

Chris Westwood Charity

For Children with Physical Disabilities



Progress Report as at 31st December 2013



Charity Commission Registration Number 1101230

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 (within a 50 mile radius of Stourbridge), and the Charity Commission registered number is 1101230.

The stated aims are to cover 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 aims.

We grant small sums for specific uses, where a significant difference can be made to both the life of the child and the family, we try to fill the gaps left in the State support system, we are very keen to give a rapid response, usually within 24 to 48 hours, and we aim to achieve all of this with no operating costs at all.

Typical Areas of Assistance Provided to date

- Special exercise equipment, special exercise tricycles, walkers and standing frames, to assist in regaining and maintaining mobility
- Wheelchairs, special mobility chairs, special car seats, special seating, and support and lifting equipment, to improve the quality of life

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 suitable professional person 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 the financial position of the family

Then, 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 can be considered for approval. Grants are provided by a cheque payable 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.



www.chriswestwoodcharity.co.uk

What have we been up to in 2013?

In 2012, demand expanded rapidly, and this again continued in 2013. We finally ended the year having completed grants totalling £66,853, an increase of 32% on the £50,707 granted in 2012. As a result of all of our fundraising efforts, and the help received, we finally managed to end the year with reserves of £4,096. Although this represents less than a month of grant activity at the current level of demand there are several collections outstanding, and donations promised, so we anticipate a further boost to our funding early in the New Year, when these are received.

During the year, 61 grants were made, up from 46 in 2012, and by the year end, the totals almost reached another milestone, finishing at 199 grants made since we started ten years ago, and £206,664 granted. To put our recent rate of expansion in perspective, in the first eight and a quarter years we completed 100 grants totalling approx. £101,000, whereas in the subsequent year and three quarters to date, we have almost completed the second 100 grants. We face a major challenge in 2014 in raising the funding needed to sustain this rate of activity, to enable us to respond to the requests we receive.

Our main fundraising activities included the ticket proceeds from a Property Seminar organised by our Legal Trustee, the Walkathon, which has now expanded into a Triathlon, the Racketball Marathon, and several new events. The main success amongst the new events was a Quiz Night at Hagley Community Centre, which was a sell out, with 130 attending, and which, despite a ticket price deliberately set low at £8 (*including food*) raised £1,049, in no small part due to enthusiastic support for the raffle and a bar which proved particularly successful. Some of these events are described in more detail later in this report.

We would like to thank Quest 88 Ltd for their support during the year. We purchase a number of special exercise trikes from them, and as 2013 was their 25th Anniversary, we were selected as one of twelve charities in the UK to receive a gift of up to £2,000 against the cost of further new trikes. This was a great help, as we supplied 12 trikes during the year, and the gift covered the cost of two of them.

We have continued to develop the association with the Wolves Community Trust with their much appreciated support for cases within their operating area. We completed 25 grants where they provided some funding towards the total cost, and we received a total of £9,970 from them during the year. We hope to be able to continue to work together in 2014.

There are a number of areas in which we would like to develop further, but since we would find it difficult to raise the additional funding to cope with any extra demand at the present time, we have reluctantly decided to try to carefully manage any new contacts, although we find that demand continues to grow anyway, as we become more widely known.

Finally, a very big thank you to all of our supporters, without whom it would not be possible to continue to operate with zero administration costs. They continue to help with the organisation and running of the many fundraising events with which we are now involved, and also a thank you to the many kind donors, and the Charitable Foundations who have helped us this year.



