Giddo's Gift

@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.3 MARCH 2022

2021 was again a challenging and difficult year for so many but especially young people diagnosed with cancer or battling through treatments.

To be given a cancer diagnosis is devasting but not to have your family with you whilst having treatment is unthinkable! We have completed 50 applications for financial grants, wishes and gifts this year, the highest they had been since we started the charity in 2017.

Some of the wishes include:

- 21-year-old diagnosed with Thymus Seminoma who wanted something to look after and focus on. We provided a financial grant for a tortoise and housing etc.
- 14-year-old diagnosed with High Grade Glioma who requested private physio and speech therapy sessions to help improve self-esteem and self-confidence. We also sent her JD vouchers to treat herself to new trainers/clothes.
- Financial grant to a 19-year-old diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Lymphoma who wanted to book a special time away with friends and family, to help with his emotional well being and some thing to look forward to.
- A weekend break for a 24-year-old diagnosed with breast cancer. She requested a spa break with treatments to 'make her feel wonderful again'.
- Financial grant to a 25-year-old diagnosed with Skin Lymphoma. He needed a focus and wanted to set up a photo display of his work at a local art gallery.
- 24-year-old diagnosed with Chondrosarcoma. After surgery to remove his tibia, his goal was to be able to paddleboard. We purchased a paddle board to help him achieve this goal.
- 22-year-old diagnosed with Medulloblastoma wanted to treat her mum as she felt she suffered so much. We awarded a grant towards a shopping day and ladies who do lunch!
- A large goodie bag was put together for a 21year old diagnosed with Sarcoma. The goodies included pyjamas, a dressing gown and toiletries. We also gifted an iPad so she could keep in touch with her family whilst she was in hospital.

We also granted many laptops, iPads and Xboxes for young people undergoing treatment. Weekend breaks, vouchers and money for new clothes and football shirts were some of the other applications that were approved during the year. Unfortunately, we have also completed 8 bereavement grants to bereaved families seeking financial support. These grants also included our memory boxes for 8 local families faced with the unthinkable devastating loss of their precious child.

Grants and wishes totalled £17,826
Bereavement grants totalled £8,000

RESEARCH GRANTS

This year we have donated £6,000 to Research into Histiocytosis and Bone Cancer. In total since 2019 we have awarded over £30,000 to Research. More Research is needed into Childhood Cancer as it is so underfunded. We will continue to fund research on a yearly basis, so one day there will be a cure! We hope that in the future no child or young Person will suffer like Jordan did!

PUNCH TAVERN COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Our founder Mandy was thrilled to not only be nominated for this award but out of 1,000 nominees she won! She won £1,000 for the Charity as well as having a Craft Ale in the local pub named after Jordan - Giddos Ale!

We would like to thank everyone for being so committed to helping Jordans Legacy, without such fantastic support the Charity would not be sustainable.
We appreciate the good teamwork and combination of skills that enables Giddos Gift to grow year on year & develop as successfully as it has.

EVENTS OF 2021

Unfortunately, we knew Covid-19 was not going to go away in 2021, which made holding events difficult. However, as we were prepared for this, we did manage to do significantly more than the previous year.

Our first event of the year, in March, was the 4x4x48 running challenge which saw three lads; Ryan Coney, Joe Palmer and Charlie Bradford run 4 miles every 4 hours for 48 hours. A hugely successful event, raising over £4,000 for Giddo's Gift!

As April is the month that Jordan was taken from us and also the month of the London marathon, we decided to have our own virtual marathon as we have never managed to secure a place for the charity in the marathon. The event encouraged people to run, walk or cycle 26 miles in the month of April, with a £5 signing up fee. The total amount raised for this event was £2,544 - a fantastic effort by all!

With Euro 2020 having been postponed until June 2021, we saw this as an opportunity for people to have some fun and raise some money by organising a number of Euro sweepstakes. People bought a number and the teams were drawn out before the start of the competition. This sparked a lot of interest and, as a result, raised a good sum of money - a very well done to the winners.

The month of June is also of great significance as it is Jordan's birthday. Every year we hold an event called 'Go Blue for Jord' which sees local school's, shops and other businesses wearing blue and raising money for our charity. In 2021, 'Go Blue for Jord' raised a whopping £4,000! As well as this, we had our annual 'Memory Walk' in Anglesey which had a fantastic response from the locals.

RMDY a local clothing business released a limited edition 8 piece clothing range in memory of Jordan who loved their range. Each piece has a gold ribbon for childhood Cancer and a blue ribbon for Histiocytosis and Giddos Gift. The response to this collaboration was astounding and raised a huge amount. Jordan would be thrilled as were we!

A tough challenge for Tom Hill in July as he took on the 'Three Peaks Challenge' for Giddo's Gift. Tom's achievement saw a brilliant £666 raised for us. We thank Tom for his efforts in raising funds and awareness for us.

