



Glasgow  
Children's  
Hospital  
Charity



25  
YEARS  
GLASGOW SCOTLAND



**IMPACT UPDATE 2026 | PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR 25 YEARS**



## 2026 marks a very special milestone for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, as we recognise 25 years of support for children and families in hospital.

Throughout that time, thanks to the incredible generosity of people from across Scotland and beyond, we have funded more than £53 million of vital services, innovative equipment and emotional support.

The scale of the charity's impact today would have been unimaginable when it was founded in 2001. Back then, we were a small but dedicated group of volunteers, working from a tiny office in the old physiotherapy department at Yorkhill, funding toys and small grants.

Today, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity delivers specialist services that support the physical and mental health of thousands of children and families every year. Our group now includes on-site parent accommodation at Crossbasket House, dedicated support for Ayrshire and Arran through Crosshouse Children's Fund, and a pioneering innovation arm, Hi: Scotland.

As we look to the next 25 years, we do so knowing that none of this would be possible without our donors, fundraisers and volunteers. Your generosity and belief will continue to change the lives of our young patients for generations to come.

With heartfelt thanks,  
**Kirsten Watson** | CEO





Dr Lindsey Hunter  
Consultant  
Paediatric Cardiologist

# 25 Years: Reflections from the Ward



**"There is always more we can do to improve outcomes, and it's reassuring to know the charity will continue to stand beside Scotland's children."**

**Dr Lindsey Hunter, Consultant Paediatric and Fetal Cardiologist, often begins supporting her young patients before birth. From prenatal diagnosis to intensive care and beyond, she and the cardiac team guide families through every stage - supported throughout by Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.**

Lindsey has backed the charity since its early days at Yorkhill, taking on fundraising challenges from walking the Great Wall of China to speaking at events and even appearing on a TV quiz show to raise funds.

She has seen the charity's impact first-hand:

**"The difference the charity makes is huge. Without it, things would be so different."**

The charity helps create calm spaces for difficult conversations, funds specialist equipment for faster, more accurate diagnoses, supports play services, and keeps families close with accommodation at Crossbasket House.

**"The charity's support means we can focus on giving the best possible care, and families feel supported, not alone."**

Looking to the future, Dr Hunter says the need for the charity's support is greater than ever.

# Recent Impact

## Rita's Room

The downstairs lounge at Crossbasket House has been refurbished and lovingly dedicated to the memory of baby Rita Grace Ghazala. 'Rita's Room' offers a peaceful, comforting space for our Child Bereavement Support Service and the families they care for.

Through the inspiring 'Ride for Rita' challenge and a fundraising ball, Rita's parents, Liz and Fadi, have raised vital funds to support bereaved families.

The charity is deeply grateful for their compassion and generosity, which will make a lasting difference during the most difficult times.

**"In Rita's short life, she had a profound impact on all who met her. She inspired others all over the world, and we have been humbled by the messages of love that we have received. We are truly honoured to be her parents."**

**Liz and Fadi**





## £1 Million of Care: Supporting Scotland's Tiniest Lives

Over the past 25 years, the charity has invested more than £1 million to ensure that Scotland's smallest and sickest babies can receive life-saving breast milk. From the Donor Milk Bank to specialist equipment and practical help for parents, this national support service has helped thousands of babies.

**"Having practical support like this, even just knowing I have everything I need to express safely, has helped take one worry off my mind."**

**Ainsley, whose daughter Elise was born at just 25 weeks**



## New Sleep Monitors Deliver Faster Care

Two new sleep monitors are already making a significant difference for young patients and their families. Funded by Wooden Spoon, through Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, the new equipment has doubled capacity for overnight sleep studies, helping to cut NHS waiting times and enable faster diagnosis and treatment for hundreds of children. As well as improving efficiency, the monitors provide more accurate analysis and a more comfortable experience, meaning children can get the care they need sooner and with less disruption.

# Crossbasket House: 30 Years of Family Support



**For three decades, our on-site accommodation has been a lifeline to more than 15,000 families.**

Established in 1996, Yorkhill Family House was located on the site of the former children's hospital in Yorkhill. Later known as Ronald McDonald House Glasgow, the House was renamed Crossbasket House when it joined the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity group in 2024.

Today, it continues to provide a welcoming home from home to around 500 families every year – many of whom have travelled hundreds of miles from across Scotland to Glasgow for life-changing treatment at the hospital.