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A Selection of the Grants Made in 2013

Age	Grant	Details
Yrs 5	£ 545.00	Genetic disorder, requires oxygen and suction, as well as 24 hour care, as she forgets to breathe periodically, and her heart stops, requiring immediate action. Standing frames are no longer funded by Dudley Health, and five children require new frames for use at Old Park school, having outgrown their existing units. While she is likely to be the main user, the unit can be shared by all five of the children. After agreeing 50% matched funding with the school, this reduced the grant needed to £545.00, which we approved.
2.75	1,506.00	Diagnosed with Infantile Epileptic Encephalopathy, and associated global development delay, he is unable to sit, stand, or walk unaided, and the provision of a suitable walker would greatly help both his mobility, and his muscle development. The family had raised £100 towards the cost, and we approved the balance.
3	764.85	Born with Prader Willi Syndrome, which leads to insatiable hunger, and can cause problems with obesity and early death. She had low muscle tone, and had only just started walking. An exercise tricycle was recommended by her Paediatric Physiotherapist, to try and improve her muscle development, and her mobility. The family could raise £250.00 towards the cost, and we approved the balance.
1	232.16	Needed an oesophageal atresia and fistula repair shortly after birth. Also has heart and other problems. He required a special car seat to support him properly, to help him to breathe more easily, and we approved the purchase.
16	4,111.00	He has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, needs assistance with everyday tasks, and a recent spinal operation has resulted in him being constantly in an upright position, with limited arm mobility, and he could no longer feed himself or use a computer mouse. A powered arm movement unit was proposed which would allow him some independence as he would then be able to accomplish some tasks including feeding. The Paediatric Physiotherapists had experience of this equipment, and although expensive, it was strongly recommended. While the NHS Trust had approved the use of these units, there was no funding available, so we agreed to fund the purchase.

A Selection of the Grants Made in 2013 (Cont.)

Age	Grant	Details
Yrs	£	
7.5	36.99	He has Peters Plus Syndrome, which is genetic, and affects the eyes. He was recently classified as blind. Additional complications typically include growth problems, and learning difficulties. He is small and has a severe learning disability. He has recently moved from a feeding tube to solid food, but is still in nappies, which he removes at night, requiring his father to sleep with him to prevent this. Funding for a sleep suit was requested, which will resolve the problem, and allow him to sleep alone. The father is disabled, and the family are struggling, so we approved the funding.
	3,500.00	To part fund the cost of an Eye Gaze system, to enable children at Fort Royal Special School, with severe physical disabilities, to access a computer independently, by eye movement only. This will be used by a number of children at the school, and will help to develop their communication skills. With a cost of £7,000, the school was able to raise £3,500, and we were asked if we could match fund. We consider this to be an important facility to help severely disabled children to become more independent, and we approved the funding.
4.5	299.00	At 14 months diagnosed with a brain tumour and had 18 months of chemotherapy. Recently diagnosed with both a second tumour and the first tumour starting to grow. Child unable to walk very far, and with the mother having recently had a baby, she was struggling to manage with a pushchair and a baby sling, and urgently needed a double buggy. Suitable unit found and tested by the mother, and we approved the purchase.
3.7	955.45	Originally diagnosed as Cerebral Atrophy, he presents with Diplegia, ie both legs turn in and he walks on his toes. Has tightness of his leg muscles and is at risk of contractures and loss of mobility. Fatigues quickly, and the Paediatric Physiotherapist recommended a special exercise trike, as it would help to build up his leg muscles and maintain mobility. Now believed he has a rare case of Cutis Marmorata Microcephaly, and in view of the help that exercise will bring, we authorised the purchase.



How a Donation Can Help (1)

Walkers.....



Chris Westwood with Hammad and Marie Bissell (School Head)

Hammad is 13 years old, and recently came to the UK from Pakistan. He has physical difficulties, and language and communication problems. When he left his wheelchair he could only crawl on the floor, but had expressed a wish to be able to walk like other children.

A Meywalk Miniwalker was proposed at a cost of £2,163.00. We applied to the Coventry Building Society Charitable Foundation, now administered through the Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation, and they agreed to provide £1,500.00 of the funding required, with the balance coming from us. As soon as Hammad was placed in it, he started moving around the School, and he thoroughly enjoys the independence it gives him. His ankles and legs have yet to build up muscle strength, but the more he uses it, the more it will improve his overall mobility.

How a Donation Can Help (2)

Pushchairs and Buggies.....



Harry in his Otto Bosch Kiwi Buggy



Emilia in her R82 Stingray Buggy

Harry has Downs Syndrome, Hirschsprungs Disease, and other health problems. He recently needed a cancerous growth to be removed from the base of his spine, which gave rise to great discomfort when sitting. The new buggy provides the correct support and has helped greatly. With some funding already raised towards the cost, we provided the balance of £963.00 required for the purchase to proceed.

