



@Giddo'sGift

giddosgift@gmail.com

www.giddosgift.com

Registered Charity No. 1177285

Improving the lives of teenagers and young adults suffering from cancer by providing gifts, financial support and bereavement grants.

Also raising vital funds for research into childhood cancer whilst raising awareness.



NEWSLETTER No.5 MARCH 2024

Looking back over the last year : Feb 2023 - Feb 2024

We started last year with a THANK YOU EVENING in Feb 2023. We wanted an evening to bring everyone together and thank them for the unwavering support of the last 6 years. We certainly could not continue the charity without such fantastic support from the local community so a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

Over 150 fundraisers and supporters of Giddos Gift came along to a night of food, drink, and awards which was held at the lovely venue Mountain Park, Flint. The night was finished off by our Young Ambassador Tom Collins singing.

It was an emotional night showing a video of how far the charity has come over the last 6 years but also a very proud evening for us all!!

We decided to do it along with some awards. This is something we intend to do every 2 years.

The Awards went to:

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER - for raising the most in our Charity Pots - Tesco Flint.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER for individual continued support - Kirsty Mills and The Dee, Flint.

UNIQUE TEAM CHALLENGE AWARD
4 x 4s Ryan Coney, Charlie and Joe and Box for Giddo.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT - Chris Rowe - 30 days walking up Moel Famau.

STAR AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING - James RMDY.

BLUE HEART AWARD for outstanding contribution - Ann Claire Jones.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
- Inspirational Team NBI.

OUR WORK THROUGHOUT 2023

We awarded £2,500 in cost-of-living grants and £7,500 bereavement grants during the year. During 2023 Giddo's Gift made 3 donations to aid research: £5,000 to Sarcoma UK, £3,000 to Bone Cancer Research Trust and £2,000 to Histiocytosis UK. In total £50,000 has been awarded to research since 2018.

GRANTS AND WISHES 2023

We awarded grants, gifts and wishes to 36 individuals totalling £10,578 during the year. These included:

- Samsung Galaxy Earbuds and JD voucher for a 14 year old boy with Testicular Cancer.
- Money towards a new bike for an 18 year old with Sarcoma for him to try and build his muscles up after months of treatment.
- Trainers and a JD voucher for a 22 year old with Liver Cancer.
- Money towards driving lessons for a 24 year old with Lung Cancer.
- An Apple Watch for a 14 year old girl with Leukaemia.
- Wireless Headphones for a 23 year old with ALL.
- Nintendo Switch to help a 15 year with Hodgkin's Lymphoma pass the hours whilst in hospital.
- Keyboard and mouse for a 14 year old boy who had relapsed from ALL.
- Ps5 for a 14 year old boy who has Leukaemia.

We also provided financial grants towards new clothes, treats and days out. Many iPads were also gifted to those on treatment during the year.

BEREAVEMENT GRANTS

Unfortunately, again during 2023 8 local families lost a child to cancer and asked for our support towards funeral costs. This totalled £7,500. Those young people who lost their lives far too soon from cancer included an 18 year old girl with pancreatic cancer, 23 year old with breast cancer, 13 year old with a brain tumour, 22 year old with lymphoma, and a 14 year-old with a brain tumour. All the families were also sent a memory box, book, candle, forget me not seeds, writing journal along with our support information.

GIDDOS GAFF 2023



Our first full season offering free breaks to bereaved families along with children and young people, of any age with a cancer diagnosis. Over 30 families stayed in Giddos Gaff making memories.

We were lucky to secure funding from M&S Bank to pay for a patio area, garden furniture and a garden with plants alongside the caravan. This was completed early in the year for the families to enjoy.

Toyota awarded us £3,000 to be used towards caravan costs and vouchers for the families we support.



We were lucky to be granted a National Lottery Grant again which paid for ground fees and utilities for 'Giddos Gaff' Caravan.

SEPTEMBER 2023 GO GOLD FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

2023 saw us honour over 100 beautiful angels with our awareness campaign. We placed heartfelt messages and photos outside the big church in Flint and along the suspension bridge in Chester. Each year there are more and more children and young people taken from their families by Childhood Cancer.

