

FAMILIES FIRST AUTUMN/WINTER 2017

**RAINBOW
TRUST**
CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Meet Phoebe
“We couldn't
cope without
Rainbow Trust”

Our Impact
See how
your donation
helps families

**Whatever
it takes**
How our expert
Family Support
Workers go above
and beyond





FAMILY FUNDRAISER - THE ELLIS FAMILY

Dear supporter,

Welcome to this edition of our newly titled magazine, 'Families First', which focuses on the families and children supported by our expert Family Support Workers.

Your help is vital to our work and our Family Support Workers couldn't do their wonderful work without you.

When a child is seriously ill, family life is turned upside down. Our Family Support Workers provide

families with practical and emotional support for as long as they need it, in the home, community or in hospital, giving them time to focus on each other when that time is limited.

So whether you sponsor a Family Support Worker, run a marathon, make a donation or give us your time, you make a huge difference to the families we support.

Thank you!

From all of us at Rainbow Trust

In April this year, five year old Peter Ellis and his twin, Thomas, celebrated the end of Peter's long and gruelling treatment for leukaemia.

Peter, from Reading, was diagnosed in November 2013 and referred to Rainbow Trust by CLIC Sargent. We have supported his family ever since.

After such a challenging few years, Flora, the boys' mum, wanted to celebrate the end of Peter's cancer journey with a superhero themed party for the boys, with all proceeds coming to Rainbow Trust. They were joined by Jess and Luci, Family Support

Workers from our West London team, who have supported the family over the years.

"Rainbow Trust has been there for us all the way. It's not easy to see sick children suffering. And yet, they chose to be there for us, to share our sorrow and fears" said Flora of Jess and Luci.

Peter is now cancer free and has finished all his treatment.

The tube in his chest which was used to give him treatment has been removed. Peter can now enjoy a bath, a swim, and generally do what other five year old boys do.

Peter started primary school this year and he is loving every minute. We wish the family the very best for the future.

[→ Read more about Peter's story from Flora rainbowntrust.org.uk/meet-flora](https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/meet-flora)

STAY IN TOUCH

We take your personal data and privacy seriously - to find out more and read our Supporter Promise and Privacy Policy go to rainbowtrust.org.uk

Call us: 01372 220083

Email us: supportercare@rainbowtrust.org.uk **Visit us:** rainbowtrust.org.uk

Follow us: facebook.com/RainbowTrust twitter.com/rainbowtrustcc

Head Office address: 6 Cleeve Court, Cleeve Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7UD

If your family is, or has been, supported by Rainbow Trust and you would like to raise money to help other families, then why not set up a Family Fund? Visit rainbowtrust.org.uk/forever-fund to find out more.

LATEST NEWS



Eve Mavron and her family are one of the first Rainbow Trust families to set up a special Forever Family Fund to raise money to sponsor a Family Support Worker. If you are a family who has been, or is being supported by Rainbow Trust, you can find out how you can help by visiting rainbowtrust.org.uk/forever-fund



Amazing volunteer, Martin, spent time being stickered at the drop-in group he helps run at the Great North Children's Hospital, Newcastle. Martin has volunteered for Rainbow Trust for just over a year and also found time to raise £947 for the charity by completing a nerve wracking wing-walk.



Adam was just eight years old when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Sean, their Family Support Worker, accompanies Adam to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital for appointments and gives Megan, Adam's teenage sister, someone to talk to as she struggled to cope with her brother's diagnosis.

Adam is doing really well, is on new medication to stop him feeling so tired, and is now at school each morning - a huge step for him.



A family supported by the Essex team has been fundraising for us and the money raised has gone towards buying car DVD players for the whole team. Here, three year old Samuel enjoys the new gear.

Samuel was born with four heart conditions and even the smallest amount of stress left him struggling to breathe. He had heart reconstruction surgery last year and is recovering well.



Jayne Dickens, one of our Surrey-based Family Support Workers, took Tristan and Lucas (left) to the London SEA LIFE Aquarium during half term. Tristan was diagnosed with leukaemia last year and is currently undergoing treatment.



Sponsor a Family Support Worker today... Public generosity funds our Family Support Workers and their support is given to families free of charge.

As a sponsor, you gain an exclusive insight into what our Family Support Workers do, receiving regular updates from them and the families they support. You can choose how much and how often you donate - whatever suits you.

Visit rainbowtrust.org.uk/sponsor to find out more.



“I’M IN AWE OF PHOEBE”

Amelia, Family Support Worker

In 2015, 14 month old Phoebe Dowling from Bristol, was diagnosed with leukaemia. She underwent months of chemotherapy and spent almost two months in hospital.

During this time, Aimee, her mum, stayed with Phoebe. Nathan, her dad, stayed at home to look after her then three year old brother, Ollie. The family struggled to cope and was referred to Rainbow Trust in November 2015.

Amelia, a Family Support Worker from our South West team, started supporting the family. She spent a lot of time with Ollie as Aimee and Nathan worried about him because he was so young, and didn’t understand what was happening. Not having his mum around was difficult, so Amelia would spend time with him at home, playing and talking about what was going on, which helped him settle and become more confident. Knowing he wasn’t alone and there was someone there for him really helped.

Two years on and Phoebe is now on the last and final part of her long treatment journey.



She completes this in November when she will be free from daily medication and regular hospital visits - something the family is really looking forward to.

“I’d recommend Rainbow Trust 100 per cent to anyone who needs them. They take care of you and your family, not just Phoebe, but Ollie and me as well.

Amelia is just brilliant. But I think more people need to know about Rainbow Trust. I didn’t know about them before Phoebe became sick but more people need to know.