Emilia contracted Pneumococcal Meningitis at seven weeks, which left her with neurological impairment, development delay, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, visual impairment & problems with motor skills. She has a problem at the base of her spine, and requires full support, but is in great discomfort unless sitting in a specially adapted chair/buggy. We were asked if we could co-fund with the Friends of Alfie Johnson Fund, to purchase a suitable special buggy for home use, and we agreed to fund 50% of the cost, as she requires constant repositioning with her existing buggy despite attempts at improving her comfort.

This buggy is a very special lightweight unit, which has been specifically designed for easy access to mobility vehicles, and Alfie's father had tried many buggies, finding the R82 Stingray the most suitable for both Alfie and Emilia's problems. The cost for Emilia, with all of the required extras, was £3,296.00, and we provided the balance of £1,648.00 required for the purchase to proceed.

How a Donation Can Help (3)

Special Exercise Tricycles.....



Phoebe with her Quest 88 Trike



Evie with her hand pedalled trike

Phoebe is four years old and has a congenital myopathy. She has low muscle tone, hypermobile joints, and requires support to walk safely. Following a recommendation from her Paediatric Physiotherapist, she was assessed for the trike, and found to be able to manage to pedal it. The trike has splints fitted to support her legs, along with a waist support, and adult control bar.

This will be of great benefit to her in helping to build her muscle strength, and develop improved coordination, and we were pleased to have been able to help by providing the £955.45 funding required.

Evie is three years old and was born with Werner Mesomelic Dysplasia, a condition which meant that her tibia bone did not form in either leg. Attempts to grow bone were unsuccessful, and with no ankle joints and club feet, the decision was taken to amputate her legs at the knees. She now has prosthetic legs, attached to her waist, but due to the weight, she tires easily, and funds were raised to buy her a hand pedalled trike at a cost of £2,653.00, to improve her mobility. After a number of fundraising events, we co-funded the balance required with another local Charity, the Alfie Johnson Fund, and provided the £577.00 required for the purchase to be completed.

The Organisation

The Charity has four Trustees, and formal Trustee meetings are held twice a year. There are no employees, and all the necessary work is done on a voluntary basis, so that there are no administration expenses incurred.

The Trustees are in regular contact for all routine management decisions, any additional meetings required can be arranged at short notice, and Quality Solicitors Talbots (Stourbridge) provide office facilities, again at no cost.

With all this voluntary help, we are able to maximise the effectiveness of the funds we raise.

The Charity Trustees at a recent Trustee Meeting



l-r: Martyn Morgan Chris Westwood Janine Barnes Graham Wood

Property Seminar

On Wednesday 8th May, QS Talbots Solicitors organised a Property Seminar, held at the Copthorne Hotel, Merryhill.

The event was very well received, and the Charity was fortunate to have been able to benefit. Our Legal Trustee (Martyn Morgan) is a Senior partner of QS Talbots, and organised the event.

With the costs covered by a number of local sponsors, all the ticket receipts were given to the Charity, with a further addition from QS Talbots, the total came to £5,000.00.



l-r Chris Westwood Justin Urquhart Stewart Martyn Morgan

The photograph shows one of the celebrity speakers, Justin Urquhart Stewart, who regularly appears on Business programmes on television, presenting the cheque.

This was a new event, and with approximately one hundred delegates and five celebrity speakers, who all gave very interesting insights into the current state of the property market, the event was a great success, and we can only thank everyone involved, as the donation was an extremely useful addition to our funds.



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Racketball Marathon



Signing on and watching play on Court 1

Stourbridge Lawn Tennis & Squash Club held their Open Day on Saturday 11th May. Once again, the Racketball Committee very kindly organised a Racketball Marathon for us, which was intended to run from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. We did finish a little earlier, at 7.00 pm, but during much of the day, two courts were in use, and participants were asked if they would like to make a small donation to the Charity.

