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NEWSLETTER

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OVER £100,000 NOW DONATED!

We are so proud to announce that **over £100,000** has now been donated to those in need!! Quite an achievement over the past five years – in Louis's name and thanks only to all the remarkable people who have helped, supported, donated, raised funds in a variety of ways, shown friendship, interest, care and compassion. The Louis Ross Foundation remains active and caring and long may this last! Thank you all! Mere snapshots shown here – if only we could share all of the activity with you.



FROM THE ROSS FAMILY

It is now six years since we lost Louis – impossible to believe. The loss never diminishes, of course, and we think of him with love every minute of every day. His own loss most poignant.

Our gratitude for the success of, and interest in, Louis's Foundation probably increases as each year goes by. To know that Louis life is not forgotten is, of course, our greatest wish and we are incredibly grateful that his Foundation remains 'Evergreen' and is able to continue helping young people with difficult lives. We thank everyone who has contributed to its success and for your continuing support and compassion.



DONATIONS MAY 20 – DECEMBER 21 FUNDS TALLING £24,437!

This edition of the Newsletter is apologetically long overdue, following the very unusual period in everyone's lives. During the lockdowns, fundraising was very limited, of course, but we were glad to be able to continue responding to applications made to Louis's Foundation.

A REQUEST FROM SOCIAL SERVICES – MAY 2020



£349 was granted to assist a family who needed help to purchase an iPad for their nine year old child with Special Needs. The request from Social Services explained that the iPad would help to alleviate the difficulties caused by the problematic behaviour of one sibling towards the other, since the family shared just one mobile phone between them.



CHARLOTTE'S KITCHEN PROJECT – SEPTEMBER 2020

We were pleased to donate £2,300 towards Charlotte's kitchen project. Charlotte has had a very difficult time since being diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour in 2017, aged 14. Her family had to watch her endure invasive brain surgery, six weeks of radiotherapy and nine months of chemotherapy. Throughout the ordeal, she remained determined and courageous and is now focused on her rehabilitation. Charlotte's tumour has left her with many difficulties which include poor mobility and not being able to walk unaided. The family kitchen needed major adaptations to allow Charlotte to access with her walker. Our donation was to cover the cost of new flooring and we received this lovely message from Charlotte's mum Sarah:

"We are so incredibly grateful to The Louis Ross Foundation for your generous donation. For Charlotte it will mean the difference between struggling to move across carpets and over carpet runners, to having the freedom, security and safety; moving on one level smooth surface. You really have helped a

'young person facing difficulty'.

Thank you for showing us, as a family, such compassion and kindness."



WEST HOWE'S FERNHEATH PLAY – OCTOBER 2020

£2,500 was given as a second donation to Fernheath Play in West Howe. This play centre and after-school club ensures that vulnerable children and those with

Special Needs are cared for during out of school hours. Our funding paid for an experienced member of staff. Seen above is Paddy Williamson, Founder and Director of this registered charity, receiving the cheque.

MOSAIC COUNSELLING – OCTOBER 2020



3 Broomfield, Colne Lane, Millburn St Andrew, Bradford,
West Yorkshire, LS11 9EG
Tel: 01274 837071 Email: info@mosaic-counselling.org
www.mosaic-counselling.org

The Louis Ross Foundation
Ashby Wood House
Tarncliffe, Keighley
West Yorkshire
LS11 9EG

20th October 2020

Dear Louis Ross Foundation,

Thank you very much for your donation of £350 to Mosaic – Supporting Bereaved Children.

This money will be used to support a young person in the Bradford area who is in need of bereavement counselling following the death of someone very special to them.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Lane
Finance Officer



Partnership for the Greater Bradford
Business Centre, Colne Lane, Millburn St Andrew,
16 Walks of Bradford, West Yorkshire, LS11 9EG
Tel: 01274 837071 Email: info@mosaic-counselling.org
Registered Charity No. 1078136

Also in October, we were able to offer support to a bereaved youngster from Shaftesbury School by funding the special counselling offered by Mosaic, at a cost of £350.



HOME-SCHOOLING CHROME BOOK – NOVEMBER 2020

A local teenager struggling with ME was much in need of a Chromebook for use in home-schooling. Unfortunately, this was out of reach financially by her family. We were glad to donate the required £300 for the Chromebook and received this message from her mum Mrs. B:

"We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at The Louis Ross Foundation.

