Teddy20 Supporting Children with Cancer - Annual Review 2024

Dear Teddy20 Community,

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the support and dedication that have enabled us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and young people battling cancer. The 2024 Annual Review is a powerful testament to the collective efforts of our donors, volunteers, and partners, whose shared commitment has brought hope and joy to those who need it most.

Accomplishments:

1. Ted's Shack:

2024 has been another impactful year for Ted's Shack, welcoming 18 families into our respite haven in Weymouth. These families included both new referrals and familiar faces returning after long treatment journeys, particularly for conditions like leukaemia, which can span up to three years.

We've prioritised inviting families who have completed treatment to experience what they missed—especially the joy of our swimming pool and the simple thrill of the water slide. Hearing stories of children finally being able to join in the fun is heartwarming and reminds us why we do what we do.

While we celebrate these triumphs, we also share in the sorrow of the families we support. This year, we were deeply saddened by the loss of a young man we had supported for several years. In October, we welcomed his family, including his siblings, back to Ted's Shack, offering them a sanctuary for healing and reflection. Ted's Shack is not just a place for fun; it is also a sanctuary for hope, remembrance, and quiet moments.

This vital work wouldn't be possible without the tireless dedication of our volunteers. From maintaining the Shack to organising family stays, your compassion makes all the difference.

Looking to 2025, we are determined to continue providing families with opportunities to create lasting memories away from the stresses of hospital routines.

2. Financial Aid:

This year, our financial support program has eased the burdens that come with long-term treatment in various ways:

Festive Support: Over the Christmas season, we provided 36 families with Marks & Spencer vouchers, ensuring they could enjoy a warm and joyful festive meal.

Treatment-Related Assistance: Since December, over 65 families have received financial aid for travel expenses, parking, and accommodation near hospitals, particularly for specialist treatments like bone marrow transplants or brain tumour care.

Palliative Care & Wishes: We supported our highest number of children in palliative care this year, granting bucket list experiences and special requests—from Peppa Pig toys and football kits to iPhones for distraction and bravery.

Home Adaptations: For families transitioning to care at home, we funded crucial adaptations, such as medical refrigeration units and physio treadmills, to improve comfort and recovery.

Educational Support: We granted funding for laptops, books, gaming devices, and musical instruments, helping older children facing treatment to continue learning and stay uplifted.

Funeral Support: We stood by families during their hardest times, covering funeral costs and providing emotional support.

3. Community Outreach:

Teddy20's success extends beyond direct support, thanks to incredible partnerships and local involvement:

Local Businesses & Sponsors: Increased contributions from bake sales, charity auctions, and sponsored events have helped cover operational costs and family initiatives.

Schools: Schools have embraced our cause, organising fundraising events and awareness campaigns. Seeing young people rally behind peers undergoing treatment is truly inspiring.

Volunteers: A growing base of community volunteers has brought fresh energy to Shack maintenance and event coordination, enhancing the experience we provide for families.

4. Teddy20 Events and Challenges:

This year saw various events and challenges hosted or attended by Teddy20. From Skydives, to Summer Fete's to Marathons, Cycle's and Walks, we've been involved in it all!

Sky Dive 2024
This event continues to symbolise the bravery needed to overcome childhood cancer. Fearless participants—including children and families—took the leap, raising vital funds and showcasing unyielding courage.

Teddy Rocks 2024
Teddy Rocks was an unforgettable celebration of music, community, and generosity. The festival broke records for attendance and funds raised, with Punk Rock Factory already announced as next year's Saturday headliner.

Le Teddy Tour 2024
This cross-country cycling journey raised awareness and funds while demonstrating resilience and

community spirit. Plans for Le Teddy Tour 2025 are already underway—sign up on our website to join!

Teddy Bear Parachute & Zipline
Over 50 brave teddies took the plunge, thrilling children and raising smiles. Special thanks to volunteers, Dorset Cherry Picker Hire, and local food vendors for making the event memorable.

Teddy20's 10-Year Birthday Bash
This milestone celebration was spectacular, filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. The evening was highlighted by heartfelt speeches and performances by Downtown Collective and Punk On Your Hits. It was a moving tribute to our journey and Ted's enduring legacy.

Santa Sleigh Stops
Our Santa Sleigh brought festive cheer and gifts to families navigating the challenges of treatment during the holiday season. Volunteers dressed as elves, and Santa created magical moments, proving the spirit of giving prevails even in adversity.

Challenges and Opportunities:

While celebrating our achievements, we acknowledge the persistent challenges in the realm of childhood cancer. The ongoing effects of the pandemic continue to shape our landscape, and the recent government increase in tax poses significant financial hurdles for charities like ours. These added pressures highlight the critical need for adaptability, resilience, and innovation in our operations.

In the face of these challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission. The tax changes compel us to explore new funding strategies, foster deeper partnerships, and develop creative solutions to ensure the sustainability of our work. We are dedicated to turning these obstacles into opportunities for growth, ensuring that our efforts to support children and families affected by childhood cancer remain impactful and unwavering.

As a new opportunity, this year we have partnered with Bone Cancer Research to launch a pioneering initiative in Ted's name—**Ted's Legacy**. This initiative is dedicated to raising vital funds for life-saving research into childhood primary bone cancer, honouring Ted's memory while working towards transformative advancements in treatment and care. Read more about the initiative here.

Gratitude:

We are continuously inspired by the generosity, compassion, and determination shown by our community. Every donation, every event, every hour volunteered helps us bring comfort, support, and opportunities to families navigating the immense challenges of childhood cancer. Together, we are not only building Ted's legacy but also creating a future filled with hope, resilience, and possibility.

As we look ahead to the coming year, Teddy20 is committed to expanding its impact, reaching more children, and advancing the fight against paediatric cancer. Together, we can create a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their health challenges.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Teddy20 family. Your support is the driving force behind our mission.

With warm regards

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Teddy 20 Supporting Children with Cancer

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