antrim
- NICH Horizon West, County Fermanagh
- Shakespeare, Warwickshire
- St Oswald’s, Northumberland
- The J’s, Essex
- Zoë’s Place Coventry, West Midlands
- Zoë’s Place Liverpool, Lancashire
- Zoë’s Place Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire

2017 ★
- Acorns for the Black Country, West Midlands
- Acorns in Birmingham, West Midlands
- Alexander Devine, Berkshire
- Demelza, Kent
- Helen House, Oxfordshire
- Julia’s House, Wiltshire
- LauraLynn House, County Dublin
- Little Bridge House, Devon
- Naomi House & Jacksplace, Hampshire
- NICH Beyond Horizon, County Antrim
- Pepper Nurses, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire
- Rebecca House, Isle of Man
- Shooting Star (CHASE), Middlesex
- Tŷ Hafan, Vale of Glamorgan

2018 ★
- Butterwick, Durham
- The Children’s Trust, Surrey
- Claire House, Lancashire
- Derian House, Lancashire
- EACH Milton, Cambridgeshire
- Francis House, Lancashire
- Hope House, Shropshire
- Jigsaw, Cumbria
- Keech Hospice Care, Bedfordshire
- Noah’s Ark, London
- Rachel House, Kinross
- Rainbows, Leicestershire
- Robin House, West Dunbartonshire
- St Andrews, Lincolnshire

2019 ★
- Acorns for the Three Counties, Worcestershire
- Brian House, Lancashire
- Christopher’s (CHASE), Surrey
- Demelza Community, East Sussex
- Douglas House, Oxfordshire
- EACH Ipswich, Suffolk
- EACH Quidenham, Norfolk
- Ellenor, Kent
- Forget Me Not, West Yorkshire
- Haven House, Essex
- Julia’s House, Dorset
- Little Harbour, Cornwall
- Little Havens, Essex
- Oakwell House, Jersey
- Richard House, London
- Tŷ Gobaith, Conwy

If you’d like to donate and support any Lifelites project, please get in touch with us by emailing info@lifelites.org or calling 0207 440 4200.
A serious accident left Teni severely disabled at just two years old, but she has been going from strength to strength with the help of the Lifelites technology.
Teni was a happy bubbly little girl until her life changed when she was involved in a serious car crash at the age of two. She sustained spinal and cervical injuries, as well as a brain injury which affected her ability to move and communicate. She couldn’t breathe for herself, had to be fed through a tube and was confined to a bed.

After six months in hospital, Teni went to The Children’s Trust where a variety of specialist equipment, including items donated by Lifelites, were incorporated into her care.

When Teni arrived she was unable to speak and was physically restricted because of severe muscle impairment.

After trying other forms of communication, the care team introduced her to the Eyegaze, donated by Lifelites. After working together with her team of therapists to develop the skills needed to use the technology, Teni is now able to use Eyegaze to communicate and play games. This has allowed her to have fun, express her emotions and make her own choices, giving her a level of independence she wouldn’t have had otherwise.

Thanks to the Lifelites equipment, Teni has made incredible progress. She has started to make more noises and vocalise, and she recently managed to say hi to her mum. This might sound like a small step to anyone else, but for Teni and her family, it means the world.

To help us change the lives of more children like Teni, visit our website and find out how you can get involved: www.lifelites.org
We couldn’t do it without you

We’re very lucky to have the support of some fantastic individuals and organisations who work tirelessly to support Lifelites. Here’s what some of them have been up to:

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT
Not content with supporting our project in the Isle of Wight, Freemasons in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have now pledged to raise £50,000 for the Lifelites project in their area, and have been taking on some incredible challenges to help raise the money. Nigel Moran and Andrew Paice, took on the fastest zip wire in the world, and John Donoghue cycled 1000 miles across England, Spain and France in just 14 days.

IVOR AND WENDY MACKLIN
Once again our stalwart supporters Ivor and Wendy Macklin opened up their award winning garden in Kent, and donated the proceeds of their tea tent to Lifelites.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
Staff at the London office of the British Medical Journal chose Lifelites as one of their charities for two years. They have an exciting calendar of events lined up to raise money and are also helping by providing volunteers.

Of course we have lots more fantastic supporters who we just couldn’t squeeze on this page, but we are so grateful to each and every one of them.

If you’d like to support Lifelites by fundraising or volunteering, just get in touch by emailing info@lifelites.org or calling 0207 440 4200.
If we’ve inspired you to get involved and support Lifelites but you’re not quite sure how, here are a few suggestions:

- **Could you hold an event or take on a challenge to raise money?** You could do anything from a cake sale to a parachute jump!
- **If you’re part of a club or community group,** you could do a presentation about Lifelites and encourage them to do some fundraising for us.
- **Nominate Lifelites to be your company’s chosen charity**
- **If your company has a payroll giving scheme,** how about choosing us to receive a regular donation?
- **If you are going to be celebrating a special occasion,** you could ask for donations to Lifelites in lieu of presents.

