



Glasgow
Children's
Hospital
Charity

YOUR IMPACT

2025





YOUR IMPACT 2024-2025



This year, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has taken a bold step forward. As we mark ten years since the move from Yorkhill, we find ourselves reflecting not just on how far we've come, but how much more deeply rooted we have become in daily life in the hospital.

In the face of increasing pressures on the NHS, our role is evolving. We're delivering more direct, on-the-ground services than ever before - practical, immediate support that makes a real difference to children and their families. This year's Impact Update reflects that shift, and the deeper responsibility we now carry.

Together with Crossbasket House, we're helping to keep families close during the most difficult times. We've also launched a pioneering hospital gaming service. Led by the UK's first Gamer-in-Residence, we are bringing connection, comfort and moments of joy to children facing long stays in hospital. And every day, we are responding to the urgent needs of children and families.

None of this would be possible without the kindness and commitment of our supporters. We are truly grateful to every donor, volunteer and fundraiser.

Thank you.

Kirsten Watson | CEO

Introducing Crossbasket House



Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has expanded its network to provide even greater support for families of seriously ill children.

Thanks to substantial funding from Alison and Steve Timoney, Crossbasket House offers free accommodation alongside the existing emotional, financial, and practical support provided by the charity, making sure families have the help they need during difficult times. This expansion strengthens the vital care available to families, ensuring no one faces their hospital journey alone.



Monica and Alfie's Story



When Alfie was born, he needed specialist care in Glasgow. His mum, Monica, wanted to be as near to Alfie as possible, but couldn't stay overnight in the hospital.

Thankfully, Crossbasket House was there for the family, just a short 5-minute walk from the hospital. The House provided accommodation for Monica, with her own bedroom and bathroom, and shared kitchen and living spaces to ensure she could get some much-needed respite whenever she wasn't at Alfie's bedside.

Monica has become a great supporter of Crossbasket House, sharing her story at our Annual Ball, which raised over £200,000 for the House.

Meet Our Gamer-in-Residence



Gaming is a lifeline for young patients, offering distraction, connection, and fun. Steven Mair, the UK's first Gamer-in-Residence, ensures every child has a Player Two.



Steven's role includes gaming at bedsides, hosting events, and managing dedicated volunteers like Sam, who bring smiles to young players across the wards.

Our Gaming Service has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Child's Play, as well as fundraising partners including Devolver Digital, R-Cade and the gaming community.



“Gaming made a huge difference in Ayaan’s recovery. It encouraged movement in his fingers, made him feel happy, and gave him something to look forward to.” Ayaan’s mum

Fundraising Heroes Making an Impact

Fundraisers go above and beyond in countless ways, from endurance challenges and community events, to creative and personal acts of kindness. Every effort, big or small, makes a lasting impact. No matter the challenge, every fundraiser is a hero.



Brave, Positive, Strong

10-year-old Darcie, who is currently going through treatment for bone cancer, has raised an incredible £30,000 to support other young patients. Inspired by the care and support she's received in hospital, she created wristbands featuring her family mantra: Brave, Positive, Strong.



London to Amsterdam Cycle

14 cyclists travelled from London to Amsterdam in support of our young patients, a mammoth journey spanning four countries and raising almost £75,000 for babies and children in hospital.



Edinburgh Marathon Festival

Hundreds of runners took on fundraising challenges last year, including Lesley, whose son Nathan underwent heart surgery just days before the Edinburgh Marathon. Determined to make a difference, she left his bedside to complete the race, then returned to the hospital to share her medal with Nathan—a true super mum.



Kiltwalk

Fundraisers took on Kiltwalks across Scotland, with every step making a difference.



Christmas Kindness

Novar Drive coffee shop opened its doors for two hours on Christmas Day to welcome those out on walks or spending the day alone. Instead of charging for coffees, they collected donations for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, raising an incredible £3,000!

"As parents in Glasgow, the charity is so close to our hearts. The support and comfort Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity provides to young people and their families in their times of need is invaluable." Novar Drive owner, Nicole

Improving Hospital Environments



Day surgery before



Day surgery after



Maternity Counselling before



Maternity Counselling after

Two support rooms have recently been enhanced in the Queen Elizabeth Maternity Hospital. The transformation above was very kindly funded by the Rory and Romeo Graham memorial funds, held by Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

"Having gone through two losses, we wanted to give something back to hopefully make things a little easier for those going through what we have." Steph Graham

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has funded multiple enhancements across Greater Glasgow and Clyde to improve patient and family experiences. These include refurbished birthing rooms at Princess Royal Maternity, an upgraded waiting room in Medical Illustrations, a multi-purpose room in Day Surgery, counselling rooms in maternity, a parents' room in PICU, and more.

