

Chris Westwood Charity

For Children with Physical Disabilities



The Footpath from Mary Stevens Hospice to Stourbridge Junction

Progress Report as at 31st December 2021

What Do We Do?

Background

The Charity was founded on the 19th November 2003, specifically to help children and young people with physical disabilities, in Stourbridge and the surrounding areas, which for practical reasons we defined as being within a 50 mile radius of Stourbridge. The Charity Commission registered number is 1101230. The stated aim is: *“The provision of financial assistance, at the discretion of the Trustees, to provide the relief of physically handicapped children. This includes improvement to the quality of life by the provision of financial or other assistance, or any other purpose the Trustees deem to be in accordance with the stated aim”*.

How we can help

We can provide the funding, or balance of funding, required for the purchase of mobility/sensory/vision equipment when the NHS Trusts/Families are unable to provide support. We aim to respond within 24 to 48 hours as we consider a rapid response is essential when children have degenerative or life limiting conditions. We operate with zero administration costs so that every penny donated goes to help those the donor intended to support. Typically we fund:

- Special exercise equipment, special exercise tricycles, walkers, and standing frames, to assist in regaining and maintaining mobility
- Wheelchairs, special mobility chairs, special car seats and safety harnesses, special seating, special beds, support and lifting equipment, sensory room equipment to improve the quality of life, and vision equipment to assist those with deteriorating eye conditions.

How we assess Grant Applications

Following an initial approach, we request the submission of a detailed grant application. In order to assess the position, we typically require the following:

- Background and reason for the request
- Supporting information from a relevant healthcare professional detailing the medical position and the advantages of the proposed equipment purchase
- A detailed quotation, following assessment by the supplier’s competent person
- Details of any funding already raised, any other sources of funding, and a brief description of the financial position of the family

Provided that we are assured that our help will be for those in real need, the application is in accordance with our grant criteria, and we have the funding available, it will be considered for approval. Grants are normally funded by online payment directly to the supplier, to ensure that the funds are only used for the intended purpose. All remaining order and delivery arrangements are then left to the applicant, so that we are not involved in any administration costs.



The Milestone of £1 Million raised and granted after 18 years of operation.

Delight as charity past the £1M mark!



"We had supported the Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities in 2018 and were really impressed with the fact that every penny donated goes towards the individuals..."

Mark Venables (Managing Director of Alloy Wire International)

(L-R) Chris Westwood (The Chris Westwood Charity) and Mark Venables (Managing Director of Alloy Wire International)



One of the West Midlands' leading charities for supporting children with physical disabilities is celebrating a major funding milestone with the help of a donation from Alloy Wire International.

The Chris Westwood Charity, which helps fund the purchase of mobility, sensory and vision equipment for children living within a 50-mile radius of Stourbridge, has become the latest beneficiary of our 'Wired for Good' campaign.

A £7,500 donation has taken the organisation's total fundraising to over £1 million since it was started by Chris Westwood 18 years ago, with all the proceeds going towards supporting 850 young people to live more independent lives.

Our money has already been allocated to four recipients, who will receive life-changing special car seats and special exercise trikes to help them in overcoming transportation issues and in building strength and stamina.

"We had supported the Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities in 2018 and were really impressed with the fact that every penny donated goes towards the individuals who need it most," explained **Mark Venables, Managing Director of Alloy Wire International**.

He continued: "The grants are quickly reviewed, and the money given direct to suppliers to help parents purchase vital equipment that will help their children live as independent a life as possible. It's even better news that our donation was the one that took Chris and the Trustees past the magical £1m mark, a truly fantastic achievement."

Chris Westwood, who has already pledged to leave his own estate to the charity, continued: "Support from companies like Alloy Wire International is crucial, especially following the recent pandemic and we're delighted that a Black Country firm's contribution has taken us past £1m raised since 2003.

"The next target is to raise another £1m and continue our work in helping children with physical disabilities."

//////////////////// For further information, please visit www.chriswestwoodcharity.co.uk



www.chriswestwoodcharity.co.uk

Some Examples of Equipment Funded

Special Exercise Trikes: These are usually proposed to try to build leg and trunk strength, improve co-ordination and help mobility. They are particularly important where the child has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy as use of a trike helps with the required leg muscle stretching exercises that are regularly needed.

The decision on the equipment to be specified is made by the relevant Healthcare professional following assessments by the supplier's expert. The Charity acts solely as a funding facilitator, responding to the expert opinion provided.

