Thanks to our donors, the impact of Lifelites work is growing, the number of services we support is increasing and we are busier than ever.

We are assisting more life-limited and disabled children, and technology developments mean that we can give them new opportunities to escape the confines of their conditions.

Please take a few minutes to read this Annual Review to find out how people like you are helping Lifelites to bring life-changing technologies to children and young people using hospice services.

Thank you.

@LifelitesOrg
@Lifelites
@Lifelitesorg
www.lifelites.org 0207 440 4200 info@lifelites.org
At Lifelites we get to meet so many inspiring families at children’s hospices across the country. Here are just a few of the children who’ve used our technology over the past 12 months:

**Lily Mae**
Lily Mae loves using our switch toys when she visits her local children’s hospice because she is able to control them herself. She has so much fun playing with all the different toys, but they also give her independence, despite her disabilities.

**Abbie**
Abbie loves music, and had lots of fun using Beamz and making her own music when we visited her local hospice.

**Mohammed**
We positioned a Mobile Magic Carpet over Mohammed’s bed, so that it could project images on to him that he could play with. As you can tell by the big smile on his face, he definitely enjoyed it.

**Scarlett**
Scarlett has limited mobility so loves using the Eyegaze. Her mum said: “Seeing her concentration when she was using it for the first time was such a wonderful moment and very emotional for us. She created a lovely piece of art which I know we will treasure forever.”

**Loki**
Loki had so much fun on the Mobile Magic Carpet, he was mesmerised by the moving images for hours and had lots of fun playing with his Dad.

**Lee**
After seeing Lee use Eyegaze, his mum told us: “To be able to communicate and respond with Lee in this way allowed us to interact with him in a way that had not been possible before, in a way that we had not thought we would ever be able to do.”

You can read more stories on our website at www.lifelites.org
Aimee’s story

Aimee’s disabilities mean she is unable to talk, but the use of an Eyegaze has given her the ability to communicate and make decisions for herself, something her mum thought would never be possible.

Aimee is six years old and has cerebral palsy, a condition that affects muscle control and movement. She requires the use of a wheelchair and is unable to speak, but she recently started using an Eyegaze at home, as well as one which Lifelites donated to her local children’s hospice. Eyegaze is a piece of equipment which senses eye movement, and therefore enables a child to use a computer with just their eyes.

It costs Lifelites over £1,000 a month to support one children’s hospice, and we currently have projects at all 60 children’s hospice services across the British Isles. You can help us support more children like Aimee, by fundraising for Lifelites, whether that’s at home, work, school or your local club or community group.
Diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) in April 2000, aged 34, my symptoms were slurred speech and weakness in my limbs. Pregnant with my second child, my diagnosis was devastating and after my son’s birth, I rapidly became disabled. The official prognosis is two to five years, but a third of people with MND die within 12 months and half within two years. Fortunately, I’ve survived a very long time but I’m now severely disabled and can’t communicate.

My situation felt hopeless and I never imagined that things could turn around, but they did. I believe that with adequate care and the right equipment, terminal illness can be managed well. Attending my local hospice was the best thing that happened to me. The staff are kind and caring which made me feel less frightened of my illness and death.

As my speech declined, communication was very difficult and finding assistive technology was problematic. Unable to use my computer to research available equipment and having absolutely no knowledge about disability, I was totally lost. My situation improved in 2005, when I was introduced to a rep from an assistive technology company. Shortly afterwards, I was back online, using communication software with a chin switch. I was able to email, surf the net, read and communicate again. I’ve been using Eyegaze technology now for eight years which has enabled me to create again.

Having studied art, when I lost the use of my hands I lost my creativity too. I now paint and am an exhibiting artist, which has been so fulfilling for me.

Technology was absolutely life changing for me so I know how important it is. "As my speech declined, communication was very difficult and finding assistive technology was problematic. Unable to use my computer to research available equipment and having absolutely no knowledge about disability, I was totally lost. My situation improved in 2005, when I was introduced to a rep from an assistive technology company. Shortly afterwards, I was back online, using communication software with a chin switch. I was able to email, surf the net, read and communicate again. I’ve been using Eyegaze technology now for eight years which has enabled me to create again.

