

home from home

Issue 21
Winter 2008

Oliver Khan



Oliver was in Guys Hospital in the summer of 2004 because he was seriously ill, so it was a huge relief to his parents that they were provided with free accommodation in the House for some seven weeks of that summer.

Oliver is now fit and well, and wanted to do something to raise money for the new house. He decided to walk 13 miles around Bewl Water, a local reservoir near Tunbridge Wells. He set out to raise sponsorship from friends and family.

On Sunday 25th May 2008 Oliver completed the 13 mile circuit, raising £650 in the process. Oliver is 8 years old. He also made it into the local paper, the Kent Messenger!

With the £650, Oliver wants to buy some £50 bricks in the new House and to have a plaque on the 'Tree of Life'. Well done Oliver we look forward to seeing you running in the marathon!



the view from the house

In the last newsletter we were anxiously awaiting the results of the appeal against Lambeth Council not to grant planning permission. As promised on October 10 we found out that we had won and that Founder's Place, including the new Ronald McDonald House would at last become a reality.

Since then we have appointed solicitors, Forster LLP, and they have been working very hard on our behalf to ensure that our new House is exactly what we want. We have also conducted a thorough scrutiny of all the room data sheets to ensure that the new House reflects all the latest innovations since our current House was built.

We have a small team of very dedicated Trustees who oversee all the work relating to the new House. They bring skills and expertise from a variety of backgrounds and we are very grateful to them for giving so generously of their time.

You can also read in this edition about how the sale of the bricks is progressing they are proving to be very popular. We will be able to sell bricks until the landscaping of the garden commences.

It is not that long until Christmas and we have the date for our Carol Service so that you can put it in your diary. It will be at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Tuesday 9 December come and join us! We will also be repeating our very successful Golf Day in 2009. Look at our website to check out the dates and time for all our events.

**Elizabeth Gibson
Chief Executive
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Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9 December 2008
St Martin-in-the-Fields
6.00pm
Christmas Carol service

2009

Annual Charity Golf Day

Please look on the website for further details and an application form











As everyone knows we always sent out our Christmas Card leaflet with the autumn newsletter. We now have the leaflet on our website as a download. Last year we also had an 'E' card. We used the website 'Charitecards' and quite a lot of people sent their Christmas cards that way.

Using this particular website is a very cost effective way of making a charity card donation because 78% of the donation is passed on to us and it is also easy to Gift Aid so that the charity can receive a further 22% from the Inland Revenue bringing the total to at least 100% of what you pay. They have some fun designs, do have a look at the website.

Wish List

If you wish to buy something for the House please take a look at the list below.

If you wish to make a donation of any kind or sponsor an extra comfort for the families such as Sky TV please call the House on 020 7188 0447.

	BEDROOMS		KITCHENS
	Pillows, Single mattress and pillow protectors 13.5 Tog Duvets, allergy free		Kettles Toasters
	MISCELLANEOUS		Steam Irons
	Flat Screen Monitors		Teaspoons
	Plants both indoor & outdoor		Ironing Board Covers (Large)
	Oven Gloves & Aprons		Leaf Blower
	Shower Curtains		

Carols by candlelight

Our seventh Annual Christmas Carol service will take place in St Martin-in-the Fields, Trafalgar Square on Tuesday 9 December 2008: the service starts at 6.30pm this year. Do come along and support us: there will be familiar carols and a variety of guest artistes including Emma Johnson, Florian Rago, the Sydenham Junior School Choir and the English National Opera Chorus. A flyer has been enclosed with this newsletter so do bring all the family.

supporters

Renee Ford Writes...

At my 20 week scan my husband and I were told that our baby had transposition of the great arteries. It was explained to us that our baby would need a heart operation soon after the birth. At just 9 days old he had open heart surgery, unfortunately there were post operative complications and he spent three weeks in intensive care. During this time we stayed at Ronald McDonald House at Guy's Hospital as we live in Gravesend, Kent over twenty five miles from the hospital and it is a difficult, time-consuming journey especially on a daily basis. Our baby Thomas had some difficult times during the three weeks but thankfully he pulled through and at 6 weeks old he came home.



Thomas is now like any other 18 month old little boy, healthy and up to lots of mischief. At the end of last year after regular check ups for his heart he was given the all clear and will now only need to be seen once a year.

For my 30th Birthday I had a celebration party for friends and family, I asked them if they would be kind enough to make a small donation to Ronald McDonald House instead of buying presents. Together they raised £635. It is a small way for us as a family to show our gratitude and support for the Evelina Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House for the wonderful care they gave Thomas and us his parents at the time of his and our greatest need.



Lots of families who fundraise for us use the website: justgiving.com

Justgiving lets people donate to charities online and it is easy, quick and tax-friendly. When someone makes a donation, Justgiving reclaim Gift Aid on it, plus a supplement from the government, making the total donation even bigger. They charge a 5% transaction fee on this *new* total (donation + Gift Aid + supplement). Then Justgiving send the rest of the Gift Aid to the charity, to add to the original donation. So the charity gets almost £12 for every £10 donation.

Brick

A huge thank you to everyone who has so generously bought a brick or more to support our new House. To date over 250 bricks have been sold and there are many more available. The architect who has designed our new House is very interested in designing the garden so that the bricks are displayed in the best possible way: in future newsletters we will ask for your views about the designs.

When the House is completed and before it opens to families we will have a private dedication ceremony for all those families and supporters who have bought bricks.

If you want to purchase more bricks the forms can be downloaded at www.ronaldmcdonaldhouse.org.uk



Buy a Brick

Kai Performance Charity Event

Four years ago the Salter family stayed with us whilst their son Kai was receiving treatment for his cardiac condition. 14th June 2005 was the date that Warren and Terri Salter lost their incredible little triplet boy Kai when he was just 11 months old. In order to turn a huge negative into a positive at the end of 2005 Warren and Terri opened Kai Performance, a tuning and performance centre in Maidstone Kent, in memory of their brave little triplet boy.

On the 14th of June every year they hold a charity event and this year was no exception. They did their little boy proud with the event being held at Brands Hatch in the evening with the use of the Kentagon and all the parking being donated by Brands Hatch themselves.



The turnout was fantastic and there were in excess of 150 cars on display including some that you are not likely to encounter at any other car meet. A Zonda was present as well as a spanking new Ferrari which is a limited edition roadster and worth a cool £400k. Many of the customers of Kai Performance were also there.

All in all the evening was an amazing success. Not only do Warren and Terri turn out some amazing cars, they can run a serious BBQ, as both of them were cooking for most of the evening. At the end of the evening, Warren had a weigh-in on his sponsored weight loss which he achieved and had lost 2 stone in just 6 weeks.

All together the event raised an amazing £3300 and the money was donated to the Ronald McDonald House where the Salters stayed for 9 months and also the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Evelina Children's Hospital who cared for Kai. Warren and Terri would just like to say a huge thank you to everybody who attended and supported the event.