2021 has been a typical year during which we have funded trikes from four suppliers: 21 from Quest88, 14 from Theraplay, and 1 each from Tomcat and Jiraffe. Each trike starts with the selection of a model range and frame size, together with all the adaptations needed to suit the specific requirements of the child. Each manufacturer's design varies slightly, and a final decision is then made on which trike can best be adapted to the specific needs of the child.

We receive reports back from families on the subsequent progress, and in addition to providing essential exercise and building muscle strength, there have been reports of major improvements in mobility after use including helping some children to start walking.

Costs for the trikes shown vary from £1,250.00 to £2,350.00, depending on model, supplier, the exact specification, the level of any funding raised by the family, and our agreed discount structure with the individual supplier.

Typical recent examples of trikes funded:



Details of a few of the Grants Made in 2021

Age (Yrs)	Grant (£)	Details
2	431.00	He has a diagnosis of Dandy Walker syndrome and other medical problems. He has a special seating system for postural support for use indoors, but this is not suitable for outdoor use. A suitable lightweight portable unit was proposed to enable him to be correctly held when outdoors, and able to participate in activities with other children. We agreed to fully fund.
7.5	5117.00	He has a diagnosis of Ohtahara syndrome and other medical problems. He requires 24 hour care and needs Oxygen and tube feeding. While currently stable, he is severely life limited and an Acheeva bed was requested to help with his comfort and care. This was granted to the NHS Trust for later use for other children. The Charity negotiated a discount, paid the total cost and received co-fund contributions of £1,500 from the NHS Trust, and £1,000 from another charity towards the total amount required.
13	1500.00	He has a diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and required a comfortable seating system to hold him securely and fully support his hips. Although the NHS would supply a chair, the single type they specify was found to be unsuitable, and eventually a suitable seating system was found, with the correct support, but required funding by the family. With a total cost of £3,813.00, it was part funded by a GoFundMe webpage, and we agreed to fund the balance required.
5	623.13	She has a diagnosis of Smith Magenis Syndrome, and has no awareness of danger. She regularly releases herself from her buggy straps and a secure harness system was required. She was assessed by Windmill Special Needs and we agreed to fund the proposed magnetic safety harness.
15	429.00	She has a diagnosis of Leber's Congenital Amaurosis which means that she has very little sight and attends a visually impaired school, where she is progressing well. We had helped her before with computer equipment, but she urgently needed to replace her Apple iPad. This had the necessary apps to allow her to use it extensively for all her studies, and it's loss was causing her great difficulties. Knowing the family and the case, we agreed to fully fund.
7	2315.80	He has a diagnosis of Lissencephaly, global development delay, epilepsy, poor coordination and low muscle strength. He has no communication, is fully dependent on adult care and uses a wheelchair buggy. He needed a standing frame for home use as he has been working on intensive daily physiotherapy to improve his leg muscles, his balance and his limited mobility. Without regular use of a standing frame (which he has at school) the improvements made would regress. With another charity contributing £800.00, we agreed to fund the balance required.
7.5	701.15	He has a diagnosis of West syndrome and severe learning difficulties. He required special support seating to enable him to sit at a table, and a Breezi chair was specified which we agreed to fully fund.
4.5	331.66	He has a diagnosis of Pontocerebellar Hypoplasia and a range of other problems which will be severely life limiting. He requires constant care which is provided by his mother during the day and by specialist carers at night. We funded a car seat some time ago which he has now outgrown, and he required a new seat which we agreed to fully fund.
15	203.49	She has a diagnosis of Arcadia Goutieres Syndrome and requires a wheelchair and special postural support. She needed a tray to fit the wheelchair, which was not supplied by the NHS, and the provision of one was proposed, to help with all of her general daily activities. We agreed to fully fund.

Fundraising in 2021

Another Year of major disruption caused by the COVID 19 Pandemic:

Fundraising was a real challenge in 2021, as many groups were unable to meet for parts of the year, and few fundraising events were possible. As a result, we do not have any detailed reports on activities held during the year. In total, we received just over £4,100.00 from events that were held, the bulk of that from a retirement party held by one of our supporters.

We received a surprise £600.00 collection from the Worcester Co-Op, and several families we had previously helped held collections for us, to enable us to continue our work. Two of these are ongoing and we are receiving funds (with a couple of month's delay), as donations are raised.

