



THE JOSHUA TREE

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFFECTED
BY CHILDHOOD CANCERS



Annual Report

2017 - 2018



Overview

The Joshua Tree was founded in 2006 by Lynda and David Hill after their son was diagnosed with leukaemia and discovered a distinct lack in support services for all family members during the traumatic experience of childhood cancer.

The Charity has continued to offer support to the whole family during 2017 to 2018, from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. This includes siblings, parents/carers, grandparents and the wider family and friends, as well as the child receiving treatment for cancer.

We have specifically recognised that post-treatment can be a challenging time, where our families are having to adapt to their 'new normal' and we support them to help bridge the gap that's left when the safety net of treatment ends.

Family Support Development

The Family Support Team have been working closely with families referred to the charity arranging to visit them at Alder Hey Hospital, their own homes (depending upon distance), at a mutually convenient place or at our Centre in Northwich.

In recognising that every family's cancer journey is unique, we try to tailor the services to suit their specific needs. Our current support provides emotional, academic and practical support where required.

To date, 115 families have been referred to The Charity, of these, 27 were referred during 2017-18 with 1414 family support sessions provided.

Due to the expanding number of family referrals in North Wales we hosted a 'Family Information Day' in Llandudno in April 2018. This enabled us to

ascertain if the expansion of the family support remit is required in the area and the introduction of a supporting pilot project to focus on the development of our services in North Wales.

At The Joshua Tree, the charity recognise the importance of protecting the well-being of the Family Support team due to the ongoing emotive nature of the work. The organisation now offer the opportunity to access therapeutic support and / or clinical supervision and are indebted to Alison Wolf and Andrew Garman for their time and expertise in ensuring our team are adequately supported in their role.

The effectiveness of the family support sessions has been accredited by family testimonials and the relationships with the medical professions and increased family referrals.

Family Support Services



Emotional Support:
1:1 therapeutic sessions; counselling; art & play therapy; bereavement support.



Fitness and Well-being Programme:
personal training/gym access, nutritional advice.



Educational Support:
Maths and English Tutoring; School liaison, 'understanding my illness' program for children & siblings.



Practical Support:
medical appointment support, signposting.



Activities:
Family 'Saturday Sessions'; mini me yoga/relaxation sessions.

Staff & Volunteers



The Joshua Tree has a team of 11 members of staff covering all aspects of Family Support, Income Generation and Operational Management.

The charity is also supported by a dedicated team of volunteers. The Joshua Tree volunteer support group provide assistance at the monthly 'Saturday Sessions' and supporting the regular information awareness and fundraising events.

New Support Centre

The new Support Centre building project is continuing to take shape. Full planning permission on the new design was passed on 31st August 2017 and has concentrated its efforts to fund raise to progress with the project in preparing for phase one of the build.

Contractor interviews are to take place in April 2018 and contractors are to be appointed in the summer 2018. This will enable the project to move to stage two of the design process and to finalise the full construction drawings ready for the build to commence early 2019.

Operational Update

Due to the successful funding secured through Reaching Communities, The Joshua Tree have been able to strengthen the infrastructure with the introduction of a newly dedicated database to aid in the planning and delivery of services.

The Charity have also been able to refine and add to the policies and procedures and begin to implement PQASSO standards as the organisation continues to grow.

The Trustee board continues to develop with the recruitment of four new trustees to the board in 2017-18, ensuring the charity is adequately equipped to develop The Joshua Tree charity.

"As my son passed away 3½ years ago, the family are knitted together with the help and support from The Joshua Tree. Through Art Therapy for my daughter Niamh, counselling, regular home visits, days out and so much more. The Joshua Tree is a tower of strength to us and without them our roots would have crumbled, so thank you!"

Financial Review



This financial year our income has continued to increase through the generosity of our local community, corporate partnerships and further grant funding.

The Charity has received a number of grants during the financial year 2017-18 in support of family sessions and salaries:

The Williams Family Foundation have provided financial support to the 'Saturday Sessions' and personal training sessions for our young adults.

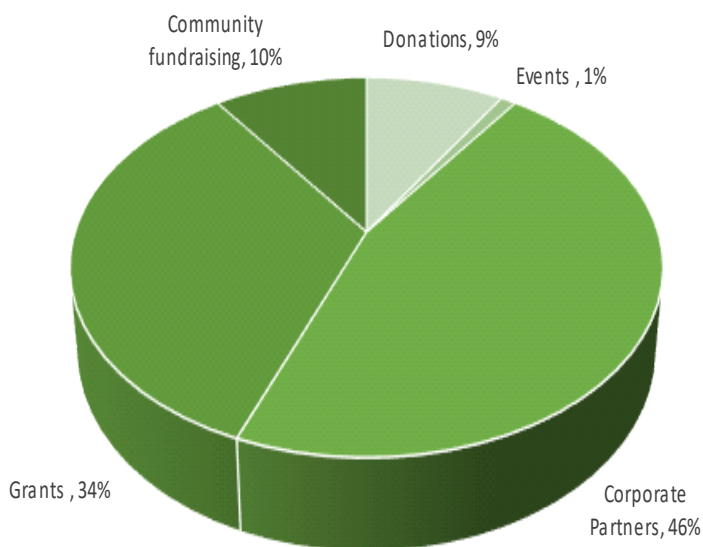
Cheshire West and Chester Carer Breaks Services, Cheshire Community Foundation and Reaching Communities grants have aided the funding of staff salaries, charity operational costs and contributions towards family activities and events.

Our friends at Duerr's (F Duerr & Sons Ltd) nominated us as the charity for their 'Tutti Fruiti' Ball at The Mere Resort Knutsford, Cheshire of which the proceeds will provide a multi-access and sensory playground at the new Support Centre.

Our corporate sponsors Exchange Chambers arranged a Ball and funds were allocated towards the #digdeep project for the new Support Centre build.

The Arley Hall Christmas Shopping Spectacular in support of local children's charities raised an incredible £32,000 for The Joshua Tree.

Income Generation



Expenditure