Having studied art, when I lost the use of my hands I lost my creativity too. I now paint and am an exhibiting artist, which has been so fulfilling for me.

"I’m so pleased that Lifelites provides equipment like mine to children in hospices. Communication is a human right and it’s imperative. I felt frustrated when I lost my speech and it’s much more difficult for children to be unable to express themselves. Losing your speech is like losing part of your identity and affects self-confidence, which children need. It’s my hope that the children will also be able to use Eyegaze to be creative. Every child uses art to express themselves from a very early age and disabled children need to do the same thing. When I first heard about Lifelites about a year ago I immediately wanted to help this charity. Technology was absolutely life changing for me so I know how important it is. When I was invited to become a patron of Lifelites I was delighted. I encourage everyone to support Lifelites because they are doing vital work for life limited children who really need support."
Last year we embarked on a pilot project to explore Virtual Reality (VR) and the potential that it could have to enhance the lives of young people in hospices. Following the success of this pilot, we are delighted to announce that we are incorporating this amazing technology into our mobile gaming bundle.

VR is the use of computer technology to create a simulated environment. Unlike traditional computer games, by using a headset and headphones, VR places the user inside an experience. Instead of viewing a screen in front of them, users are immersed and able to play in 3D worlds. By simulating as many senses as possible – such as vision, hearing and touch – the computer is transformed into a gatekeeper to this artificial world.

This amazing technology can be used by young people with disabilities and life-limiting illnesses to experience things they never thought possible. They can fly a plane, climb Mount Everest, sit beneath the Northern Lights, or go on safari, even if they can't leave their bed. We also know that VR is increasingly being used for distraction therapy when they are receiving painful or invasive treatments.

Through a hospice staff focus group, we found that there was a lot of enthusiasm for VR, and excitement around the difference it could make for the young people they care for: “It could provide stimulation, fun and distraction, and enhance children's emotional wellbeing. It will give them the freedom to have new experiences and may even help those who are bed bound and receiving end of life care.

Children's hospices can also use the VR technology to help staff improve the care they provide. “It's a fantastic new tool,” said a hospice nurse. “It allows us to meet the needs of all our children who are in pain.”

As part of Lifelites’ mission to reach more of the 49,000 children, young people and their families who need our support, we are now able to donate our equipment for use with new services in the community – children’s hospice at home.

Families can access this support in between hospice visits or because they are a long way from a children's hospice, or when transport to the hospice is difficult because of their conditions. Hospice at home staff are able to support young people and their families throughout their care, whether that’s play therapy, family respite or end of life care.

“We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our research to help Lifelites understand which VR technology works best for our unique audiences. So now we are aiming to donate our VR technology with a selection of experiences suitable for youngsters with a range of abilities as part of our packages wherever it is requested.”

Could you help fund our VR projects? Get in touch by contacting Sam on sdavies@lifelites.org or calling 0207 440 4200.

If you'd like to support one of this year's projects, take a look at the map on the next page and get in touch by emailing info@lifelites.org or calling 0207 440 4200.

If it bought them some happiness and joy in his last few days.
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
Pepper Nurses, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire
Rebecca House, Isle of Man
Shooting Star (CHASE), Middlesex
Ty Hafan, Cardiff

2018
Andy’s, Lincolnshire
Butterwick Children’s Hospice, Durham
Claire House, Lancashire
Derian House, Lancashire
EACH Milton, Cambridgeshire
Francis House, Lancashire
Grace’s Place Hospice at Home, Manchester
Hope House, Shropshire
Jigsaw, Cumbria
Keech Hospice Care, Bedfordshire
Noah’s Ark Hospice at Home, London
Rachel House, Elmswood
Rainbows Children’s Hospice, Leicestershire
Robin House, West Dunbartonshire
St Elizabeth’s Transition, Suffolk
Saint Francis Young Adult’s Group, Essex
The Bridge Transition, West Midlands
The Children’s Trust, Surrey