Despite the difficulties, we managed to exceed £100,000.00 raised and granted during the year, so that we were able to help every application in accordance with our Grant Criteria, and we can start 2022 with no Waiting List, and a small reserve.

One key area for our income has been our Regular Donors. We have now increased to 17 regular monthly contributors, and with Gift Aid (where applicable), this source raised approximately £9,500.00 during 2021. This was around 9% of the income for the year year, so it is now a major source of funding. With known increases in 2022 contributions, this will provide further increased income, and we would like to continue to grow this figure, if possible, to improve the stability of our income. Even at our minimum level of £2/month, this raises (with Gift Aid) £30.00 in a full year, so a few new supporters would be a great help.

Our donation pages at the end of this brochure (and in detail on the website) list the many other ways donations can be made to us. In particular, the opportunities with commission payments, when purchasing from Amazon for example, are an excellent zero cost option of raising funds for your chosen charity. Obviously we hope that you will have selected us, but the whole charity sector benefits at no cost to the purchaser, once you have signed up. Please have a look - you can initially register at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1101230-0> then log in at *Smile.amazon.co.uk* whenever you wish to make an Amazon purchase, as well as the many other options with *Give as You Live*. We now regularly have up to 5 or 6 people per day making Amazon purchases, from which we eventually benefit, and while individual commission payments are small (0.5% of the cost and paid by Amazon), these amounts do add up, and could provide a very significant source of income longer term.

Everyone can help us by recycling used printer cartridges. We are registered with Recycle4charity, and there is a list of the used cartridges that can be recycled on their website. The Charity can benefit by an average of around £1/used cartridge. There are no postal costs provided a sufficient number (listed on their website) are returned each time, and it is environmentally friendly.

Thank you for the help we received in 2021, it has been an exceptional year in passing the milestone of £1 Million raised and granted since we started.



www.chriswestwoodcharity.co.uk

The Organisation

We continue to run the organisation with four Trustees, who cover all the work necessary, and contribute any minor incidental expenses incurred, so that the Charity can operate with zero administration costs.

We are all in regular Email, Telephone and Zoom contact, which, as a small group, enables us to give a fast response to grant application requests that are in accordance with our grant criteria. We hold two formal meetings a year, where we complete a full six monthly review of the organisation, and we quickly assemble for any additional meetings, as necessary.

It is our intention to continue to operate with a fast response, and with zero administration costs to both meet the needs of those who apply to us for help, and the expectations for funding use of those who so kindly support us.

The Trustees:



Chris Westwood MBE – Chairman (*and also Vice Chair of the Anthony and Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charity*)

Dr Janine Barnes MBE – Medical Adviser

Graham Wood – Treasurer

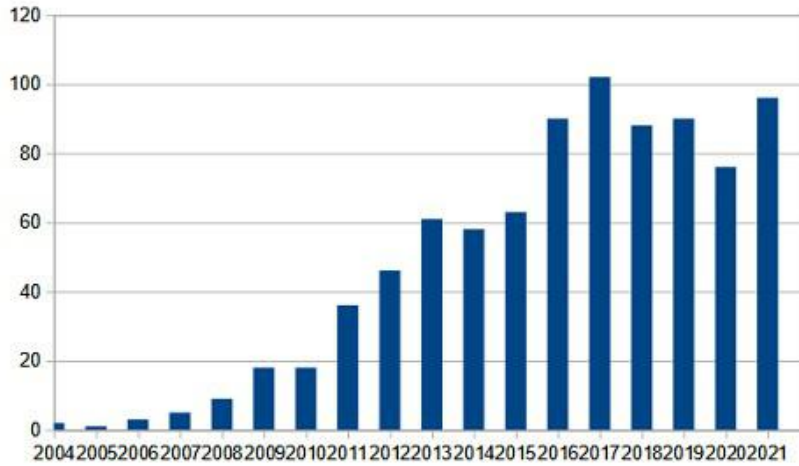
Lewis Barnes – Trustee (*and also Chair of the Somerville Foundation from January 2020*)