Day Surgery Multi-Purpose Room

Children undergoing surgery now have access to a calming, sensory-friendly space. Designed for young patients with autism, sensory difficulties, or high anxiety, it helps reduce stress and create a safer environment. Families have described the impact as life-changing, making hospital visits more manageable.

"Every parent and patient who has used this room can't say enough about how much difference it has made. The equipment helps create a safe, calming space where children can prepare for surgery or recover afterward without added stress."

Senior Charge Nurse
Suzanne Pearson

Bringing Colour to Crosshouse



Our sister charity Crosshouse Children's Fund is transforming the children's wards at Crosshouse Hospital, creating a brighter, more welcoming space for young patients.

Thanks to a £30,000 investment, Phase One is complete, turning the entrance hall and lift area into a vibrant, child-friendly space to ease anxiety. With the Ayrshire community's support, the charity will continue making hospital stays less daunting for children and families.



**Crosshouse
Children's Fund**

Giving Back, Changing Lives



At Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, partnerships are vital in helping us support young patients and families. For SC Designs, this mission became personal when their son, Caiden, was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis (NF1) in 2021, leading to lengthy hospital visits and treatment.

Now, as they celebrate 15 years in business, SC Designs has proudly become a charity partner, launching their "Giving Back, Changing Lives" campaign to raise £15,000. With the support of their staff and customers, they're determined to give back and help other families facing hospital stays.



Red Visits the Hospital

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has teamed up with award-winning author and illustrator, Ross Collins, to publish **Red Visits the Hospital**, a comforting story for young patients.

The book was launched as part of World Book Day celebrations at the hospital. Following a storytelling session, young patients enjoyed a 'draw-along', where Ross showed them how to draw Red the squirrel. The book will be distributed through NHS clinics, schools, and nurseries to support children across the community, ensuring that they feel at ease about hospital visits.



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Giving Back with Every Purchase

The Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity pre-loved shop in Buchanan Galleries offers a variety of baby and children's clothes, toys, prams, nursery furniture, and hand-knitted items, all generously donated by the community.

Volunteers play a key role in running the shop, which also hosts special events like "Say Yes to the Dress" and World Book Day celebrations, as well as Knit and Natter sessions. Every purchase and donation supports babies and children in hospital.

Visit us 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm on the first floor of Buchanan Galleries, next to Starbucks. To donate items, please visit www.glasgowchildrenshospitalcharity.org/contact-us



Grace's Journey: A Christmas to Remember



Five-year-old Grace spent months in hospital after a stroke following heart surgery for Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

Despite the challenges, her determination has seen her make remarkable progress.

Thanks to our supporters, Grace's Christmas in hospital was filled with joy, from meeting her football heroes to enjoying festive films at the MediCinema and magical moments in the sensory room.

For her family, Crossbasket House provided a vital home-from-home, keeping them close throughout the season. Now back home, Grace's story has inspired incredible fundraising efforts, with her school and community rallying to give back.

"The support we received made all the difference. What could have been a traumatic experience was instead filled with love, hope, and special memories."

Grace's Mum, Vicki

Supporting the Future of Children's Healthcare



Dr David and Carole Walton are dedicated to improving children's health.

As trustees of the Walton Foundation, they have supported numerous causes and have donated a significant sum to Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity over the last two years. Their generous donations have already made an impact, funding virtual tours to help families feel at ease before a hospital stay. During a visit to the hospital, David, a premature baby himself, was particularly moved by the neonatal unit.

“What a wonderful unit, if we can support, we will.”

The Walton Foundation continues a family legacy of giving, emphasising that support doesn't always need to be financial.

“Volunteering means just as much as writing a cheque and we would encourage anyone to consider supporting Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity in any way they can.”

Bereavement Midwife Support Project



Losing a baby causes unimaginable grief. Thanks to the support of our donors, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has funded specialist bereavement midwife roles, providing dedicated care across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

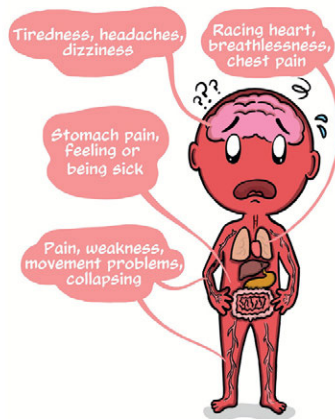
Our Bereavement Midwives offer emotional support, memory-making opportunities, and practical advice, whether the loss occurs during pregnancy or after birth. Their compassionate care continues with follow-up visits and bereavement support, helping families find comfort and healing through one of life's most difficult experiences.