2019
Acorns for the Three Counties, Worcestershire
Brian House, Lancashire
Christopher’s (CHASE), Surrey
Demelza Community, East Sussex
Donna Louise, Staffordshire
EACH Ipswich, Suffolk
Ellenor Children’s Hospice, Kent
Forget Me Not, West Yorkshire
Grace’s Place, Manchester
Haven House, Essex
Julia’s House, Dorset
Little Harbour, Cornwall
Little Havens, Essex
Noah’s Ark, London
Oakwell, Jersey
Richard House, London
Ty Gobaith, Conwy

2020
Bluebell Wood, Sheffield
Charlton Farm, Somerset
Chestnut Tree House, West Sussex
Claire House, Wirral
Demelza SEL, London
EACH The Nook, Norfolk
Horizon House, County Antrim
Hospice at Home, Isle of Wight
Jessie May Trust, Somerset
Martin House, West Yorkshire
St Oswald’s Children’s Service, Northumberland
The J’s Hospice, Essex
The Shakespeare Hospice Transition, Warwickshire

We work with every children’s hospice service across the British Isles, so wherever you are there is a Lifelites project near you. Our hospice packages are worth an average of £50,000 over their four year lifespan, and include the cost of 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 technology.

If you’d like to donate to support any of our projects please go to www.lifelites.org/donate or email us info@lifelites.org or call 0207 440 4200.
In May 2018 our chief executive set out on what was possibly the wackiest relay ever to raise funds for Lifelites. The challenge, ‘Lift for Lifelites’, involved Simone travelling over 2,500 miles through every county in England, Wales and the Channel Islands, catching lifts in a wide variety of weird and wonderful transport, and visiting nearly 50 landmarks, all in 14 days and all without spending anything on the journey.

It was an eventful two weeks: she sat in a Spitfire, went on the fastest zip line in the world, rode in a DeLorean (no time travelling was involved), stood on the podium at Silverstone, took a speedboat down the river Thames, and waited patiently in Guernsey while a flat tyre was replaced on a four seater plane.

We are delighted to say that the challenge raised a staggering £104,409.94!

It wouldn’t have been possible without the support of everyone who lent their time, hospitality and vehicles.

Simone said: “We’ve been absolutely blown away with the welcome and generosity we received along the route and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came out to help us all across the country. It wouldn’t have been possible without the support of everyone who lent their time, hospitality and vehicles.”

The funds raised will help us continue to donate assistive technology to life-limited and disabled children using children’s hospice services across the British Isles.

If you’d like to read more about Lift for Lifelites, please visit our website www.lifelites.org.
It costs Lifelites around £1,000 per month per hospice service to provide our technology, training and technical support and we currently have 60 projects across the British Isles – and counting! We can only continue to support these children if you can help us raise funds. How about trying one of the following:

- **Get your fundraising campaign up and running** - Could you follow in the footsteps of our fabulous marathon runners, Laurence and Ashley? Despite it being the hottest on record, both Laurence and Ashley took part in the Virgin Money London Marathon 2018. Ashley also ran the Brighton Marathon. Between them, these superstars raised £2,813.78.

- **Bring your friends together** - Your friends, colleagues, and family can help Lifelites give children in hospices the chance to escape the confines of their conditions, by organising a fundraising event. The Worshipful Company of Butchers chose Lifelites as one of their two charities to benefit from their annual gala dinner by selling tickets, playing party games and holding a silent auction. The event raised an incredible £90,000, with £45,000 going to Lifelites.

- **Ask your company to play its part** - Staff at The British Medical Journal (BMJ) chose Lifelites to benefit from a two year partnership. They support our work by holding fundraising events throughout the year, such as concerts and bake sales as well as lending their professional skills to assist our small team. With the company matching their fundraising efforts, in the first year, they raised a staggering £12,472.

- **Donate a coffee** - donate the equivalent of just one cup of coffee per week or month and you could make a difference to the lives of children in hospices and ensure we can continue our vital work. So why not commit to being a Lifelites regular donor and we’ll send you a special supporter lapel badge. Just go to www.lifelites.org/donate, fill out your details and we’ll receive a monthly payment from you.