We now have 11 Gold Bikes and 3 Gold scooters. Each of these are dedicated to an angel taken far too soon by such a brutal disease. They signify lost childhoods. We decided not to leave Gold Bikes in Chester as Mattys Gold bike was stolen last year and never found.



During 2023 we were awarded £2,500 from Flint and District Lions Club. We had seen a sharp rise in applications for financial grants towards cost of living and travel to hospital appointments. We were thrilled to have received this money and decided to offer the young people we support financial cost of living grants of £250 per application.

We were inundated within the first 24 hours of our cost-of-living grants becoming available. During the year along with the help of the Golden Cape Wetherspoons in Holywell they provided goodies for Giddos Goodie boxes, pyjamas and gifts for the Christmas bags.

Their continued support is invaluable.



GIDDOS GOODIE BOXES AND EASTER EGG APPEAL

In 2023 all goodie boxes were filled up as needed. We also introduced our box to the Countess of Chester Hospital. These boxes are available 24/7 for all children, young people and their families to enjoy a treat as needed. Craft packs have also been provided and 70 Christmas Gift bags which included pyjamas, toiletries, chocolates, games and socks. A huge thank you to everyone who has made this possible throughout the year.

We were overwhelmed with donations and support for The Christmas Appeal. M&S Bank also sent volunteers to help make up the Christmas gift bags.

James CEO of the clothing company RMDY once again offered fantastic support and went along with our Ambassador Ieuan to Alder Hey and Clatterbridge to deliver the Christmas gift bags. He also donated RMDY hoodies, hats, and socks... the young people were thrilled with their gifts! 2023 saw our biggest ever donation of Easter Eggs - over 1200!! They were then delivered to all the hospitals we support along with local children's hospices.

Fundraising Activities 2023

FEB CHALLENGE 100km raised £603.95

At the start of any new year, we always like to organise a virtual challenge for people to get involved in, they always prove popular.

RACE NIGHT

Our Race Night was a night of brilliant fun and laughter, held in the Royal British Legion Flint. Less well attended than last year however we still raised an amazing amount of **£1457!**

BONUS BALL

2023 saw the start of our weekly bonus ball. £2.50 per week for a number. The winning number is the lottery bonus ball on a Saturday night. There are 59 numbers with all but 6 currently taken. The winner gets £70 each week. If anyone would like to have a number, please get in touch!

ROCK FOR GIDDO

Rock for Giddo has been a consistent event over the years since the charity was established, gathering local musicians from the community, and putting on a fantastic live show at The Legion in Flint. The staff and the venue have always been supportive of the charity, where we have hosted several events. This year, RFG raised over **£800** despite the date clashing with other events in September. However we were proud of what we managed to raise. We put on a raffle and some fundraising games during the interval of the evening, seeing us boost our grand total which also broke up the entertainment nicely. The acts were magnificent as always, with a fantastic variety of talent which was brought together by our ambassador, Tom Collins. We all had a fantastic time at The Legion and are grateful for your continuous support!

TOUGH MUDDER

The charity paid for Tough Mudder places which took place in Sept. Jordans best friends had a team of 10. We also had 3 other people undertake the challenge for the charity and an amazing amount of **£4,477.00** was raised. Everyone said it was really good fun. 4 people unfortunately had to pull out so we have transferred the places to Oct 2024 - if you would like a place please get in touch!



GO BLUE FOR JORD

As we do every year, we went Blue for Jord near his birthday!! Each year on Jordans birthday weekend we invite schools, businesses, and individuals to Go Blue pay £1 and send us a selfie. We are always so grateful for everyone's enthusiasm and makes a difficult time a little easier knowing everyone is wishing Jordan a happy heavenly birthday and supporting his charity. **£945.44** was raised this year!

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In a thrilling 5-side football tournament, nine teams, over 70 players passionately came together, raising a remarkable **£595.02** to support Giddo's Gift. The success of this event is a testament to the incredible community spirit and collective commitment to making a difference. A heartfelt thank you to all participants and supporters for honouring Giddo's love of football and contributing to a cause that truly matters, we look forward to more amazing sporting events.