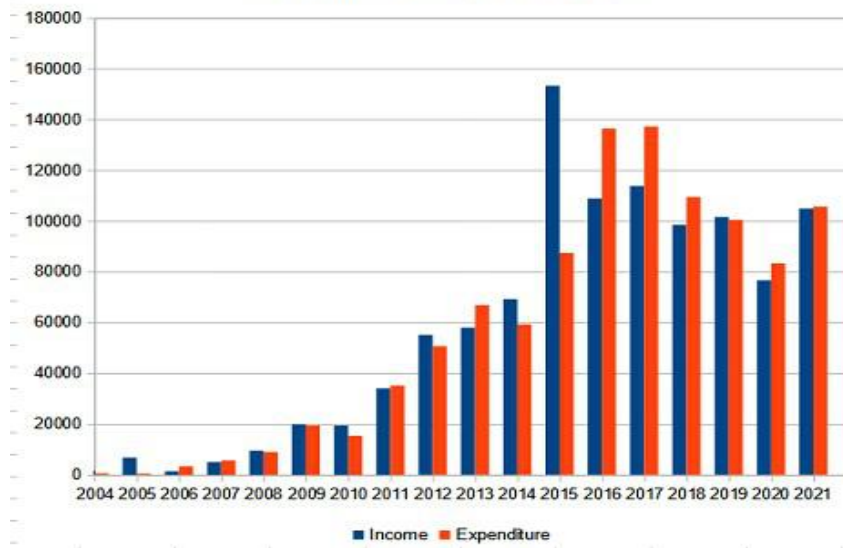
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Funds Raised and Grants Made to Dec 31st 2021

Number of Grants Made each Year



Annual Income (£) vs Grants Made (£)



2020 was a year where progress was restricted by the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic, which greatly affected the assessments that could be carried out, and our fundraising income was also significantly reduced. 2021 also started under lockdown conditions, but once they were eased we saw increases in activity and the busiest Q3 we can remember, and a very busy Q4. We just managed to raise enough funding to cope, with the help of two very short periods when we introduced a Waiting List. 2021 has ended around our more normal level of activity.

Our Accounts

Reserves held as a Cash Balance and brought forward at 31.12.20: £12,588.55

Income:

Fundraising Events 4,110.06

Donation Income

<i>Personal Donations – Direct</i>	20,180.91	
<i>Online Donations via Everyclick</i>	3,495.61	
<i>Regular Donor Standing Orders</i>	7,262.00	
<i>Collection Boxes (All Sources)</i>	256.00	
<i>Company Donations</i>	7,700.00	
<i>Grants from Charitable Foundations</i>	51,250.00	90,144.52

Legacies and Collections

Funeral Collections nil

Other Income

<i>Gift Aid: (Claimed directly from HMRC)</i>	5,471.09	
<i>Interest on Bank Balances</i>	1.77	
<i>Collections, Purchase Commissions, & Other Income</i>	682.40	
<i>Sale of Donated Items</i>	276.00	
<i>Co-Fund payment from another local charity</i>	4,550.00	10,981.26

Total Income: 105,235.84

Expenditure:

Grants made during 2021 96 in Total 105,821.71

Other expenditure/costs/overheads nil

Total Expenditure: 105,821.71

Excess of Expenditure over Income **-585.87**

Leaving a Reserve Cash Balance to be Carried Forward at 31.12.21 of: £12,002.68

The Extent of Grant Help Requested

Over the years we have analysed the grants that we make, and we find that there is a consistent pattern. The size of grant that we make does vary, but mindful of the need to spread our limited funds as widely as possible, we try to:

- Firstly, we look for any fundraising that might have occurred, which would reduce the total amount needed from the Charity for the purchase to proceed.
- Secondly, whether or not we can claim VAT Exemption (which is applicable in most cases on completion of the relevant paperwork) and is a very useful cost saving. This is the reason we ask for medical details of the applicant so that we can check if the application is exempt.
- Thirdly, although we take no part in specifying the supplier, where equipment is purchased regularly from a supplier, we look to both negotiate discounts, and improve those discounts when/if there are further increases in business.
- Finally, we fund the balance then required to proceed, which is often the full cost of purchase, but for very large requests, we try to help with co-funding with other charities to spread our limited funds further.

We monitor the size of the grants made, and we classify them as either “Small” - less than £1,000, or “Large” for those over £1,000.

The results over the years tend to be fairly consistent with a similar percentage of “Small” grants which shows that small sums (typically around £500 on average) directed to exactly where they are needed, do have a significant effect in helping a family in many cases.