I contacted them as our daughter is very poorly with ME and had dropped out of education completely. I asked if they would be able to help us out with funds for a laptop so that she could do her learning online. We were hoping for her to have a home tutor but Covid had other ideas! She is now managing 90 minutes at a local learning centre four times a week which is a huge step. We know that she will have bad days and will need to use a laptop to work from home and this will help her so much.

We really can't thank you enough for your kindness and help with a very difficult situation."



ELIZABETH FOUNDATION – NOVEMBER 2020

Also in November, we were pleased to make a second donation to the Elizabeth Foundation near Portsmouth – an amazing charitable organisation offering educational support to deaf babies and young children and their families. Our £2,000 was given specifically to help preschool Constantin, seen above in the photo.

Karen Vaughn, BEM, Deputy CEO, wrote to thank Louis's Foundation and left us in no doubt that Constantin deserved our help:

"This much needed grant will directly support the education and welfare of a very special little boy, Constantin, within our specialist preschool services, allowing us to ensure that he has the one to one teaching support that he needs to attend classes safely and learn alongside his friends.

Constantin is profoundly deaf and although he now has access to sound through his cochlear implants, he needs intensive support to understand sound and vitally to develop his spoken language skills and social skills. Constantin is not yet diagnosed with other specific conditions but displays difficulties interacting with his classmates and displaying emotion. He will continue to struggle but through your support and willingness to understand his needs, his life will improve. He will be able to enjoy learning and making friends, benefitting from the expert support that we can offer him and his family here at the Elizabeth Foundation."

How wonderful that we have been able to offer a helping hand in improving Constantin's life.

FAITHWORKS WESSEX – DECEMBER 2020

At this time of year, Louis's Foundation usually makes a donation to Sleepsafe – having donated £5,000 in each of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The money assists Sleepsafe in offering support to rough sleepers in Bournemouth. Last year, restrictions did not allow Sleepsafe to function as before, offering overnight accommodation. Instead, Faithworks Wessex ran a Staysafe programme, offering daytime support to the homeless people currently in emergency accommodation. We donated £3,000 to this project which gave 20 weeks support to those in need – including internet access, use of laptops, training, 'Ready to Move' sessions, bus passes, friendship and much more. Seen in the photo above, David Chadwick from Faithworks Wessex received the cheque on site at Staysafe in a Southbourne church.



OLLIE FOUNDATION – JANUARY 2021

Our new year began with a donation of £1,455 to the OLLIE Foundation (One Life Lost Is Enough) to assist with university training programmes for suicide prevention amongst young people. The OLLIE Foundation wrote these words to us:

"We are the OLLIE Foundation; a suicide prevention charity set up by three parents after the loss of three young men to suicide. We work to create an environment where no young person ever feels that suicide is their only option and we do this by delivering accredited suicide training, offering mental health support to groups and holistic well-being support in the form of creative workshops. We receive no statutory funding and so rely on donations and fundraising to offer our delivery free at point of use to all young people, parents and teachers.

The money donated by the Louis Ross Foundation means we are able to offer suicide prevention training to young people at universities in Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire free of charge. They will learn about how to support themselves and their friends when they're finding things tough to make sure they can keep safe during moments of overwhelm. We are so grateful to the Louis Ross Foundation and want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved.

One life lost is enough."



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STABLE HOME FAMILY TRUST – JANUARY 2021

Also in January, we were pleased to donate £1,079 to the Stable Family Home Trust (SFHT); a charitable organisation which offers wide-ranging support services to individuals with learning disabilities across Dorset and Hampshire.

The funding was requested to improve the lives of five young men who live together in supported-living in Bournemouth and has been used to buy specific sensory items including an inflatable hot tub with LED lights and relaxer bean bags. The creation of a sensory environment will help their social-emotional development and offer a calming and soothing environment.

We received the lovely photos below showing some of the equipment purchased.