With the income from the players, supplemented by the use of our collection boxes amongst the many visitors, £357.44 was raised. When Gift Aid is claimed, the final total will rise to around £447.00.

Another successful event, which brought in useful funds, and helped to raise our profile locally. We can only thank the Club for permission to hold the event, the Racketball Committee for all the organisational work involved, and the participants and donors who all helped to make the day a success.

The Triathlon

The event was held on Sunday 22nd September, and we were fortunate once again to have fine weather. The event originally began as a Walkathon, along the banks of the river Severn, with participants free to choose their preferred route between Bewdley and Bridgnorth, as well as possible use of the train. Choices ranged from a walk from Bewdley to Arley and return by train, to the full 26 miles on foot to Bridgnorth and back.

Last year, the event was expanded to include an option of a Cyclothon of up to 40 miles, and numbers grew steadily, so this year a third option of Canoeing from Bridgnorth to Bewdley was added.

This resulted in over 40 participants, with some walking, a few cycling, one runner, and 13 participants who embarked on the canoe trip. We are pleased to report that they all made it successfully.

With the increased numbers, we were able to use the facilities of the Bewdley Rowing Club, who made us very welcome, and we must thank them for all their help. The final total raised was £527.00, which was another very useful addition to our funds, and with the rapidly increasing number of participants, we are hopeful of an even bigger turnout, if we can hold the event next year, as everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Trustee Martyn Morgan (note the logo on the shirt) with Emma the event organiser, after a brief rest at Arley

Quiz Night

On Saturday 16th November a Quiz Night was organised at Hagley Community Centre by two of our keen supporters Carolyn and Miles.

The event included two Quiz sessions with a break for a Fish and Chip supper, and a raffle for twelve prizes which had been kindly donated. The ticket price was kept deliberately low at £8 per head, including the food, to cover the expenses, (hire of the hall, the necessary licences, and other minor costs etc.), while still making a small profit.

Initially unsure as to the maximum practical capacity, the event was limited to 130 guests, and was fully subscribed with a waiting list for any cancellations. Nineteen teams were entered, including two from Quality Solicitors Talbots, two from Hasbury & Cradley Rotary Club, one from Sunrise Medical, and one from the Charity Trustees. There were also a number of teams containing members from Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, supporting us once again, and particular thanks to the Goodenough family who organised the Quiz questions, kept the score, and kept us all under control. The numbers turned out to be ideal, as the room was just comfortably filled.

At this level of activity, we were able to make a profit of approx. £2 per head on the tickets (less the hire costs of the hall and minor expenses), which coupled with a very successful raffle (raising £360), and a bar profit which greatly exceeded expectations at approx £600, we managed to raise £1,049 for the Charity.

With bar sales on a high, several trips out were required by Miles to restock, and, not unsurprisingly, there was a convivial atmosphere throughout the evening.

After the prizes had been presented, Chris Westwood gave a short speech on the progress of the Charity, and where the much needed funding would be spent, and presentations were made to all of the helpers for their efforts, in organising and running the event.

Who won? Well strangely enough, although there were clear winners, there seems to be some difficulty in recalling everything that happened, other than that a good time was had by all.

The general feeling was that it had been a very successful evening, a repeat next year would be ideal, assuming Carolyn and Miles have recovered, and some extensive research into current events would be required by the Trustee team, to stand any chance of a good score in the next Quiz.

So, if you would like to join us, at this or any other events, please keep an eye on the *News and Forthcoming Events* page of our website, for details of events that are being organised.



