



YOUR IMPACT REPORT



You made it happen...

Discover how you're making Bristol Children's Hospital and St Michael's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit a better place.

Making Bristol Children's Hospital and St Michael's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit the very best it can be wouldn't be possible without our fundraising family – everyone from our wonderful supporters, partners, staff and volunteers.



So, it's time to **celebrate** the things we have achieved together.

● The Grand Appeal's Patient Hotel

As the first purpose-designed Patient Hotel for children in the UK, this project will be the benchmark for a new generation of health facilities for patients and their families at Bristol Children's Hospital.

The Patient Hotel will provide 12 bedrooms with en-suite facilities for children and their parents in a home-from-home environment. It will also feature a gym and therapy wing to allow patients to continue their rehabilitation, as well as a purpose-designed kitchen to allow specialist dietary education for patients with specific conditions. Specially designed gardens will offer space for relaxation and rehabilitation in a landscaped and terraced tree-lined garden.

This pioneering development will allow children to leave the clinical environment of the hospital building once their intensive treatment is coming to an end, enabling patients to continue their therapy and rehabilitation in a more comfortable setting. Best of all, by accommodating patients who are ready to leave the hospital but still require daily therapy and rehabilitation, they will be one step closer to home.

We wish to express our enormous gratitude to our long-standing partner, Jingle Jam, for supporting this project for eight years, and to our wonderful supporters who have helped make this project become a reality.





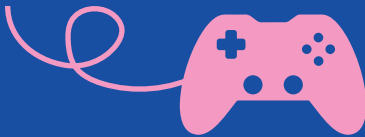
Your impact from 2023-2024



306 families given a place to stay in our accommodation



25,299 nights sleep provided in our home-from-homes



Over £200,000 raised through Jingle Jam, the world's biggest gaming fundraiser



31 festive fundraisers shined bright for Bristol Children's Hospital



1,200 play sessions delivered to children with cancer by Sian, Grand Appeal Health Play Specialist



7,370 miles pedalled by our London to Amsterdam cyclists



184 3D heart models created by The Grand Appeal's 3D printing service

● PICU quiet room

The Seahorse Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is one of the largest intensive care units for children in the UK, offering life-saving, round-the-clock care to patients of all ages, from newborn babies to teenagers.

With heartfelt thanks to Laura and Richard, founders of JOGLE for Jude – a fundraiser in loving memory of their son Jude - we have funded a second quiet room for the unit. This thoughtfully designed space features soft lighting, artwork, comfortable furnishings, and a privacy blind, offering space away from the ward for families.

● Breast pumps

Many babies admitted to NICU require specialist feeding support. To help parents during these challenging early days, Cots for Tots funding was used to purchase three new breast pumps for the NICU. Previously, with only six pumps available— and sometimes fewer due to sharing between departments—mothers often faced long waits to use a pump. The new pumps have given more parents the chance to express breast milk when they need to.

● Oncology play

Since 2019, our Grand Appeal Health Play Specialist Sian has been transforming the hospital experience for children and young people with cancer on Starlight Ward at Bristol Children's Hospital.

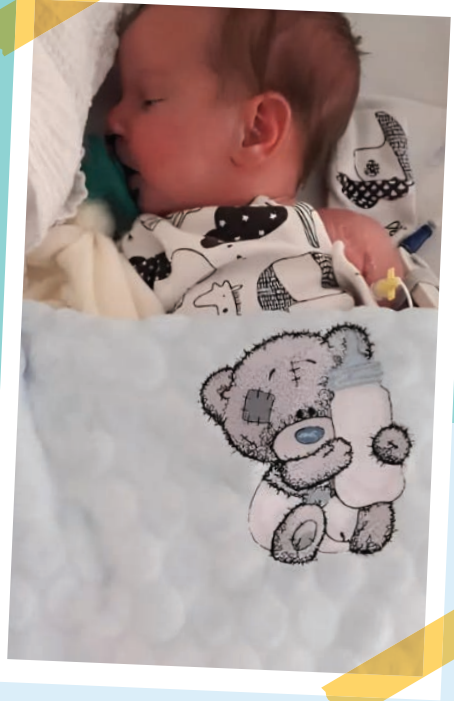
Through therapeutic play, distraction techniques, and preparation activities, Sian ensures that every child receives emotional, social, and developmental support tailored to their individual needs.