VICTORIA SCHOOL LIVABILITY – MAY 2021

A donation of £2,000 was made to Victoria School Livability in Poole, to help fund an Urban Arts Festival. Victoria School is a non-maintained special school, serving students aged from 3–19, who have special educational needs. The students are from Dorset and Hampshire. The Urban Arts Festival offered the students the opportunity to work with external practitioners in dance, music and sport – all of great benefit. This is our second donation to his wonderful school where pupils thrive!



CHALLENGERS – AUGUST 2021



We were pleased to make our second donation of £1,250 to Challengers – a charitable organisation providing inclusive play and leisure activities for disabled children and young people, helping them to enjoy fun activities and make friends.

Joanna McCaffrey from Challengers sent us these lovely photos and this message of thanks:

"We are extremely grateful to The Louis Ross Foundation for their generous donation of £1,250, which will enable a lonely disabled young person seven days of play! It will put a smile on their face and make a real difference to them and their family."



Also in August, we paid £700 to Mosaic to provide bereavement counselling for two siblings from Shaftesbury school. The request came from their school following the tragic loss of their mum.

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TAILOR-MADE TRICYCLE – NOVEMBER 2021

How amazing to be able to help eight year old Callum who has Downs Syndrome and attends Yewstock School. What a lovely little chap! Callum needs a specialised, tailor-made tricycle; the cost of which would require fundraising by his family. We are delighted to have presented Callum's family with the £994 to buy the perfect tricycle for him. Cheque presented here to Callum with his mum Claire. We look forward to future photos of the tricycle in action!



GARDEN MAKEOVER – NOVEMBER 2021

Our second November donation of £3,000 has really helped not only this young person facing difficulties but also his family; single mum Lucy and his younger brother. Lucy made an application to us requesting help with the desperately-needed garden makeover. Her 12 year old son, Harry, seen here at Beaucroft School, has a diagnosis of autism, global development delay, severe learning difficulties and complexities and is non-verbal. He also has PICA which causes him to mouth everything, including grass, flowers, soil and stones. Harry therefore needs constant one to one supervision whilst in the garden and it would make a huge difference to have a garden that is in fact a safe area with artificial turf and paving. 'Before and after' photos show the real difference our donation has made. Lucy sent us this message:



"I just want to say a massive thank you to all involved at The Louis Ross Foundation for providing me with the funding to make Harry's garden a safe place to play, enjoy and relax. It is now free of all grass, plants, dirt and stones so Harry cannot mouth everything in sight due to sensory needs and PICA and not run dirt through the house!! Having the blank canvas means that I can eventually add a sensory garden to an area where Harry can safely play and be left to play without 24/7 supervision, knowing there is nothing dangerous for him to mouth and eat. Harry has a younger brother and I know it is going to be a fabulous place in the summer to play and relax for all.

*A life-changing gift.
Thank you so so much."*



As is our custom at this time of year, for the sixth winter in succession, we have made a donation to Faithworks Wessex's work with rough sleepers who need support to improve their lives. For four years, since 2016, our donation was to Sleepsafe but Covid and its restrictions meant that, as mentioned last year, the project had to change slightly and became Staysafe to avoid providing overnight accommodation. As last year, the project is Staysafe again and we have donated £3,000 plus a £60 donation for toiletries.

Staysafe is held in a Southbourne Church and offers purpose, activity and friendship to those in emergency or temporary accommodation or those who have been homeless. Our cheque was warmly received and the guests spoke to the life-changing nature of Staysafe. Seen on the right of the photo below is David Chidwick, whose passion drives this Faithworks Wessex project. Also pictured are support workers and guests.



Amazingly, thanks to the generosity and compassion shown by the Furber family, our donation has been doubled and we feel very blessed to have handed-over a total of £6,000.

THANK YOU...
to all our **supporters** for making these donations from **Louis's Foundation** possible! Here's to the next round of **Donations!**

FUNDRAISING

SINCE MAY 2020

Two periods of Lockdown plus periods of restrictions meant that fundraising opportunities were, of course, limited during 2020 and 2021. Nevertheless, we have plenty of amazing fundraising news to share and are both overwhelmed and grateful for the efforts made and the support shown! The energy, compassion, initiative and empathy wrapped-up in all of this is so incredibly touching since it genuinely allows differences to be made to those with difficult lives – and all in Louis's name.