When the Body Says Stop

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity is proud to have funded a new, illustrated booklet to help young people and families understand functional symptoms. These symptoms, caused by miscommunication between the brain and body, can be distressing and difficult to diagnose, affecting daily life.

With up to 10% of children experiencing functional symptoms, clear and accessible resources are vital.

This booklet, created with input from specialists and illustrated by Neil Slorance, aims to demystify the condition and support young people on their journey to recovery.



A Summer of Fun at Flamingo Beach

Silverburn's Flamingo Beach made waves in 2024, raising an incredible £46,000! Over 12,200 children enjoyed the indoor beach during its eight-week run, with every penny from admissions supporting young patients.

Staff and volunteers helped bring the beach to life, creating unforgettable memories for families. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Silverburn for making this event possible, and to everyone who visited or volunteered. We're excited that the beach will be back for Summer 2025!

SILVERBURN
GLASGOW



Supporting ScotSTAR's Life-Saving Work

ScotSTAR provides life-saving transport for critically ill babies and children across Scotland, ensuring they receive urgent care. Thanks to supporters of Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, the team now trains with a patient monitor simulator, improving response times and patient safety.

"Practicing under realistic conditions helps us provide the best possible care — wherever and whenever we're needed." ScotSTAR Team



Making Medication Easier for Children

The KidzMed Glasgow project, supported by Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, is making it easier for children to take medication.

Led by Dr Louise Thomson, the initiative helps children transition from liquid to tablet medication, offering greater convenience, independence, and sustainability. With cost savings, reduced waste, and improved patient experience, this simple change is proving to be a game-changer for families and the NHS alike.



Liquid medication



Equivalent medication in pill form



Spreading Smiles Through the Power of Play

Hospital can be a daunting place for children, but our Play Team is there to bring comfort, fun, and distraction when it's needed most. Through play, creativity, and sensory activities, they help young patients feel more at ease during their stay.

Thanks to our supporters, we've also been able to organise special visits and events throughout the year, bringing joy and excitement to children in hospital.



Big Steps for Tiny Lives



When Emma's son Austin was born prematurely at 36 weeks, he needed specialist care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Charity-funded support kept Emma connected through vCreate video updates, Miniboos, and a treasured set of footprints from the Little Inky Feet project. Crossbasket House also offered a vital place to rest nearby.

“Having a safe space nearby made an overwhelming time easier.”

Now thriving, Austin has inspired Emma to give back. She nominated the charity as her workplace's Charity Partner of the Year and, with her partner Liam, will take on all four Kiltwalks in 2025 to raise funds.



“Supporting the charity is our way of giving back and ensuring other families receive the same incredible care we did.”

Norah's Toy Sale

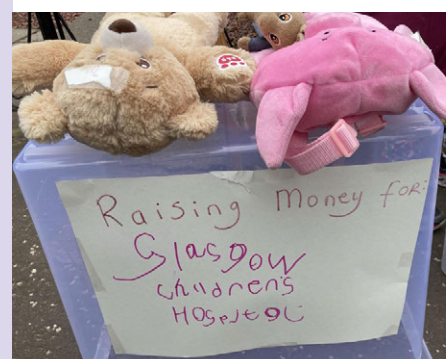


Five-year-old Norah has shown incredible kindness by raising £35 for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity through a toy sale!

Norah's mum, Catherine, is a former paediatric physiotherapist on the Schiehallion ward and has seen first-hand the difference the charity makes for children and families during difficult times.

“She wanted to help children when they're feeling poorly and hopes it might make them happy. It was a really cold day, but she sat outside for hours, determined to clear the deck – we are so proud of her!”

Norah's Mum



Kami Bear's Teddy Trail

More than 900 supporters – and their bears – joined us at our annual sponsored walk, Kami Bear's Teddy Trail! Families and friends walked together in support of our young patients, raising more than £100,000. A huge thank you to everyone who took part. We can't wait to see you again in September 2025!



"We had the best day out, there was an amazing atmosphere all day."



Sheena MacDougall, Volunteer
At Kami Bear's Teddy Trail, we were delighted to present Sheena MacDougall, a long-standing volunteer, with a special thank you for her commitment to the charity.



Monthly Gift

Scan to support babies and children in Scotland's busiest children's hospital with a monthly gift.



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