Year	No. of Small Grants	Total Cost of Small Grants (£)	No. of Grants overall	Total Granted (£)	Av. Size of all Grants Made (£)	% Small Grant Expenditure of Total Granted	% Number of Small Grants compared to all Grants made
2017	52	28,550	102	137,187	1,345	20.8	51.0
2018	44	24,406	88	109,438	1,244	22.3	50.0
2019	49	26,160	90	100,428	1,116	26.0	54.4
2020	41	21,582	76	83,253	1,095	25.9	53.9
2021	52	28,127	96	105,822	1,102	26.6	54.2

As can be seen from the figures above, on average approximately 54% of the total grants made each year are for less than £1,000, and this activity typically consumes around 26% of our expenditure, showing the importance of “Small” targeted grants to help a family. Typically also, the average grant size, of all the grants made in a year, has been relatively consistent, just falling back a little as the percentage of “Small” grants has increased in recent years.

Why is our charitable funding needed?

While the NHS and other Government organisations will provide a number of items of equipment for disabled children, with the inevitable funding constraints there are restrictions on the extent of help available, and with seemingly ever increasing demands on the system, the rules regarding what will be supplied are constantly tightening. The resultant unfunded need leads to requests for help, either directly from families, or via relevant healthcare professionals such as the Paediatric/Occupational Therapists working in the Children with Special Needs Departments of the local NHS Trusts, and from the Special Schools where constant tightening of budgets has led to increasing requests for help.

Typically, the equipment the Charity funds falls into these general categories:

- **Exercise:** Specifically to develop the necessary muscles and coordination to either improve independence in daily activities, or to slow a deterioration in current mobility. Typical equipment funded includes special exercise trikes, walkers, and standing frames
- **Special Seating:** For school or home use, to provide the correct postural support, and enable a child to fully participate in activities in either location.
- **Comfort:** Many of the cases helped involve severe mobility problems, often wheelchair bound, with the need to periodically change position, provide the correct postural support, and relieve pressure points. Equipment funded includes special comfortable support chairs, Acheeva beds, and special support seating systems. We also fund additional wheelchairs (often portable), powerpacks for manual wheelchairs and special buggies to enable children to be taken out safely, as well as the required buggy accessories (eg rain cover) as we find that if the NHS does fund a buggy, it rarely funds the accessories that are needed.
- **Health and safety:** Special car seats to provide the support a child may need, and special harnesses to hold them securely, as certain children would otherwise release themselves from their car seat and endanger driver safety. Also including any form of equipment specifically to hold a child safely and provide the correct postural support, as well as hoists and equipment to help with daily living needs.
- **Sensory:** We receive a number of requests for equipment to help to calm and control a range of behavioural problems, and provide quiet and safe areas.
- **Sleep:** Requests usually involve equipment specifically to hold a child in the correct position to avoid hip dislocations, and all types of special beds eg. profile beds, high sided cot beds and safety sleepers to provide the correct environment for sleep.
- **Vision:** All types of vision equipment to help registered blind children achieve their potential when the Vision Impairment Service is unable to obtain the necessary funding for the equipment required. We receive a number of requests from the Dudley Vision Impairment Service for a wide range of computer based equipment.

How Donations can be made to us

In addition to donations by cash or cheque, may we suggest consideration of the following:

1. Standing Orders

Any amount from £2/month upwards is of great value to us, and a Standing Order Mandate can either be completed online from your Bank account (our Bank account details are below), or a paper copy of the required Bank Mandate is available on the [Forms](#) page of our website, and has also been reproduced at the end of this brochure. If you complete a paper copy of the Standing Order Mandate, could you please send this directly to your Bank, so that we never see any of your Bank details.

2. Online Donations to our Bank Account

Our nominated Bank Account details for One-Off online or regular donations direct to us are:

HSBC Bank, Sort Code **40-43-17**
Account Number **72275813**

Could you please use your name as the payment reference, so that we can track the payments into our account, and claim Gift Aid, where appropriate (please could you complete a Gift Aid form if you have not already done so, it enables us to claim 25p for every £1 donated).

3. Online Donations: Everyclick

There is an [Everyclick Donation](#) button on the [Donations](#) page of the Chris Westwood Charity website, allowing individual donations to be made online, and access can also be gained to our Everyclick webpage via www.everyclick.com/chriswestwoodcharity/info.

(Anyone kindly wishing to set up a sponsorship page is encouraged to use the Everyclick facility, as we are registered with them, and there are no charges for a new sponsorship page).