JULY '20

SHEILA MARY BLACK

It was an enormous surprise when we were contacted by MJP Law of Wimborne to inform us that a lady named Sheila Mary Black (unknown to us) had passed away and that we were to receive the very large sum of £9,758 from her estate. It seems that we were chosen as one of several local charities to benefit in this way and we were of course very grateful and very touched but saddened that we could not say thank you.

AUGUST '20

CREAM TEA AFTERNOON

We were thrilled that our Cream Tea Afternoon was so well supported and blessed with the weather to make it a success. Huge thanks must go to all those who attended, supported, donated and helped – a special note of thanks to Alex, our car park attendant, who managed, somehow, to accommodate 51 cars! The grand total raised was £1250!



NOVEMBER '20

MOVEMBER

We are so grateful to Louis's lovely friend Toby Stalker, who along with his Exeter Uni housemates, entered into Movember to raise money for Louis's Foundation with the request that this should be channelled towards assisting young people's mental health/suicide prevention. From this we discovered the OLLIE Foundation, as detailed in our donation section.

Toby's fundraising page remembered his friendship with Louis which is incredibly touching. The seven young men grew taches, busked and bravely dipped in the November sea to launch their fundraiser! Thank you all for raising £1,250.



FEBRUARY '21

STURMINSTER MARSHALL CO-OP

Huge thanks to the colleagues at Sturminster Marshall Co-Op Store. We received £250 from their community fund and we're so grateful that they had unanimously voted to choose Louis's Foundation as recipient. Lianne Pettifor, Manager, handed over the cheque and said "a great choice and a great cause".



MAY '21

JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END

We were incredibly touched when ex-Canfordian, Ollie Leat, chose Louis's Foundation to receive funds raised by the mammoth challenge he undertook with his dad, Neil.



Ollie and Neil cycled from John O'Groats down to Land's End, the JOGLE route. Ollie's fundraising page grew and grew and we are incredibly grateful for the £3,506 raised! Thanks must also go, of course, to Ollie's supporters for their generosity. Ollie learned about The Louis Ross Foundation whilst a pupil at Canford School

and it is lovely to know that our mission statement and the deserving causes helped, struck a chord – a very sizeable chord clearly, when the efforts involved in the challenge are considered!

Thank you Ollie & Neil!

JULY '21

THE LOUIS ROSS FESTIVAL

The Louis Ross Festival! What an event!

Enormous thanks to Max Tipping, Louis's great friend from pre-school days, for his gem of an idea and then working so hard to make it a realisation. Over 400 people enjoyed two days of music, fun and friendship in the wonderful Moonacre Partyfield setting. An amazing reunion for so many groups of friends and Max made sure Louis was not forgotten. A big vote of thanks to all those special friends and helpers who used their many talents to assist, to the DJs for their time and their music and to everyone for supporting this event and gathering together to remember Louis with fun and friendship. The profits amounted to a massive £15,000! To Max, we must say – you have done Louis proud in every way possible.

There is a rumour that this event may be repeated in 2022.....!



2021's festival was captured on film by E and J Videography. The brilliant 'Official Aftermovie' can be found on our Facebook page, tune-in to enjoy the essence of the festival. Many thanks to E and J Videography for this amazing piece of work.

WIMBORNE HOUSE

Also in July, we were so grateful to receive £1,318.75 raised by Wimborne House at Canford school. Many thanks to the Wimborne House community led by Mr Pearce, for remembering and continuing to recognise Louis's Foundation.

AUGUST '21

TARRANT LADIES GROUP

The Tarrant Ladies Group decided they unfortunately must close their formal group and very kindly donated £250 of monies remaining in their funds, to Louis's Foundation. We were surprised and delighted to receive a visit from Pam Eaton of Tarrant Keyneston to deliver the cheque. Thank you all so much for this thoughtful donation.



SEPTEMBER '21

RIDE ACROSS BRITAIN



Louis's dad, John, took on an amazing 9-day challenge on September 4th – taking part in the Ride Across Britain, cycling from Land's End up to John O'Groats! 990 miles covered and 56,000 feet climbed! The weather and his saddle were not wholly kind, especially the latter, but in memory of Louis, he bravely pushed on and achieved his goal. Thanks to so many generous supporters, he raised just over £4,000 for the Foundation and made his family very proud with the tremendous effort involved. The preparation and training took great dedication: John took part in many different sports around England throughout the year. Well done John – what a fabulous achievement!