Case study

Little Dalten needed stomach surgery at just three days old. His parents, Jess and Ben, had to travel a hundred miles for specialist care at St Michael's NICU. They were away from their home, their family, and everything they knew – but Cots for Tots House was waiting to welcome them.

“ At 32 weeks pregnant, we discovered that our baby boy, Dalten, had a bowel blockage in the womb, and a gastric web had formed, which meant his intestines wouldn't pass food through his system properly.



Hearing the news, my heart just sank. I didn't know what a lot of the information doctors were giving me meant, or what would happen. Plus, being 32 weeks pregnant, I was already quite far along and concerned about what that meant for Dalten.

The doctor explained that we couldn't have the surgery in our local hospital in Torquay, and that we'd need to travel to St Michael's Hospital in Bristol for specialist care. It meant neither Ben or I would be around our families for the birth of our first child, which was scary too.

At the 10cm dilation point, doctors realised both Dalten and I had pre-eclampsia.

It was at this point they realised I'd need an emergency c-section there and then. My midwife at St Michael's Hospital was so lovely – she kept reassuring me everything would be okay, and was doing her best to keep me calm even as I was being rushed into an operation.

I gave birth to Dalten, and soon after, he was sent to Bristol Children's Hospital for a gastric web operation, which would remove the web that had formed over his intestines. I was still recovering and couldn't go with him, so Ben, his dad, wheeled me down to the entrance of St Michael's Hospital as we waved goodbye. It was heartbreaking.

Cots for Tots House meant a huge amount to us. Knowing we were just a stone's throw from Dalten, and that we could be with him whenever we wanted to, was invaluable. Ben had to return to Torquay for work not long after Dalten was born, which was daunting for me. But soon, I made friends with a few of the other parents staying in the house. As a young mum, it was amazing to have people around me who knew what I was going through.

Free family accommodation is so important. Being a new parent and having to go through everything that comes with having a sick child can feel very overwhelming. But having a house to stay in for free, with your baby just minutes away and other parents close by to comfort each other, is the most amazing feeling.

Ben would regularly come up and stay in Cots for Tots House when he had time, and when Dalten and I were better, we even had extended family come and visit the unit. My mum, Ben's parents, our uncles and aunties and Dalten's cousin all came to say hello to our little one. That little touch of home meant everything to us.

We were also given some bonding items to keep, funded by Cots for Tots. Dalten had two Miniboos, little comforters that help with scent sharing and keeping a baby calm, which we still have even now.

Cots for Tots was the greatest support we had as a family and I could never thank the charity enough for what it did for Dalten, and us as his parents! ”

Jessica, Dalton's mum





● Family accommodation

Keeping families close during a child's hospital stay is crucial. That's why we provide 28 ensuite rooms across our three family accommodation houses: Cots for Tots House, Paul's House, and Grand Appeal House. Located just minutes from Bristol Children's Hospital and St Michael's NICU, our houses offer a lifeline to families, providing a restful, welcoming environment where they can recharge while remaining close to their sick child.

In 2023, the value of our family accommodation services was estimated at over £900,000, offering families an average saving of nearly £3,000 per stay each, helping them avoid the financial strain of hotel stays.

In 2023,
we were proud to
deliver financial
savings to families
across the region:

Somerset
over £200,000

Devon
nearly £200,000

Wiltshire
£175,000

● New wayfinding signage

Did you know your support spans Bristol Children's Hospital, St Michael's NICU and now the Seashore Centre at Weston Hospital? The Seashore Centre, part of University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, provides care for children aged 0-16, bringing vital services closer to home for local families.

We funded the design and installation of new wayfinding signage for the centre. The vibrant and family-friendly artwork used ensures a consistent and welcoming environment and improves navigation within the hospital.

● 3D printing of patient's hearts

Since 2018, we have been honoured to work in partnership with The Underwood Trust to deliver a unique project which uses 3D printing approaches to transform the treatment and care of children with congenital heart disease (CHD) in Bristol and beyond.



By creating bespoke physical and virtual heart models, this ground-breaking service has transformed the way surgeons plan and prepare for major heart surgery and how they communicate complex heart conditions to patients and families.

The unit has also facilitated pioneering research into bioprinting and its huge potential to treat children with CHD.

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