We spoke to Lifelites volunteer and trustee, Paul Withams, to find out why he has pledged to support Lifelites with a gift in his will.

"At a children’s hospice in London I met James, who has a rare skin condition. His skin breaks and blisters very easily, so it can be difficult for him to play active games outside like football. Lifelites donated a Mobile Magic Carpet for the children at the hospice, which projects games and images on to the floor that you can play with. Thanks to this incredible piece of technology, he was able to play games under the watchful eye of his carers. It made his skin feel slightly better and his laughter and enjoyment was priceless.

"What excites me are the opportunities which future developments will bring for Lifelites’ assistive technology, and the potential this has for children in hospices. I want to see Lifelites continue to keep up with these advances, so I have pledged a gift in my will. When I have passed, as well as making sure my family are taken care of, I can rest assured that the work of this terrific charity can continue to give life-limited and disabled children a chance to escape the confines of their condition and live their lives to the full."

"Please join me in considering leaving a gift in your will to Lifelites. Any gift, no matter how small you think it is, will help to carry on this vital work for children and young people today and in the future. It’s easy to do and is a perfect way of creating a lasting legacy for those who need our help most.”
What they say about Lifelites

Hector Minto, Microsoft Technology Evangelist:
“It’s so awesome to hear how a tiny charity like Lifelites with a great idea has made such a difference to children in hospices across the British Isles. It’s been great to see.”

Supporter, David Swain:
“It really is good to see the hard work and commitment of your dedicated team reap rich rewards for their sterling efforts. Lifelites goes from strength to strength, so well done to all of you.”

Parent of a child in a hospice:
“Touchscreen computers and switches, as well as the Magic Carpet, have enabled our son (who requires constant supervision) to have some independence and control over his environment, but also to continue to have fun through play when his physical and cognitive functioning is being affected by seizures and medication. Thank you, Lifelites.”

Alison Blair, children’s hospice worker:
“Using the Lifelites technology we can improve communication, choice, independence, sense of self, creativity, opportunities for fun, inclusiveness, improve connections and build relationships.”

Mark Lowe, children’s hospice worker:
“Lifelites technology is crucial to the hospice. Children’s faces light up when they are shown round and see the equipment that Lifelites has donated. Many of our families are experiencing very hard and stressful times, with several hospital appointments and difficult decisions. The Lifelites technology provides a welcome distraction and we simply wouldn’t be able to provide it without them.”

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In kind supporters

The Masonic Charitable Foundation has continued its 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 maintaining our life-enhancing technology. We are very grateful for this generous support.

Thank you to our patrons for their continued support: Peter Foster, The Rt Hon the Earl Cadogan KBE CH DL, Anita Dobson, Esther Rantzen DBE, The Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, Joe Pasquale, Rick Wakeman, The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham DL, Jasmine Elcock, Sir David Winston, Sarah Ezekiel

Our finances

The work we do is only made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, people like you who donate and raise funds to make a positive difference to the lives of life-limited and disabled children in hospices. We would like to say thank you so much to everyone who has supported us; we really couldn’t do what we do without you.

The support we receive comes entirely from the generosity of organisations and individuals. Lifelites does not benefit from statutory grants.

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Please support Lifelites with a donation

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 __________________________________________________________________

As a supporter of our work to give kids with limited life unlimited possibilities, we will keep in touch with you, sending you occasional updates by post. Our contact with you will include the latest stories from the children you are helping to support, as well as activities and opportunities you may be interested in.

Please indicate below if you prefer not to receive these postal updates.

Please do not send me updates via post from Lifelites [ ]

For your convenience we would from time to time like to get in touch with you electronically. Please indicate your preference below.

Phone Yes [ ] No [ ] Email Yes [ ] No [ ] Text message Yes [ ] No [ ]

Use Gift Aid to boost your donation by 25p for every £1.

[ ] I want to Gift Aid my donations to Lifelites (Charity no. 1165791), including donations that I make in the future and have made in the past four years.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I will notify Lifelites if I wish to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains.

Signature _______________________________________________ Date ________________________________________________

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