## Family Spotlight Mandy and Alfie

**Alfie, from the Isle of Tiree, has a wide range of complex medical conditions and has now been in hospital for over 13 months.**

For his mum, Mandy, being so far from home is incredibly challenging but Crossbasket House has been a lifeline. Having a space to rest and recharge each day means she can stay strong for Alfie, knowing she's only minutes from his bedside whenever he needs her.



# 25 Years of Play in Hospital

**Over the past 25 years, play has been part of the hospital experience for children and young people in Glasgow.**

For young patients, play is not a luxury. It helps reduce fear and anxiety, distracts from pain, supports development and can make difficult treatments more manageable.

Alongside the charity-funded Play Team, the Charity Impact Team help to create moments of normality and joy through seasonal celebrations, character visits, musicians and entertainers - ensuring children don't miss out on special experiences while in hospital.



## Brie's Story

When Brie spent four months in hospital waiting for a heart transplant, play became a vital source of comfort. Through creative activities and Teddy Hospital sessions, the Play Team helped reduce Brie's anxiety around procedures.

**"She even got to do an echo on her bear... the change in my girl was mind blowing."**

Character visits added small but meaningful moments of joy during a very frightening time.

**"It was just a wee glimmer of happiness - but it meant everything."**



# Expanding Support for Families Facing Child Loss



**Compassionate, structured support can make a profound difference to parents and families facing the loss of a child. This year, the charity has strengthened its commitment to families whose children are expected to die in hospital, providing specialist support at every stage of their journey.**

With generous support from True Colours Trust and the Hugh Fraser Foundation, two new palliative care nurses will join the Paediatric Supportive and Palliative Care Team. Alongside the Child Bereavement Service at Crossbasket House, and charity-funded bereavement midwives, each family can receive a compassionate, coordinated approach, tailored to their needs.

**“Every family's journey is different. Some may feel comforted by being in hospital, while others long for the familiarity of home. Our goal is to ensure families have real choice, and the support they need to feel confident in that choice, at every stage.”**

**Dr Jonathan Downie**

Together, these services give families greater choice, dignity and reassurance, while ensuring bereavement support continues beyond loss - helping them navigate grief in the months and years that follow.

"In a sad, scary time, knowing you're being supported is just lovely. Going back to normal life can be so hard. Having that space to talk has been incredibly helpful."



## Hallie's Story

Baby Hallie was delivered early and was later diagnosed with multiple serious conditions, sadly passing away after 26 days in the neonatal intensive care unit. During her time in hospital, charity-funded services helped her parents create meaningful memories, while also providing practical and emotional support. Facilities like nearby accommodation at Crossbasket House and bereavement sessions gave the family comfort both during Hallie's life and after their loss.

# Fundraising Spotlight



## <sup>1</sup> Seven Marathons in Seven Days

Bobby White Junior decided to take on the incredible challenge of running seven marathons in seven days to fundraise for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity in memory of his younger brother Anton.

Anton sadly passed away from a heart condition in 2004, and since, the White family have raised over £75,000 in his memory. Bobby has now taken that total to over £115,000, after smashing his target of £25,000 and raising over £40,000 through his challenge.

## <sup>2</sup> Elephantastic

Alongside McTear's Auctioneers, long standing supporter Steve McGill organised and delivered the hugely successful Elephantastic Art Auction. Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, an outstanding £23,870 was raised, helping to support vital care and services for children and families across the hospital.

Steve has now raised more than £191,000 for the charity with his art auctions since 2020.

## <sup>3</sup> Faye's Big Adventure

Five-year-old Faye has taken on an incredible series of mountain climbs alongside her dad, Craig. After conquering 27 Munros, she bravely completed her first unassisted climb at Carn Aosda before taking on her biggest challenge yet - Ben Nevis. Motivated by helping other children like her friends, amazing Faye has raised over £13,000.

## <sup>4</sup> Isle of Harris Unites

A routine eye test led to 10-year-old Lydia being diagnosed with a large brain tumour, requiring emergency surgery in Glasgow and intensive treatment on the Schiehallion Ward. During this difficult time, her community on the Isle of Harris came together to support her family, raising £1,460 for the charity through creative fundraising efforts.