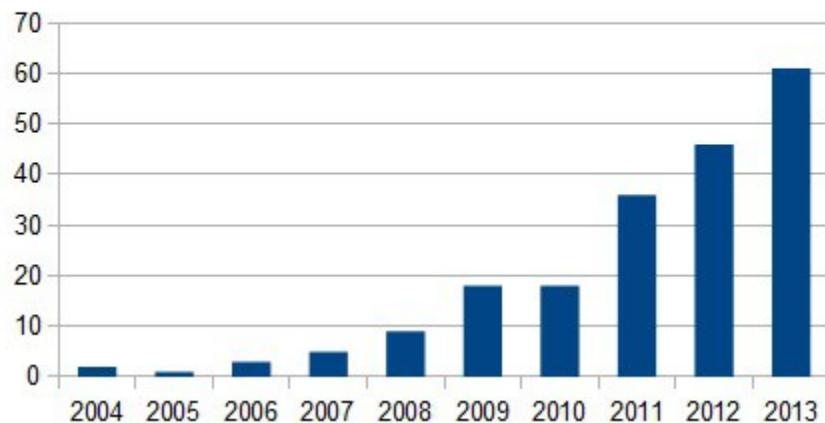
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Our Accounts

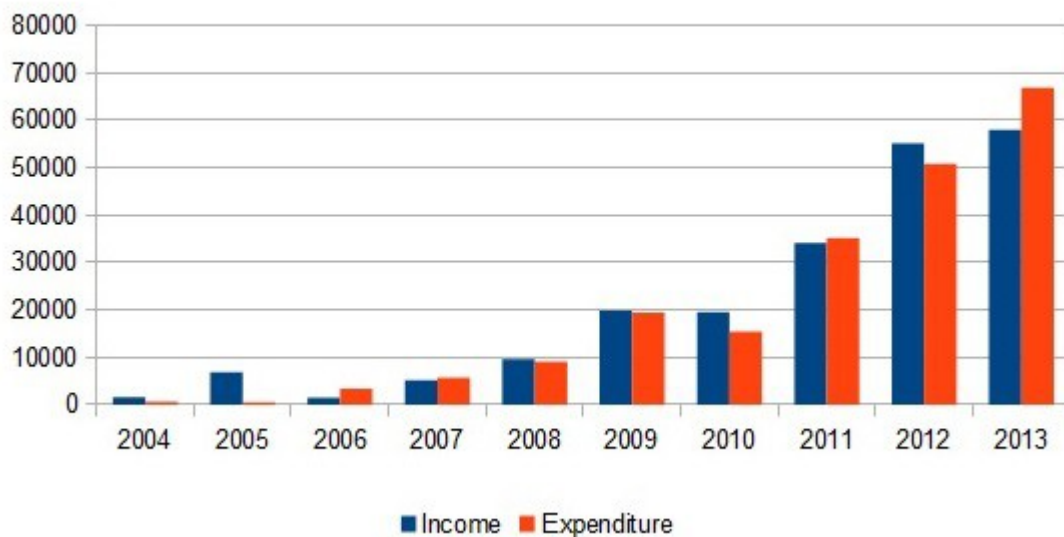
Cash Balance brought forward at 31.12.12:	13,013.17
Income:	
(a) Fundraising Events	9,171.44
(b) Gift Aid: <i>(April 2012 to April 2013)</i>	2,758.89
(c) Standing Orders – Payments received	1,605.00
(d) Personal Donations	8,449.10
(e) Company Donations	
<i>Cash Donations</i>	2,988.58
<i>Donation of 2 Trikes @ market value from Quest 88</i>	1,919.00 4,907.58
(f) Wolves Community Trust Support	
<i>Support with 25 grants during the year</i>	9,969.56
(g) Grants from other Charitable Foundations and Organisations	21,000.00
(h) Collection Boxes	70.79
(i) Interest on Bank Balances	4.14
Total Income:	57,936.50
Expenditure:	
Grants made in the year to date: 61 in Total	66,853.31
Other expenditure/costs/overheads	nil
Total Expenditure:	66,853.31
Excess of Income over Expenditure:	-8,916.81
Leaving a cash balance at 31.12.13 of:	4,096.36

Funds Raised and Grants Made to Dec 31th 2013

Number of Grants Made each Year



Annual Income (£) vs Grants Made (£)



During 2012, 46 grants totalling £50,707 were made, an increase of 44% on 2011, and a new milestone for us, being the first time our grants had exceeded £50,000 in a year.

During 2013, 61 grants totalling £66,853 were made, a more manageable increase of 32% on 2012, and bringing us to 199 grants made, and £206,664 granted, in the ten years since inception. The graphs show the rate at which demand has increased, with no marketing effort on our part, and the challenges that we can expect to face in the coming year, if demand continues to rise.