Amelia is just wonderful - we couldn’t do without her now.

Her support makes me happy, which makes a difference to the whole family” says Aimee.



Phoebe with Amelia, her Family Support Worker

“The family has gone through a really challenging and worrying time, but their strength shines through and continues to amaze me every day.”

I visited the family when Phoebe was in hospital. We played together and I had long conversations with Aimee about what was happening.

During my last visit, Phoebe said “Amelia” for the first time. I am completely in awe of Phoebe - her strength and beautiful nature is incredible.

Despite the challenges this family has and are facing, they keep going, because there is no alternative” says Amelia.

If you would like to make a regular donation to sponsor a Family Support Worker, sign up today at [rainbow trust.org.uk/sponsor](https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/sponsor)

You can choose how often you donate and how much - it's totally up to you.

The family recently celebrated when Phoebe's mum and dad got married and look forward to the future.

→ To meet Phoebe's family visit rainbowtrust.org.uk/meet-phoebe

Whatever it takes

Our Family Support Workers share some poignant memories

→ “Taking six-year old Reece and his family to Southend so he could see the sea for the first time, before he had both of his eyes removed due to cancer. His mum wanted him to see as much as possible before he lost his sight.”
Angie, West London team

→ “I was supporting four-year old Mia and her foster parents at the end of her life. I had jewellery with Mia's fingerprints made for her parents and her younger brother. When he was later adopted, I asked his adoptive parents to keep it safe until he was older, so that he'd have something to remember his sister by.”
Shelly, North East team

→ “I arranged a honeymoon in the Lake District. The couple was supposed to marry last year but their daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumour and had to have treatment. I also went along mid-week so I could look after the kids, so the newlyweds could have a surprise spa day, just the two of them.”
Marlene, North West team

PARENT TO PARENT SUPPORT

For six years, Rainbow Trust has supported Amberley's family. Amberley, a mum from Southampton, is now one of Rainbow Trust's befrienders to other parents of sick children.

“I wanted to help other parents feel normal. When your child is diagnosed with a life threatening or terminal illness, you go through so many different thoughts and emotions that are hard to understand.”



“People say to you, they can imagine what you are going through, but they can't. They have no idea - but I do.” says Amberley.

Families often feel alone and isolated as friends and family don't understand the reality of their lives. That isolation can be devastating for families, so having another parent to speak to who truly does understand, can be invaluable.

If you are interested in volunteering alongside our Family Support Workers, email volunteering@rainbowtrust.org.uk

YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES

Here are some of the fantastic things that you've been doing to raise money to fund our expert Family Support Workers. A huge thank you to you all!



Star supporter and Managing Director of St James' Group, Dean Summers, spearheads their fundraising, is a regular challenge event participant and leads their pro-bono support.



Stamford Rainbows in Lincolnshire held two one-hour long silences in aid of Rainbow Trust. Children aged between five and seven years old took part, raising a wonderful £592.

Photo: Lee Helliwig



Linda Newberry, a Rainbow Trust Ambassador and mother from Essex, shared her story to mark Volunteers' Week in June earlier this year. Linda is helping raise awareness of the charity 24 years after Rainbow Trust's support enabled her son, Kevin, to die at home so her family could be together.



Swindon teenager, Ash Cleverly (left) fulfilled her promise to her best friend Erika (right), who died of a rare heart and lung condition, when she jumped 10,000ft from a plane raising £1,675 for Rainbow Trust. Rainbow Trust supported Erika throughout her illness and continues to support her family.

Want to get involved?

Visit our website rainbowtrust.org.uk for a fantastic range of fundraising activities and events all year round.

We'd love to hear from you!

HOW YOUR DONATION HELPS FAMILIES



£1

for every £1 we raise, two thirds is spent directly on family support

£23

pays for an hour of support - enough time to entertain a seriously ill child so that their mum and dad can have some respite

£44

pays for a memory box for a family to capture memories of treasured times

2,379

families supported by our expert Family Support Workers across the country last year!

£3,500

pays for a month of support from a Family Support Worker who may be supporting up to 25 families at any one time



THANK YOU!

Without you, our Family Support Workers would not be there for families when it matters most...

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS



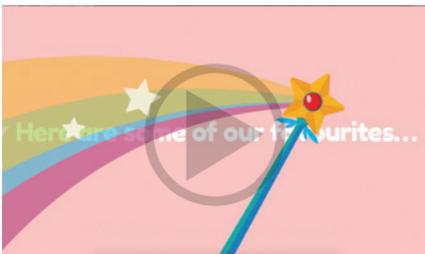
Patrick (right) was four years old when he was diagnosed

with leukaemia last year. Janet, a Family Support Worker from our Surrey team, has supported him and his family ever since. She takes him and Zola, his mum, to hospital appointments and she recently took Patrick and his brothers, Samuel (7) and Gideon (9), to Chessington World of Adventures for a fun day out.



Grace, from Newcastle was 18 months old when she was diagnosed

with a brain tumour. She underwent years of chemotherapy and Leanne, her Family Support Worker, supported the family throughout her treatment. Leanne spent time with Grace's parents, Fiona and Darren, talking to them and helping them manage their situation. "The best thing to come out of Grace's cancer was Leanne" said Darren.



What would you wish for if you had a magic wand? We asked some of the children we support and you can see some of our favourites - including the wish to turn their doctor into a frog!

rainbowtrust.org/magic-wand

Rainbow Trust pairs families with an expert Family Support Worker who offers tailored support to the whole family.



How you can help

To help more families like these, please donate today at: rainbowtrust.org.uk/donate



Spread the word! When you have finished reading this magazine please share it with your family and friends.

