Thank you

When our annual Christmas Gift Campaign was turned upside down in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we certainly had not imagined that twelve months on, we would still be working round the restrictions in hospitals, put in place to keep people safe, or that young people with cancer would have continued to live and die under these oppressive and isolating restrictions. Sadly, they have. Sadly, many have been isolated from their families, seeing only one parent or family member for a considerable length of time, adding heart-breaking loneliness on top of the isolation that is forced on them as a young person with cancer.

We suspected that the low numbers of young people in hospitals last Christmas might start to catch up this Christmas and we were right. Numbers jumped by over one hundred patients, and we fear this is only the start of one of the many hidden epidemics caused as a result of the understandable focus on covid.

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

Thanks to the generous support of many, we were able to deliver special gift boxes to 430 young people with cancer in 43 hospitals across the UK and Ireland.

Some of the messages received from patients, families and staff

“Hi I just want to say a massive Thankyou for my Christmas presents they made me smile. Merry Christmas and I hope you have a wonderful new year.”
Young cancer patient, Nottingham

“Patients were very surprised when they have seen the voucher! This contribution makes such a difference to young people going through their treatment, specially at Christmas time. Vouchers are such a good idea, because they can order something for them that they want. Also opening at Christmas the young people have ordered what they want while in hospital and getting it delivered the day after on the ward!”
Youth Support Coordinator, Leeds

“It really lifts our Young People’s spirits.”
Youth Support Coordinator, Bristol

“I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful Christmas boxes you supplied to our patients in 2021.

They were really well received and went a long way towards making things a little better for the teenagers and young adults we support.

There were a huge amount of teenagers and young people who were inpatients during the Christmas and New Year period across our region and your kind support really did make such a positive difference to each and every one.”
Social worker, Young Lives vs Cancer
Our Corporate Santas, Wellhouse Leisure, Fitton & Co, Pollards and Sovereign Wealth each made generous financial contributions to our 2021 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.

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

Due to the restrictions in hospitals, we were unable to send the normal quantity of gifts per patient and so all that we were sending needed to be enclosed in a special gift box.

A number of events were held in the run up to Christmas to help raise funds to buy festive goodies to fill the Christmas Gift boxes. Here is a selection of a few.
Thank you to our Corporate Santas and to those that donated virtual gifts and those that helped light our Virtual Christmas Tree.

Sheena Doherty of Sovereign Wealth lit up the star of our Virtual Christmas Gift Tree with her Christmas donation.

David and Sarah Elliott of Wellhouse Leisure bought £50 Amazon Gift Vouchers for all the patients in the Yorkshire Hospitals.

Richard Fitton of Fitton and Co. allowed us to use his Corporate Santa donation as part of our #25to250 Anniversary fundraising campaign and Danny Pollard not only made a financial donation but dedicated a day of his time to hand-deliver the Christmas gifts to patients in hospitals throughout Yorkshire and in Manchester.

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 and Plasticraft printed the special bespoke labels, Glick provided luxury gift wrap, Lambert Print & Design donated festive postcards and Sheards donated packing boxes.

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 2021 Gift Campaign.

An extra special thank you to Jane Moran of Frank & Alex who created our 2021 Christmas images including the social media Christmas count down messages of support from some very familiar faces.

Unfortunately, we were unable to invite our festive army of volunteers in to help with the Christmas campaign and again the collection, wrapping and packing was done by the team with the help from Ann Mervill and Hazel Dransfield, but we certainly hope to be able to turn our offices into Santa’s workshop in 2022.
Our final thank you once again to each and every one of you, our generous supporters that once again rallied in support to ensure we had the funds to buy the goodies for the special Christmas Gift Boxes for patients. 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.