## <sup>5</sup> 2026 Commonwealth Games

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity is very proud to be announced as one of the beneficiaries for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, as a charity partner of the Commonwealth Sport Foundation, alongside SSF and Team Scotland Youth Trust.

# 25 Years: A Generation of Change





## Johanna's Story

Diagnosed with severe kidney disease in the early 1990s, Johanna spent years in and out of Yorkhill Children's Hospital undergoing dialysis, surgeries and transplants. While she remembers the care from staff as "absolutely incredible," emotional support for young patients was limited at the time.

Over the last 25 years, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has transformed the hospital experience for children and families by funding specialist support, play services, and gaming programmes.

Reflecting on that impact, Johanna says:

**"The charity helps children live while they're in hospital, not just survive."**

Today, as she continues her own lifelong journey with kidney disease, she urges others to support the charity's work:

**"What you're helping to fund could shape someone's entire life."**

# Lauren and Lucy: From Patients to Part of the Team

Lauren and Lucy were both patients at Yorkhill Hospital and are now part of the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity team. Lauren was born with a complex congenital heart defect and underwent multiple surgeries throughout her early life.

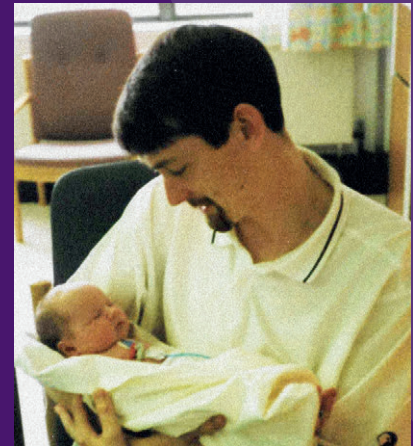
Today, she works as the charity's Digital and Social Media Officer, sharing powerful stories and highlighting the impact donations can make. Lucy, born with Treacher Collins syndrome, also spent much of her childhood undergoing treatment and surgeries and now works in the fundraising team, using her lived experience to inspire others to support the charity.

**"I have an overwhelmingly positive outlook on my time in Yorkhill. All the happy memories are thanks to charity-funded visits, events and enhancements - it's a privilege to now be a part of that happiness for others."**

**Lauren**

**"Having spent so much of my childhood in hospital and seeing the charity's impact first-hand, I'm proud to now be part of a team that helps make hospital stays as positive and supportive as possible for children and families."**

**Lucy**





  
Glasgow  
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Welcome to  
Schiehallion  
(Ward 2a)



# 25 Years: Reflections from the Ward



**Isla was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2014, and was supported by the charity throughout her treatment. Since then, Isla and her family have enthusiastically given back in a host of ways, including fundraising, speaking at our annual Ball, and joining our Schiehallion Family Day.**

Now 19, Isla said:

**"The charity was the highlight of that period of my life. It allowed me to experience as normal a childhood as possible. It helped me create memories that shaped my journey as a whole and I'm forever grateful for that.**

**"I cannot thank everybody who supports the charity enough. Your support has such a massive impact on the lives of the children and families within the hospital. It's appreciated more than you will ever know."**

# Volunteers



## Volunteering that Changes Lives

Volunteers are central to supporting Scotland's largest children's hospital, with a large and diverse programme that includes dedicated individuals and regular engagement with corporate groups – together forming a community united by a shared commitment to supporting young patients and their families.



## The Volunteers Making "Player Two" Possible

Gaming is a lifeline for many young patients, offering distraction, connection and moments of fun during long days in hospital. For children in Glasgow, Games for the Weans, the UK's first dedicated hospital gaming service, made possible through funding from Child's Play and a dedicated group of volunteers, ensures that no child goes without a 'player two'.

**"The difference a gaming session can make is night and day, even in a short time. It gives kids an escape and an outlet, while offering parents a bit of headspace."**

**Gaming Volunteer**

# Together, we can go further



Thanks to you, over the past 25 years – from Yorkhill to the Royal Hospital for Children and beyond - Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has invested more than £53 million into play, research, equipment, and family support for children across Scotland.

While progress over the past 25 years has been remarkable, the need continues to be as urgent as ever.

Each day, over 500 babies and children require treatment and specialist care, and families face some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

If you can, please continue to support Scotland's youngest patients and the people who care for them, by donating, fundraising, or volunteering.

**Thank you.**





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