Reflections on 2013

This report sets out to give an idea of the type of work we are involved in, how we raise our funding, and very importantly, how we spend it. We are very proud of two key points of our operation, which are that firstly we operate with zero administration costs, and secondly that we try to respond rapidly to requests for help, usually within 24 to 48 hours, so that children are not made to wait. We feel that this is particularly important when the child has a degenerative condition, and mobility can often be prolonged by the early provision of suitable exercise equipment.

What becomes clear when looking at the performance figures that we produce, is the very rapid expansion in activity that we have seen. We have not sought to expand at this rate (we actually spend nothing on marketing), the growth having resulted from becoming more widely known. Sadly, we have to face the fact that there are finite limits to the rate at which we can generate funding, and that we may soon not be able to help every application that we receive that satisfies our grant criteria, should this growth continue. In 2013 we have needed to use a significant proportion of our reserves to cope with the demand, which we would now like to rebuild to enable us to continue to respond rapidly. *(This I find particularly concerning, as I regularly see children we help when carrying out my duties as a Governor of two local Special Schools, and I intend to continue to try, with your help, to bridge any funding gap, if at all possible - editor.)*

While we constantly seek to generate additional funding from new events, and help from outside organisations, there are finite limits. We greatly appreciate the larger donations received, but there are now many individuals and groups organising small collections for us, and the cumulative effect of these is significant. We have a number of regular monthly donors, and this source of funding is becoming very useful. So please never underestimate the importance of any small donation, and we would greatly welcome additional regular monthly donations, however small the amount.

With the constant need to try to find other sources of funding, we have listed the Charity on Easyfundraising.org.uk. This is a spend and raise website, where once registered, if you carry out your online shopping by first going through the Easyfundraising link, you can then shop as usual at your favourite large stores (most support Easyfundraising), and we then receive a small percentage of the cost of the purchases made. While we don't expect to generate vast amounts of funding, if used regularly the Charity will receive useful funding, at no extra cost to our supporters.

So, could we ask if you would at least have a look at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk A video explains how it works.

As usual, the coming year will be a challenge, but with your help and support, I am sure we shall be able to continue our work.



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How Donations can be made to us

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

Standing Orders

Any amount from £2/month upwards is of great value to us, and only requires the completion of a Standing Order Mandate, which can be stopped, or changed, at any point in the future, should you wish. The Standing Order Mandate goes directly to your bank, so we never see it, or any of your bank details.

A copy of the required Bank Mandate is available towards the end of this booklet, and should you choose this method, could you please complete a gift aid form, if you have not already done so, as this enables us to reclaim the tax at the year end.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, you can increase the effectiveness of your donation by completion of a gift aid declaration form, a copy of which is available on the next page. If the third box down, of the three options on the form, is ticked, the completion of one form will cover all donations past, present and future. HMRC treats the donation as if the donor had already paid basic rate tax, and the Charity can then reclaim this tax to increase the value of the donation. The Charity will receive an additional 25p for every £1 donated, which we claim annually from HMRC.

Please return any completed forms directly to Quality Solicitors Talbots (address on back cover).

Online Donations

By Internet Bank Transfer, direct to our nominated bank account:

Bank details for Online Donations 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.



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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 6 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 _____ First Name _____ Surname _____

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.

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:
Chris Westwood Charity for Children, c/o Quality Solicitors Talbots, 63 Market Street,
Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 1AQ.*

If you would like to contact us:

For the attention of Martyn Morgan,
Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities,
c/o Quality SolicitorsTalbots,
63 Market Street,
Stourbridge,
West Midlands.
DY8 1AQ.

Tel: 01384 445850

email: martynmorgan@talbotslaw.co.uk

The following organisations have provided help to the Charity at no cost:

Quality Solicitors Talbots : Provision of Office facilities, Marketing, Event Organisation, and general help and advice. (01384 445850)

Holmdale Print & Mail: Provision of Document preparation, and printing services, including all of our publicity material. (0845 367 1206)



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