CHURCHILL GREEN FUNDRAISING DAY

We were pleased to accept an invitation to be a part of Sturminster Marshall's Churchill Green Fundraising day on September 18th. The event was well-attended and the sun shone – helping us to raise £230 with a Tombola stall. Thank you to Claire Forsey and School Society for the invitation.

ANCHOR AT SHAPWICK – QUIZ NIGHT



A big thanks to The Anchor at Shapwick for hosting a Quiz Night on September 30th and an equally big thank you to Mike Sandford for his brilliant quiz! It was a most enjoyable evening and we were grateful to all who attended for helping us raise £309.

POOLE NETBALL LEAGUE

Also in September, we were so grateful to receive £500 raised by Poole Netball League. Enormous thanks go to Lorraine Warrener, friend of the Foundation, for nominating Louis's Foundation.

Poole Netball League has been running for many years and at the start of each winter season, they hold a charity fundraising tournament. The £500 gifted to us was actually raised prior to the first Lockdown, over two evenings and by four

divisions. Many thanks to all the committee members, players and umpires!



OCTOBER '21

BOURNEMOUTH HALF-MARATHON

A very well done and huge thank you to Grace Ashman, a friend of Louis's, who ran the Bournemouth half-marathon in aid of Louis's Foundation, raising a brilliant £461.25! Grace initially intended to run the Reading half-marathon in 2020, but when this was cancelled, she kindly waited for an opportunity and rescheduled in Bournemouth. In Grace's words "I had a lovely day and it was great to finish knowing I have supported the Foundation and run it for Louis and all the amazing people you help. Thank you for letting me support."

Grace, it is us who must thank you, for remembering Louis through your efforts. Thank you also to all Grace's supporters.



DURING 2021

Two payments were gratefully received from PayPal Giving, totalling £376.19

Donations made by friends and supporters during the past 16 months to mark Louis's birthday or Christmas or 'just because' totalled a generous and heart-warming £1,915.

A heartfelt thank you to you all!

GIFT AID

Earlier this year, we were so grateful to have the assistance of Lawyer, Will Moore, during his Fellowship year. Will assisted us in claiming the charity Gift Aid due to us from the four years preceding the claim. Thanks must go to the generous supporters who had made previous donations and were then required to complete a Gift Aid form.

Thanks to Will's efforts and advice, we were successful in receiving a payment for £2,026.49 from HMRC. Going forward, anyone who previously completed the form will not be required to do so again and we now have the tailor-made form for any current or future donors. Thank you Will!

The Travelling T-shirt

It has been customary for our Newsletters to feature fabulous photos showing where the Foundation T-shirt has been on its travels. We always enjoy receiving these. However, of course, travel has been so restricted that sadly we have no travels to feature. Going forward, hopefully, travelling will once again be easy and accessible and we would then love, please, to see where you take it to! Unexotic locations just as welcome as the far-flung and exotic!!

LOUIS ROSS MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

T-shirts, Hoodies, Beanies, Sweatshirts, Baseball Caps & Jute Shopping Bags

As well as the T-shirts in white or black, the beanies in grey or black and the grey hoodies, we now have newer items in our merchandise range – black baseball caps, light grey sweatshirts and jute shopping bags. Please see the photographs for details. Email direct to enquire or order: penny@louisross.org



T'SHIRT - £10



T'SHIRT - £10



HOODIE - £22.50



BASEBALL CAP - £5



HOODIE - £22.50



SWEATSHIRT - £14



BEANIE - £5



JUTE BAG - £8

KEEPING IN TOUCH OR BEING A PART OF WHAT WE STRIVE TO DO

If you'd like to be kept in touch with the activities of Louis's Foundation or help with making a difference in his memory, please make sure we have your email address and you'll receive our Newsletters and news of events etc.. If you have an idea for a fundraiser or time to help with one, we'd love to hear from you of course!

Applications from those in need who are experiencing difficulty are always most welcome for consideration by our Trustees.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and let us know about your lives too! Thank you!!

