

Katie

McKerracher Trust

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2015

Welcome to the fourth newsletter from the Katie McKerracher Trust. We are pleased to say that we continue to be busy raising and granting money.

Helping children with a DIPG*

The Trust was able to help 15 new DIPG patients in the 12 months to April 2015, and provide top-up grants to a further 8 patients (compared to 14 new patients and 11 top-up grants in the previous year). This means we are close to helping 50% of the children affected each year.

We have continued the dialogue with CLIC Sargent Social Workers on a case-by-case basis to decide the best way to help patients and their families. The list below outlines how the financial support was used,

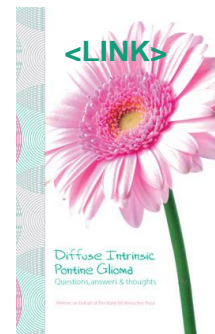
- Items for the home - chair, pillow, baby listener, clothing & juicer
- Toys - iPad, Nintendo DS, gifts for siblings & music decks
- Holidays - days out, birthday treats, special holiday, passport fees & spending money
- Funeral expenses and headstone
- Household expenses - heating oil, flooring, paint, contribution to sofa, washing machine, wallpaper & access to house
- Travel costs & living expenses

We have also been able to fulfil our aim to help dancers from the Borders go on to study dance in Higher Education. In October last year we supported a girl from Jedburgh, and this year we are delighted to help a girl from Earlston.

Awareness

We received a number of comments from families, that recognise the work the Trust does and re-affirm how important the information booklet is, for example:-

"I have just spoken with Dad - they are so very thankful for the support you are giving them. They went to meet Santa yesterday and their daughter told him that she wanted an iPad, her parents are so pleased that this wish can come true."



Social Worker

"Katie's book has been such a good thing for me to have, I still read it over and over again ... It really is the most awful dread."

A Mum

Fundraising

The Trust has continued to receive fantastic support from all sections of the community, including the following events,



- Join Us In June - a series of small events across a variety of venues
- Cammie's cycle from Glasgow to Edinburgh
- Belfast Half Marathon
- Rosemary and Joe's Parachute Jump
- Perth Social Work Quiz Night



- Stormontfield Lunch/Harmonies in Wood
- Ben Nevis Climb
- Knowepark Sponsored Walk

***DIPG is a Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma – incurable tumour in the brain stem**

The Katie McKerracher Trust is a membership organisation limited by guarantee.

Registered Address: Cherrydene, Ettrickbridge, Selkirk TD7 5JL

Company Registration No: SC361381 : OSCR Registration No: SC040653 : Gift Aid Registration No: CR61890

- Selkirk High School's Charity Committee
- Selkirk Rotary Club
- Lynn's Coffee and Craft Day
- Etape Caledonia

We wanted to make special mention of two recent events that have made a massive difference to the Trust bank balance.

Bisley at Braidwood hosted a charity shoot on the 11th of July and raised an amazing £6,300 from the shoot, raffle and auction. Mandy, Mark and Liz put a huge amount of work into making the day such a success.



A big thank you to Bisley for hosting the event and all the 'guns' who competed for the specially carved wooden trophy.

And last but by no means least!

One of the Trust's members, Kenny Houston, following the all-clear from bowel cancer, organised an ambitious black tie dinner and auction in Selkirk's Victoria Hall at the end of last month.

The event, attended by 260 friends and guests, proved an outstanding success, raising £10,100 each for Katie's Trust and the Border Cancer Centre.

"Without the involvement and support of a huge number of people and local companies, the dinner would never have got off the ground," said Kenny. "The main sponsor was Kevin Crawford Events, and I will forever be in

Kevin's debt for his generosity and commitment to the event." Kevin also provided the musical entertainment for the evening as his band, The Strangers, made their final public appearance.



Comper for the evening was TV, radio and panto star Grant Stott – a former police colleague of Kenny's in Jedburgh – while also topping the bill was one of Scotland's best comedy actors Andy Gray. Entertainment was also provided by up-and-coming singer Gus Harrower and Selkirk's own multi-talented artiste John Nichol.

At the end of the auction, Kenny was able to announce that the dinner had managed to raise £17,500, and within minutes he had been approached by a local businessman who pledged to round the total up to £20,000.



Kenny presents cheques for to Ann, and to Judith Smith and Vikki Gray at the BGH's Border Cancer Centre.

We are really pleased that Katie can continue to help others and once again we would like to thank all of you for your continued support.

Ann, Andrew, David and Dianne

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