

# THE GIFT

AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

QVH CHARITY NEWSLETTER HELPING REBUILD LIVES



New donation hub!



Help decorate our virtual tree

A warm welcome to the autumn/winter edition of the GIFT - the newsletter from your QVH Charity. We are proud to celebrate the positive impact of donations, showing how you can make a difference by enabling us to help rebuild lives. It is also a heartfelt thank you to those who have donated their own gift. In this edition we highlight how difficult it can be for some over the Christmas period, and how our caring and professional staff help make all the difference. Plus, we are thrilled to introduce our new virtual Christmas tree for you to leave a message for a loved one or staff member. We would like to wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas!

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



## Hayley's amazing care over Christmas

An anxious time away from her family, made easier for Hayley with extra care

"It's been the best hospital experience I've ever had"

**PERSONAL STORY**



## Love, support, and dedication

How a trip to the dentist helped start the cancer road to recovery for Ray

"Together 41 years. We've never spent Christmas apart"

**FUNDRAISING**



## One tap and it's up and away!

New technology making it easier for visitors to donate by card should they wish

"A generous corporate donation goes a long way"





Meeting Hayley

# My amazing care whilst anxiously away from home

Hayley Gregory is one of the patients who knows what it's like to spend Christmas in hospital. Hayley who is 30 and lives in West Sussex finds hospitals difficult to deal with but being away from her family during such a special time of the year made it even harder.

Having only been to QVH once briefly before, she was admitted just before Christmas Eve last year to have her cornea and eyelids repaired as well as to treat an infection resulting from Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, a condition she has had since she was 4.

It is a rare condition which comes from an over-reaction of the immune system to a trigger such as a mild infection or a medicine, leading to blistering and peeling of the skin and surfaces of the eyes, mouth and throat. She was at the hospital for just over 2 weeks before she was finally able to go home.



Hayley said,

**'I find it really difficult to be away from my family and get anxious. Having to go to a new hospital where I knew nobody was really difficult but the staff have been so fantastic and caring. It's been the best hospital experience I've ever had. This is the way care should be everywhere. The staff in every area are so welcoming and make you feel at ease. It is just amazing. I have 100% trust in the team here.'**

✔ Support going the extra mile

QVH FRIENDS

# Help decorate our virtual Christmas tree...

This year, help bring our virtual Christmas tree to life with our **#DonateDecorateDedicate** campaign. For as little as a **£2 donation**, you can place a decoration on our virtual tree and dedicate a message for a loved one or for our staff.

## Follow for updates

We will share updates on our social media so do make sure you follow us on:

- @supportqvh
- @qvhcharity
- @qvhcharity

SCAN & MESSAGE



Simply scan the code above or visit:

➔ [www.visufund.com/qvhtree](http://www.visufund.com/qvhtree)



## Ray's QVH Christmas: Love, support, kindness and dedication. And a lovely soft dressing gown!

It was mid October 2021 when Ray started getting painful mouth ulcers and was referred to QVH by his dentist. After the initial consultation, which included an x-ray and biopsy, Ray was told that he had mouth cancer.

Ray's surgery at QVH, a few weeks after his initial consultation, involved a 14 hour operation with a theatre team of more than 12, who removed the cancer under his tongue and around the front of his lower jaw. By taking part of his fibula bone and a skin graft from his leg, the surgical team reconstructed his jawline.

Ray said "It was terrifying, especially as everything happened so quickly. I am 72 years old and I have never spent a day in hospital before this. When I went to the dentist I thought I'd just be sent home with some antibiotics. I never expected this. All of the staff have been lovely. My consultant Mr Norris is just incredible. I trust him implicitly, and feel very privileged to have been able to be treated here by him and his team."

Ray's wife Carol said,

**"We have been married nearly 41 years and never spent Christmas apart. Last year it simply had to be different, and we had to just accept the situation we found ourselves in."**



**A long road ahead,  
but incredibly grateful**

"The critical care staff showed their total empathy by buying Ray a lovely soft dressing gown for Christmas. It's been overwhelming at times, and we still have a long road ahead of us, with his radiotherapy treatment as well as speech and language therapy and physiotherapy. He will continue to be under the care of QVH for the next 5 years at least."

The family, from Pembury, Kent, are grateful to everyone who has looked after them so well during what has been a life changing challenge and experience. "We could not have asked for anything more. We feel so incredibly grateful for everyone's love, support, kindness and dedication."

✔ Donations make the little things possible

### Post us your message!

Post a message to a patient or staff member working over this festive season. Being away from your family and friends during Christmas time is never easy and your uplifting messages can really make a difference. Please post your cards back to us before **Friday 16 December** and we will distribute them.

Complete the enclosed card



and post



We will deliver them within the hospital!



## Thanks to a few of our recent fundraisers

### PARIS MON AMI

A group of cyclists set off from Lingfield, Surrey and cycled to Paris to raise a fantastic **£1,415** for our children's ward.



### DIAMOND COUPLE



Mr and Mrs Warner celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary and instead of gifts asked for donations, raising **£300**. Mrs Warner has been a patient of our eye clinic for over 45 years.

### SOLAR-LONG WAY

Our Critical Care Consultant Matt Willcocks and his partner Holly took part in a 'Chase the Sun' event cycling 200 miles in 24 hours. He raised **£620**.



### BRRILLIANT!



Former burns patient Tom took on the 3 Peaks challenge to show his gratitude for the care he received on the burns ward. He raised **£1,344**.

### TEDDY-TERRIFIC

Arla, aged 5, set herself a teddy bear challenge. She walked 39 miles, the distance from her home to the hospital, raising close to **£500** to say thank you the children's ward for looking after her. Arla wanted to fund 'get well soon' teddy bears to give to other children coming into hospital to make them feel better.



These are just a few of our many fundraisers. We are enormously grateful to each and every one of you for taking on these challenges to support your hospital, and to everyone who supported you. We are all inspired by what you have achieved.

? What could you do to help fundraise?

## New donation hub lifts off!



If you are coming to visit the hospital and are heading to the main outpatients department (Building 3) you will see our brand new charity contactless giving hub. Thanks to a generous £3,000 corporate donation by [talkingwatchshop.co.uk](http://talkingwatchshop.co.uk) QVH Charity has been able to install this wall art where you can make a donation easily by tapping your card. This new technology makes it easier for visitors to donate by card should they wish. We have had some fantastic feedback since the installation in September and hope to be able to add another contactless donation hub in another area of the hospital in the future.



We have moved into our new charity office just outside the wards on Canadian Wing. If you are onsite please stop by to say hello, we would love to meet you.

## Your donations are making a difference

Here are some of the things you funded this year:

**£79**

Bravery awards for paediatric patients.

**£750**

Ice cream for staff to celebrate Nurses Day.

**£1,302**

Wall art and radios for the day surgery unit.

**£2,000**

Bra extenders for breast reconstruction patients.

**£2,000**

Comfort packs for patients on the Head and Neck ward.

**£4,865**

Portable specialist equipment for the Corneo department.

**£7,678**

A specialist trauma chair for the Burns ward.



### Charity Office

Tel: **01342 414 170**

Email: [qvh.supportqvh@nhs.net](mailto:qvh.supportqvh@nhs.net)

Web: [www.supportqvh.org](http://www.supportqvh.org)

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