July saw an absolutely astonishing amount raised for Giddo's Gift by Natural Beauty International in the 2021 heats and international finals.

In August, we started an ongoing event in our first ever Giddo's Gift Fantasy Premier League. We have over 40 people in the league, some of which are on the other side of the country and have never been involved with Giddo's Gift before. It was great to see such generosity from participants, each paying £5 to enter. Keep an eye on our social media pages at the end of the season in May to see who the winner is!

Heading into the Autumn season, October was one of our busiest months of 2021, hosting four events! Our annual music event, Rock for Giddo, raised an incredible amount of over £1,700. Our ambassadors were pleased to see this go ahead after the virtual event in 2020. The popular 'Gin & Pyjama' night went ahead at Mountain Park raising nearly £800. It was great to see so many faces in the same room again.

One of our ambassadors, Ben Laughton, took on the Offa's Dyke Path with Elliott Chisholm and Sullivan Hough starting from Prestatyn and finishing at Llangollen. They managed to raise over £500 walking 45 miles. A massive well done to these boys.

To see off the month, Russ Gittins supported us by hosting his Captain's Charity Golf day at Holywell Golf Club raising over £900.

After an eventful year, we went into November with our annual Christmas Craft Fayre and Christmas Raffle for a luxury Hamper. Our local stall holders all came together at The Legion in Flint, as well as Santa Claus himself and a fantastic £1600.00 was raised. We were also massively honoured to be chosen to switch the town's Christmas lights on in Church Street, stamping a milestone in Giddo's Gift's legacy.

The achievements by everyone in 2021, despite the uncertainty regarding Covid-19, has been phenomenal. We thank everyone for their ongoing support and effort in ensuring we help those who need it most.

GO GOLD Childhood Cancer Awareness - Sept

2021 saw us honour over 150 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. Many bereaved families came along as we unveiled the beautiful display.

This year we placed 12 Gold bikes and 3 Gold Scooters around Flint and Chester. Each bike/Scooter was dedicated to an angel. They represented lost childhoods. Many bereaved families travelled from all over the country to see the bikes and scooters with the tributes. They were certainly a talking point.

Once again, we had fantastic support from Neil of Third Avenue events and local businesses. The whole town glowed gold in honour of those angels taken by childhood cancer and those still battling.

An amazing amount was raised which went to Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group but more than that we are proud that everyone now knows what the Gold Ribbon symbolizes. Every year our Go Gold campaign gets bigger and receives more attention. If anyone has ideas for this year, please get in touch!

Natural Beauty International

Natural Beauty International provide financial support through lots of fundraising, at the same time raising vital awareness of the charity.

The girls have provided over 100 craft packs & over 125 emergency care bags for the five hospitals we support. These are invaluable when a teenager/young adult is rushed into hospital.

Rebecca & the girls provided the huge Easter hamper & three children's hampers for our Easter raffle. They also made up 50 Easter bundles including eggs & craft materials. The girls provided over 30 Christmas bags filled with pj's, gift sets, chocolates and socks which were delivered to Clatterbridge, Glan Clwyd, Wrexham hospitals & to some of the young people we have supported.

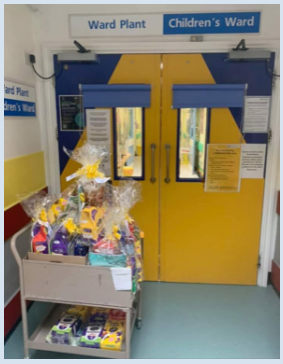
A very special thank you to Rebecca, Shaun & to all the Natural Beauty contestants & their families who for the past 3 years have worked tirelessly to raise an amazing amount of funds & vital awareness for Giddo's Gift. Many of whom have not only held their own fund-raising events but have attended & supported many of Giddo's Gifts events also.

Goodie Boxes

Giddo's Goodies Boxes are permanently in the hospitals and throughout the year we refill them with chocolate, sweets, drinks, and lots of other treats. In the past year we have refilled the Goodie Boxes in the hospitals at least 3 times. Many of our supporters and local businesses provide goodies for the boxes which we really appreciate.

Easter Eggs Donation

2021 saw us visit the hospitals with Easter Eggs for those undergoing treatment. In total over 250 eggs were donated and given out which the young people were so pleased with. A huge thank you to XPO Logistics, Flint and Holywell Job Centre and Natural Beauty International. This is something we will be doing again this year.



Meal Vouchers in Hospitals Subway & Costa Vouchers

2021 saw us provide meal vouchers for parents in The Wrexham Maelor Hospital who are in hospital with their child. We have been funding parental meals in Alder Hey hospital for the last 18months.

We have received such positive feedback from parents that this helps them so much, financially and ensures they have a healthy meal at such a difficult time. We also fund Costa vouchers for young people and their parents in Glan Clwyd Hospital, Alder Hey and Clatterbridge.