CAR BOOT SALE

Our first ever car boot sale was well received. We held it on the large car park at the back of our offices. Not as many stallholders attended as we would have liked but footfall was steady and lots of positive comments asking for it to be a regular event. **£293.52** was raised.

BOWLING

Aura gave us all the bowling lanes to use on an evening. It was great fun with many people coming along and donating to the charity. They have agreed we can do this fundraising event again in 2024.

CHARITY TUBS

The charity tubs are an excellent way to generate vital funds. We have numerous tubs out and about in local businesses. Over the years we have received over £13,000 in the tubs. Some Businesses' who have raised fantastic amounts this year are - Relish Café Anglesey **£347.55**. Coleg Cambria **£294.49**, Tesco Flint **£184.37**.

JAMAICAN NIGHT

A new event for us in 'Up A Yard' in Holywell. The venue, although small, was ideal with fantastic food, music, and atmosphere. The tickets sold out before we had chance to put them for sale on our webpage! Everyone agreed this should be a regular event.



CRAFT FARE

Once again, our craft fare was very well attended. Lots of stalls came along selling their crafts and footfall was very busy. We had St Marys School Choir singing carols which was lovely and even Santa in a grotto. All ambassadors and trustees attended and helped run the event efficiently. Our tea, coffee and cake stall was very busy. Everyone agreed it was a lovely festive event raising **£711.56**. We also sold hundreds of tickets for our Christmas Raffle at the Craft fair, totalling **£1342.00**. People are always so generous of our raffles.



CANCELLED EVENTS

We planned an afternoon tea during the year but unfortunately, we had to cancel due to lack of ticket sales. Previously all our events have been so well attended with tickets sales of events selling out quickly. This year we found challenges and appeals tended to have more interest rather than fundraising events. We will keep this in mind for 2024.

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Many local Businesses took us on as Charity of the Year. We are so grateful for their support. If any business would like to support Giddos Gift during 2024 please get in touch.

Throughout the year we had fantastic support and donations from:

- Gwynedd Primary School
- What's Cooking
- Parker Hannifin
- The Rise in Buckley

• Northop Golf Club
Captain John Smith took us on as his charity of the year again and raised an amazing amount for the Charity Over **£8,000** during his time as captain of the Golf Club.



- Flint High School
- Holywell Golf Club
- Fervid Gym
- AI Motorcycles
- St Johns Church Flint

• The Original Factory Shop Flint also took us on as charity of the year again and continued their fundraising for the Charity.

- Flint Town Ladies Football
- Flint Mayors Office
- Flint and District Lions

All of these arranged their own fundraising activities and donated the funds to the Charity.

Rob Roberts MP for Delyn took us on as his charity of the year. Rob has been invaluable support for the Charity, not only debating Childhood Cancer Outcomes and telling Jordans story in Parliament but supporting us throughout 2023. He not only held a dinner at his Masonic Lodge in London but also put on a fantastic Gala Dinner locally where over 60 people attended for a great night of entertainment, raising over **£8,000** for the Charity.



As well as our fundraising events year on year we are overwhelmed by how many people help the charity and take on their own personal challenges or fundraised for us.

Here are some of the challenges:



• **Clare Williams** overcome her fear and challenged herself to open water swimming and swam the Great North Swim in June and raised an amazing amount over **£1,300**.

• **Andre Schoneveld** ran Chester Half Marathon and raised an amazing **£512**.

• **Hannah and Jamie** took on the Ring o Fire Fire-lighter Challenge raising over **£2,500**.

• A unique challenge was undertaken by **James Hughes** - 58 days sober with 28 days going in an ice bath each day raising over **£2,500**.

• **Lee Williams** walked 150 miles raising almost **£600**.

• **Daniel Rhys Roberts** took on the Chester Marathon also raised an amazing amount.

• **Anna Filipe** (Haircut for Princes Trust) **£243.00**.

All the fundraising events, personal challenges, individual fundraisers, donations, and unwavering support made 2023 the best year to date for Giddos Gift. We had an amazing donation at the end of the year which was due to people who support the charity talking highly about the work we do to others which is amazing.

You all helped us raise a totally fantastic £104,235.