QR Code for Mobile Phone Donations to Everyclick:

We now have a QR code facility on the website for those who prefer to donate to Everyclick via their mobile phone.



www.chriswestwoodcharity.co.uk

How Donations can be made to us (2)

4. Online Donations: Give as You Live/ Amazon Smile/ Easyfundraising

Give as You Live:

You can also raise funds through [Give as You live](#) for any charity you wish to nominate, at no extra cost. Please see the [Give as You Live](#) webpage on our website for details of contributions that can be gained at no cost by using either a *Store card*, or making *online purchases*. Access to the Give as You Live website is by: <https://giveasyoulive.com>

Amazon Smile:

The Charity is also registered on [Amazon Smile](#) so that we can be nominated to receive your commission payments from purchases made using [Amazon](#). Once you have registered your chosen charity 0.5% of the purchase cost is donated by Amazon to the Charity chosen, at no cost to the purchaser.

Please just enter Amazon via this link: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1101230-0> and register, then in future via smile.amazon.co.uk and shop in the normal way. You can change your charity choice at any time.

Easyfundraising:

We are also registered with this shopping commission website, which is a competitor of *Give as You Live*, and where you can again select a charity to receive a commission payment on your purchase, at no additional cost to you. You can login to the website, and join at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Depending on the retailer, there are various percentages and from time to time, additional bonus donations offered.

5. Recycle4Charity (Used Printer Ink Cartridges)

This website: <https://recycle4charity.co.uk> collects and recycles used printer ink cartridges, and provided you have registered and nominated your chosen charity, the charity (hopefully us) then receives at least £1.00 for each printer ink cartridge returned, which is on their acceptance list (this requires cartridges where a printed circuit board is visible on the side the cartridge plugs into the printer). The full acceptance list is available on the Recycle4Charity website. Freepost return labels for your chosen charity can be downloaded after registration, but please ensure that you enclose at least the minimum number of cartridges, otherwise the funding is not granted due to postal costs.

6. Gift Aid

You can increase the effectiveness of your donation by completion of a Gift Aid declaration form, (copy available on the next page).

If the third option box on the form is ticked, that will then cover all donations past, present and future. Provided you are a UK tax payer, the Charity will receive an additional 25p for every £1 donated, which we claim annually from HMRC.

Please return any completed forms directly to The Chris Westwood Charity (address on the form).



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Gift Aid Declaration

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The Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities.

Please Treat

- The enclosed gift of £_____ as a Gift Aid Donation; OR
- All gifts of money that I make today, and in the future, as Gift Aid Donations; OR
- All gifts of money that I have made in the past 4 years, and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration, as Gift Aid Donations.

✓ Please tick the appropriate box above.

In order for us to claim Gift Aid, you must be paying an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity will claim from HMRC on your Gift Aid donation. Currently, we are able to claim 25p for every £1 of eligible donations.

Donor's Details

Title _____ Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Please notify the Charity if you:

1. Wish to cancel this declaration
2. Change any of the Donor details
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Please send the completed form to: FAO Chris Westwood, Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities, PO Box 7131, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 9FP.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the Manager	
Name of Bank	
Address	
Post Code	

Please pay: HSBC Bank, 114 High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 1DZ

For the credit of: Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disability
Sort Code: 40-43-17
Account Number: 72275813

The sum of: (in words) _____ Pounds (£) _____
On the _____ (day) _____ (month) _____ (year)
And thereafter every month until further notice, and debit my account accordingly.

Name of account holder to be debited:
Account Number:
Sort Code:

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

When completed, will you please pass this form directly to your Bank.


If you are a UK tax payer, and pay an amount of Income Tax, and/or Capital Gains Tax, at least equal to the tax that can be claimed on your donation, you can increase the value of your gift by using Gift Aid. This enables the Charity to reclaim the tax, which currently increases the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 donated.

*If you would like to help, will you please complete a Gift Aid form, and return it to:
The Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities, PO Box 7131,
STOURBRIDGE, DY8 9FP*

The Charity would like to thank Holmdale Print & Mail who kindly printed and supplied this booklet at no cost to the Charity. Their gift is greatly appreciated.

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If you would like to contact us:

**For the attention of Chris Westwood,
Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities,
PO Box 7131,
STOURBRIDGE,
DY8 9FP**

***Email:* chriswestwoodcharity@gmail.com**

***Tel:* 07968 008098**



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