There are all sorts of things you could do to support Lifelites. If you’d like to know more visit our website: [www.lifelites.org](http://www.lifelites.org) or get in touch by emailing [info@lifelites.org](mailto:info@lifelites.org), or calling [0207 440 4200](tel:02074404200).
We have made progress expanding our reach to include Transition services which are dedicated to helping young people who have to leave the comfort and support of children’s hospice services. We are working with these teams by providing our special technologies suited to their age and new environments, whether this is in an adult hospice or at home. We aim to continue to explore how we can best address the needs of those using Transition services over the coming year.

We are also partnering children’s hospice services to reach more children beyond hospice walls by working with their community teams. Now that so much of our equipment is portable, we can provide packages they can take with them to use for physiotherapy and play, when they visit children in hospital or their own homes. On top of this work, we are also constantly researching new and better assistive technologies to add to our packages and improve the lives of children and young people in hospices.

To support us and help us continue to grow and deliver these services for terminally ill and disabled children, please visit our website: www.lifelites.org

*Together for Short Lives, www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/about/infographic_here_for_the_49_000
There are always lots of exciting developments, but the one that’s caught our attention is the advent of technologies which provide the user with alternative realities – specifically Virtual Reality (VR).

VR uses headsets to generate realistic images and sounds to replicate a real environment or create an imaginary setting. Suitable for age groups of 13 and upwards, it has the potential to open up a world of different experiences for young people whose worlds are restricted by their conditions.

Using this technology, young people who can’t walk or go outside by themselves could potentially be transported anywhere they can imagine. They could walk on a beach, go scuba diving or even fly a spaceship. The possibilities are endless!

After initial research, we introduced a pilot VR project into Jacksplace in Hampshire, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Care worker Claire said: “One of our young people used to love playing with the Xbox, but his condition means he can no longer use his hands. VR has given him the chance to play games again and has really brought him out of his shell.”

There’s still a lot of work to do, but these results have encouraged us to explore further how we might introduce VR to give more young people in hospices unlimited possibilities.

If you or someone you know could help fund our VR development project, please get in touch by emailing info@lifelites.org or call 0207 440 4200.

EXPLORING NEW TECHNOLOGY:

Virtual Reality

The world of technology is a fast changing industry, and we have to work hard to keep up. We want to make sure we are providing the most innovative, assistive technology for children in hospices so that they are being given the best opportunities to change their short lives.
The work we do is only made possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Donations come from a wide variety of sources and every penny really does make a difference to the lives of terminally ill and disabled children in hospices. For this we would like to thank everyone who has supported us.

All our donations are from organisations and individuals. Lifelites does not benefit from statutory grants.
Our supporters

We couldn’t continue to do our work without our very special supporters. Their passion and dedication to making a difference helps us bring smiles and laughter to children in hospices.

OUR PATRONS
Anita Dobson
Dame Esther Rantzen DBE
Jasmine Elcock
Joe Pasquale
Lady Pamela Kalms MBE
Peter Bowles
Rick Wakeman
Sir David Wootton
The Baroness Finlay of Llanadaff
The Rt Hon the Earl Cadogan KBE DL
The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham DL

OUR VOLUNTEERS
We couldn’t operate as we do without our volunteers. They run fundraising events, speak about Lifelites at events, provide technical support and training to hospice staff and help with administration.

OUR PARTNERS
British Medical Journal
Children with Cancer UK
GamesAid
Khoo Teck Puat UK Foundation
Worshipful Company of Information Technologists

IN KIND SUPPORTERS
The Masonic Charitable Foundation have continued their generous donation of office premises and administrative services to Lifelites. This means our overheads are kept to a minimum so we can focus the funds we raise on providing and maintain our life-enhancing technology.
If you would like to make a REGULAR DONATION please contact us on 0207 440 4200 or visit www.lifelites.org.uk/donate

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

DONATION AND GIFT AID DECLARATION

I enclose a cheque for a SINGLE DONATION of: £

Name:

First name: ____________________________

Surname: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Postcode: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________

May we contact you with fundraising updates?   Yes   No

I am a UK taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid my donation.

Please treat all qualifying gifts of money made to Lifelites (charity no.1165791) today, in the past four years and 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: ____________________________

Lifelites Ref (Office use only) ____________________________

What your money could buy

£50  Fund the helpline for half a day

£500  One day’s training for hospice staff

£5,000  Pays for a Lifelites hospice project for five months

£1,000  A two day expert equipment installation

£10,000  Three Eyegaze packages

£20,000  Installation and two days training at ten hospices

Regular Giver  (per month)

Individual Gift

Donor

Supporter

Sponsor

Principal Sponsor

Major Donor

In Kind Supporter

Please make a donation using Gift Aid and make your donation go further.

If you would like to make a donation, you could join the ranks of our special supporters who are recognised in the Lifelites Honours Scheme.

Why not donate today online at www.lifelites.org/donate or by calling 0207 440 4200

Please make a donation using Gift Aid and make your donation go further.

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