We wanted to provide Subway vouchers (one of Jords favourites) for the young people we support, often young people undergoing chemotherapy find hospital food not very appetising so this is something they could look forward to. Our local Subway kindly donated vouchers and have agreed to support us monthly. So currently we provide these vouchers to Glan Clwyd hospital but hope to extend to the other hospitals we support.

During 2021 we strengthened our Young Ambassador Team

We now have 9 Ambassadors and 3 Natural Beauty Ambassadors. Their motivation, dedication and support has been a huge asset to the team, working alongside the trustees whilst organising their own events and helping wherever necessary.

If anyone would like to join the team to gain experience of working with a professional organisation whilst helping to make a valuable difference to young people battling Cancer, please get in touch.

FUNDING RECEIVED

Once again in early 2021 we found that we were unable to organise or had to cancel many of our fundraising events due to the ongoing pandemic. We were therefore extremely grateful for all the support of the many fundraisers and companies local and national who helped to raise vital funds:

- **Argos, Sealand Road, Chester** donated **£150.00** in February 2021
- In March 2021 we received **£500.00** from **Suma** where we were the winners of a workplace vote
- **Kingspan** donated **£250.00**
- A grant was received from **Enterprise Holdings Foundation** for **£1,000.00**
- **Iceland, Flint** supported Giddo's Gift and raised **£1323.00**
- **Russ Gittins** and all the members of **Holywell Golf Club** chose Giddos Gift as their Charity of the year raising over **£2,350.00**
- **The Original Factory Shop in Flint** chose Giddos Gift as its charity for 2021 and we have received **£253.00**
- **Lloyds Pharmacy, Flint** donated over **£700.00**
- In June the clothing brand **RMDY** created a limited edition 8 piece clothing collection which raised a staggering **£3412.00**
- **Rhino Products £250.00**
- Jordans school **Flint High School** raised over **£1200** throughout 2021 with various fundraising events

In October 2021 we received the great news that Giddo's Gift had once again been chosen to receive funds from the Co-op Local Community Fund for the next 12 months. This valuable funding is generated by customers who scan or swipe their membership card when they shop at Co-op and who have selected Giddo's Gift as their chosen charity.
For the third year running we were successful in our bid for a grant from the National Lottery and were delighted to be awarded a fantastic amount of £10,000 which will help fund our efforts to support and help children and young adults living with a cancer diagnosis and undergoing gruelling treatment regimes.

CHARITY TUBS

At present we have up to 100 charity tubs out in local businesses. We are grateful to everyone who puts one in their workplace and to everyone who puts their loose change in. In 2021 these tubs have generated a fantastic amount of £2658.81. If you would like to support us by having a tub in your workplace, please get in touch.
Here are just a few of the local businesses that have our charity boxes, and raised these fantastic amounts, up to date!

Tesco	**£1159.95**
The Dee	**£768.39**
Relish Café/Cwtch shop Anglesey	**£663.06**

5 YEARS OF

Giddo's Gift

2022 marks 5 years since the Charity was founded, but also means 5 years since we lost the most caring, witty, unique soul that was our truly special Jordan AKA Giddo.

In that time his legacy has grown and grown, bigger than we thought possible. Jordan touched so many hearts and inspired so many people, even those that never had the privilege to meet him. He continues to inspire people to push themselves further than they ever thought possible and fundraise in his name.

We have come so far in those 5 years…

We miss Jordan more and more every day, no words are adequate to express the huge hole he has left in our hearts and our lives. Thanks to Jordan we have learned what true strength and courage really is. We will never stop fighting for a cure whilst bringing a smile to a young person as face the hardest battle of their life!

We hope to make 2022 the biggest and best year yet for Giddos Gift . We have lots of new and exciting Events planned and a huge new project due to be revealed in the Summer!

We will also be revealing the amazing amount raised, with all your help, in those 5 years!

We would love it if you could join us by taking on challenges, donating, hosting your own event, making us your charity of the year, attending our events or anything else you can think of that will help us continue Jord's Legacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

18 FEB — **RACE NIGHT**
MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL 7PM

2 APR — **FOOTGOLF TOURNAMENT**
MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL 2PM

22 APR — **NIGHT OF MEDIUMSHIP**
MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL

14 MAY — **GID FEST**
MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL

TBC JUN — **FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**
TBC

24 JUN — **GO BLUE FOR JORD DAY**

25 JUN — **SNOWDON NIGHT WALK**
SNOWDON

28 AUG — **FAMILY FUN DAY**
MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL

3 SEP — **BLUE BALL**
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON CHESTER 7PM

7 OCT — **AWARDS EVENING**
TBC

20 NOV — **WREATH MAKING CRAFT FAIR**
TBC