Thank you

In the Spring of 2020 when it was becoming clearer of likely devastating impact that the COVID pandemic would have on the work of The LCYCT, the two clear objectives we were determined to meet, were the commitments we had made for research projects and to ensure the Christmas Gift campaign would continue and young cancer patients in hospitals would still receive their surprise gifts.

Never has our Christmas Gift campaign for young cancer patients meant as much as it did this year! We know 2020 was a challenging year for so many, practically, financially and emotionally; but for young cancer patients it has been extremely challenging with the additional uncertainty and isolation caused by COVID on top of the harsh, painful and invasive treatments as a result of cancer, often leading to fear and loneliness.

The message of shared love and support delivered with the Christmas Gifts was more important than ever.

Sadly due to the restrictions many hospitals had in place, our campaign had to change significantly to avoid gifts being collected from multiple donors, but our wonderful supporters embraced the new challenge and raised and donated thousands of pounds to ensure the gifts were bought and delivered to unsuspecting young cancer patients in time for Christmas.

Thank you to our Corporate Santas and to those that donated virtual gifts and those that helped light our Virtual Christmas Tree. Special thanks to One Community Foundation “March It” that match funded each kind and generous donation.

Thanks to this generous support we were able to deliver special gift boxes to 303 young people with cancer in 35 hospitals across the UK and Ireland.

Some of the messages we have received from patients families and staff...

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for the boxes for teenagers over Christmas. This year has been more difficult to give our young people gifts due to covid restrictions, so they have been brilliant for the young people having treatment over Christmas. Thank you so much.”

Received from Naomi, Teenage Cancer Nurse Specialist

“We want to say a massive THANK YOU for Sarah’s wonderful, kind and very generous gifts. We are both totally overwhelmed and thrilled. Big virtual hugs and many thanks xx”

Received by text rom the mum of a teenage girl on Christmas day

“Hello and happy to new year to everyone at Laura Crane Trust. I just wanted to say a huge thank you on behalf of the staff and young people at the Bristol haematology and oncology centre! The lovely gifts you sent were very much appreciated by the young people receiving cancer treatment over the Christmas period. It was lovely to be able to surprise everyone and you definitely put a few smiles on faces :)

Wishing you all the best for 2021”

Received from Han, Youth Support Co-ordinator
Our Corporate Santas, Wellhouse Leisure, Fitton & Co, Pollards, Express Office Solutions, Sovereign Wealth, Health Hub, Develop, One 17, The fm Company and Bastion Estates made generous financial contributions to our 2020 Christmas Gift Campaign to ensure we were able to deliver gifts to young cancer patients in hospitals at the most challenging of times.

Additional corporate support was received from the following companies who kindly contributed in kind to the Christmas Gift Campaign.

Lily O’Brien’s donated delicious chocolates to be included as a well-deserved sweet treat for young patients, Clarke Rubicon created our bespoke gift boxes, Glick provided luxury gift wrap, Approved Foods donated healthy, tasty snacks and Sheards donated packing boxes.

An extra special thank you to Jane Moran of Frank & Alex who created our 2020 Christmas images and Christmas Gift Appeal film. Jane’s immense talent was once again gifted with enthusiasm and unlimited patience.

Our thanks also to pupils at Sir Jonathan North College who have donated extra special Christmas gifts for many years and continued their support with generous donations for our 2020 Gift Campaign along with some heartfelt messages of support for our young patients.

Our offices would ordinarily turn into Santa’s Workshop in early December as we and our army of volunteers collect, wrap and package hundreds of gifts for young cancer patients, but sadly this year that festive hustle and bustle was not meant to be. However thanks to the team and a special thank you to chief elf Anne Mervill, the gifts were lovingly packed and wrapped and delivered as planned.

The restrictions meant big changes to our appeal, one of the biggest been the ability to collect the hundreds of selection boxes, a project usually led by Helen Balfour. Thankfully Helen and others were still able to support collecting financial donations. A special mention to Linden Miller and colleagues at Holmfirth Dyers raised hundreds of pounds in lieu of the hundreds of selection boxes they have previously collected.

Our final thank you once again to each and every one of you, our generous supporters. During this most challenging of times, you have once again delivered the most precious support and ensured young cancer patients received those special gifts and the message you are not alone.

Our heartfelt thanks to each one of these charity hearted organisations that helped put a smile on the face of so many young patients at Christmas.