

Harry Matthews Bowel Transport Trust

Our First Annual Report – 2012 / 2013

1 Who we are and what we do

The Harry Matthews Bowel Transplant Trust is a small charity committed to improving the lives of bowel transplant recipients and their families. The charity supports children who are listed for small bowel transplantation and their families by providing a hardship fund to alleviate some of the financial burden caused to families by frequent admissions to specialist units pre and post transplantation surgery.

Bowel transplantation is a highly specialised operation for life threatening complications of intestinal failure. Children with various, rare conditions which may eventually require intestinal transplantation are seen by many specialist teams during many inpatient stays and outpatient visits to hospital; Gastroenterologists, Hepatologists, Nephrologists, Radiologists, Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Psychologists, Play Specialists and many more. These long stays in and frequent follow-ups to hospital (sometimes for many months at a time, a long way from home and separated from other family members) can put tremendous emotional, practical and financial pressures on families. The high cost of living, particularly in London and the suspension of key benefits when a child is an inpatient causes enormous emotional and financial strain at a time when parents are already trying to cope under exceptionally difficult circumstances. This situation is made even more difficult when a patient is over 16, as their benefits cease quickly.

We believe that if we can ease some of the financial pressures that long stays in hospitals can create, we are providing some practical assistance and easing some of the families' stress. We aim to provide families a much needed life-line during one of the most stressful times of their lives.

The trust was set up in memory of Harry Matthews, aged 6, who passed away in April 2011 and is run by a small but committed Board of Trustees; the Chair and founder of the charity, Catherine Matthews, Adrian Matthews, Faye Marshall, Suzanne Brown and Eleanor Beardsley.

2 What people say about us...

“The Harry Matthews Bowel Transplant Trust has been amazing for us. It has really helped us through some very difficult times in hospital.”

Millie Squires' family, treated at King's College Hospital

“Charities such as The Harry Matthews Bowel Transplant Trust are vital to help us build a better future for patients and families. The financial support they have given to parents of children undergoing transplantation has been so important and we hope this will continue.”

Dr Jonathan Hind,
Patron of the Charity and Consultant Paediatric Hepatology & Intestinal Implantation,
King’s College Hospital

“We are thrilled to learn of this wonderful charity which we are sure will help keep Harry’s memory alive forever. Families with children undergoing small bowel transplant require a range of support. To date there is no charity to specifically support these children and their families. We believe that the money raised in this way will help benefit families both financially and emotionally. Funding toward a range of resources for the transplant unit will also enhance the quality of care we can deliver. We are honoured to be involved with this fantastic trust.”

Carly Bambridge
Clinical Nurse Specialist – Paediatric Intestinal Transplant,
King’s College Hospital.

3 Key achievements

We have had an excellent first year of fundraising thanks to our supporters running marathons, triathlons, organising fun days and even people saving up their small change to donate to us! We also have a number of people regularly donating via a monthly standing order to the charity.

Key achievements in our first year:

- Financially supported 11 families in need via grants in addition to 15 families through our emergency instant access fund.
- Improved our grant application process for use by Hospital Family Liaison Officers.
- Provided support to King’s College Hospital by providing Trust-branded stationery for the event.
- Expanded our service to a second transplant unit at Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

4 How you can help us

Donations

- Donate via paypal safely and securely on our website: www.boweltransplanttrust.co.uk or via our page on the justgiving website: www.justgiving.com/hmbtt/donate
- By post – cheques made payable to The Harry Matthews Bowel Transplant Trust and send to The Harry Matthews Bowel Transplant Trust, PO Box 4, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN3 3NN.
- Standing order – Please email boweltransplanttrust@gmail.com if you would like to set up a standing order to make regular monthly payments to the charity.
- Remember HMBTT in your will – contact your solicitor about how you can make a gift to us in your will.
- Give in memory – Please email boweltransplanttrust@gmail.com if you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one.

Fundraising

Marathons, fun runs, sports days, garden parties, galas, pub quizzes, yard sales, cake sales, the list is endless!

If you would like to organise a fundraising event for us, we would love to hear from you!

Families

If you are a family affected by bowel transplant, or your child is a patient of the paediatric intestinal transplant centre at King's College London or Birmingham Children's Hospitals we are always looking to share stories with our website users. We would really like to hear your story. It is only by hearing your experiences can people begin to understand why our charity exists to help you and why, in turn, they would be happy to donate to us.

5 Finances

During our first year as a registered charity we raised over ten thousand pounds.

We are committed to maximising the support we offer to families in need and therefore have very minimal running costs and no staffing costs.

6 Future plans

We aim to work with specialist units and health professionals to improve the experiences and support for children and young people who require bowel transplantation. Over the coming year we will seek to raise the profile of both bowel transplantation and the work of the charity. We will work to increase our fundraising in order to support a greater number of children and their families.