

Jacob's story

Meet Jacob. Jacob lives near Seaford, East Sussex, and has severe complex needs. Jacob and his family have been cared for by Leo House Nurses for over six years, something made possible thanks to you.

Just like many eight-year-old boys, Jacob is a big film fanatic, loves spending time outdoors and splashing around in the swimming pool. "Jacob is a sociable little boy. Everyone knows him in our local community, he loves it when people come up to us and have a chat," says Mum, Elaine. "He is an absolute joy, has a wicked sense of humour and does great big belly laughs!"

Early on Elaine and Bill were told Jacob had Global Development Delay, meaning he is significantly delayed in his cognitive and physical development.

The family were in and out of hospital all the time, and spoke to many specialists about Jacob's struggles. "I remember they kept telling us he would be able to sit up soon – but that wasn't the case at all. It became obvious soon after that there were more issues."

The family soon found out that Jacob has severe complex medical needs, he has the highest grade of cerebral palsy, severe breathing issues, and uncontrollable seizures. "He has no independent movement so he can't do anything by himself. For example, if you put him into bed at night, he will be in the same position in the morning."

During this time the family were searching for extra help. "We kept asking if there was anything or anyone out there who could help Jacob, even just some activities for him would've been great. We

wanted guidance, play therapy, we just wanted a group to take him to," says Elaine.

When Jacob was two years old, the family started receiving care from a Leo House funded Nurse. Ruth now visits regularly to take care of Jacob whilst Elaine and Bill take a well-deserved break.

"Jacob loves it when Ruth comes to visit, sometimes they stay in, watch a film, or do arts and crafts. But other times they go out and get up to all sorts, they have been for walks, bowling, and trips to the cinema. Usually, Tipping Point is involved. Jacob is a creature of habit and he loves watching that after school!"

"When Ruth comes to visit, Bill and I sometimes go out for dinner or do something we can't usually do. But most of the time we are just too tired, so we sit in the lounge and just chill for a couple of hours. Having dinner on time, relaxing, and just spending time together without having to worry about Jacob."

When asked what Leo House means to the family, Elaine said, "I don't know what life would be like without the extra support. It would be awful. It would feel like something had been cut out of us."



Looking ahead

Don't forget to let us know of any forthcoming fundraising events in aid of Leo House at Home.

Contact us

Leo House, Lions Dene, The Deneway, Brighton, BN1 5AZ

- telephone 01273 556834
- www.leohouse.org.uk
- email info@leohouse.org.uk

If you'd like to make a donation directly into our bank:

Sort code: 40-14-01
Account no: 51335979
Name: Leo House

Registered charity no. 1091541. A company limited by guarantee, number 3803928.

Brighton Belles Ring Out

Brighton Belles WI celebrated their 10th anniversary with a 'retro' party in a local park. They raised money for some local charities and Leo House at Home was chosen. Many thanks to them.



Beautiful Flowers

Friends of Sussex Hospices have produced a short video showing tulips at Pashley Manor and the Gardens at Arundel Castle. If you fancy a short break, go to our website and view it from the Home page.



Who are we?

Leo House was established by Brighton Lions Club to help life-limited children, young people and their families living in East and Mid-Sussex as well as in Brighton & Hove. Leo House supports children and young people with a life-limiting condition from birth to 25 years of age and their families. We know we cannot cure them but we can help to give them the best quality of life for as long as that might be.

Cheesmur choose Leo House



Leo House at Home is delighted to tell you that Cheesmur, based on the A27 near Beddingham, Lewes, have made us their chosen charity. Their first fundraising activity was a raffle of a hand-made Easter egg, kindly donated by Friends of Sussex Hospices. Here is their report, sent by Kirsty Green:

"We drew the egg raffle, we were on full office lockdown (well, there were a few of us in the office), we did take the photo attached, me and Steve Hayman with the egg, we then sent the photo to one of our Senior Contracts Managers, Steve Teale, who won ... and did not share ... not even a bite!! He reported the egg was very well received by his wife and daughters, and was delicious."

Mayor's Charity

Leo House at Home is delighted and honoured to have been chosen by the Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Alan Robins, to be one of his Charities of the Year. In fact, due to the Covid19 crisis, Alan will be Mayor for two years and he will retain his chosen charities for the entire time he is Mayor.

There will be more news on this as the Coronavirus restrictions are lifted, we shall update the website with our the plans.



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to Leo House including:

- Prince of Wales Pub, Newhaven
- The Sussex Masonic Charitable Foundation
- Woodingdean Methodist Church
- Mrs C Hamblin
- Mr & Mrs K Crouch
- St Luke's, Queens Park, Brighton
- Mrs H Walkden
- Parish of Clayton with Keymer
- Dr C Edwards
- Uckfield and District Lions Club

Don't forget, Leo House at Home spends almost all of this money to fund our nurses, less than 2p in the £ goes to pay expenses.