

Smile

ZOE'S PLACE | BABY HOSPICE



Spring 2025

Welcome to our little book of smiles

COMING UP...

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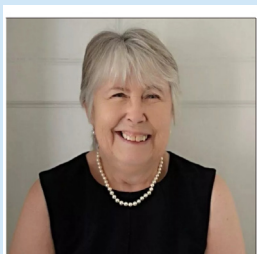
Stay In Touch

Visit us: www.zoes-place.org.uk

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Contact us:
hellocoventry@zoes-place.org.uk
hellomiddlesbrough@zoes-place.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1092545



Joan Stainsby

A child **smiles** experiencing sensory play or paint on their hands or feet.

A parent **smiles** relaxing in the knowledge their child is safe and well looked after whilst at Zoe's.

The clinical team **smiles** seeing a child do something that was thought impossible.

The fundraising team **smiles** when a donor presents funds to help support the charity.

The donor **smiles** when they see first-hand the support we provide to children and families.

Smile – think Zoe's

Joan Stainsby
Executive Trustee



Paul Holmes

Meet Paul, our new Director of Operations.

Paul leads the daily operational and commercial management here at Zoe's Place.

Paul has previously lived in New Zealand and recently relocated to the Northeast from Leeds and is enjoying the opportunity to walk in the North York Moors.

1

WE COULDN'T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU!

2



Children have
received support by
Zoe's Place



Families were
referred to Zoe's
Place



Days our hospices
were open



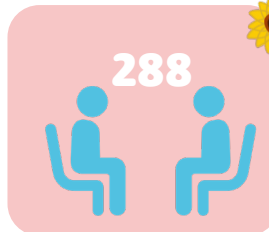
Sibling days were
held



Your donations
matter!



Music Therapy
sessions were held



Counselling sessions
were held



Dance Therapy
sessions were held



Animal Therapy
sessions were held

It costs £3.3m to keep our hospices open for a year, with your support we can do even more for families like Ellie and Renae.

Thank you, Joan

Financial Year 2023/2024 (Trust Wide)

FURRY FRIENDS

We have lots of **furry friends** that come to say hello, and Head of Care at our Middlesbrough Hospice, Ashleigh, explains:

“A standout moment for me is seeing the bond the children have with Chance the Labrador who comes to see us regularly.”



3

Making his debut appearance recently at our Coventry Hospice, **meet Stitch the Skunk with Rose!**

He made a great first impression and despite rumours, didn't smell (was he just being polite?!).

GET CREATIVE

Getting creative is so much fun!

Art therapy is a form of psychotherapy that uses art as a way to communicate. We use lots of different materials in a safe environment, and the sessions are adapted so every child can get the most out of it.

The children make bright and beautiful pictures and we include movement to **develop fine motor skills and provide a sensory experience.**



Remember! Follow us on socials to see how you can get creative this Spring.



FEEL THE BEAT

Play and creativity are a big part of our musical fun here at Zoe's!

The children get to enjoy **lots of different instruments**, and all come together to listen to their favourite tunes.

We'd love to know what your favourite song is!



STEP OUTSIDE



From playgrounds to wooded areas, summer to gingerbread houses, fresh air is so important, and we love **exploring** our growing outside spaces here at Zoe's.

Some of our children have never been on adapted play equipment before, and over at our Middlesbrough hospice, the new play park has been a huge hit! This was funded by the Morrisons' 'Building a Legacy Together' grant, funded through Morrisons' partnership with Together for Short Lives.

The new play park is fully equipped with sensory equipment and caters to children with mobility aids, so everyone can have fun in the playground!



4



To add a splash of fun!

With Summer around the corner, why not have a go at Water Play? We spoke to Louise, Healthcare Assistant and Play Leader at our Coventry hospice, who explained:

“Water play is a great sensory activity and can be enjoyed in many ways!”

Pool or suitable container
Small pouring jugs
Colander
Spoons
Boats
Funnels
Sponge
Bubbles
Balls
Food colouring
Bath bombs
Watering Can
Syringe (different sizes)



We love having fun with the water here at Zoe's Place, and it would be great to hear how you decide to enjoy this activity! **Please remember - supervision is always required for the safety of your child.**



ZOE'S PLACE

5

**£260
Raised**



Riley's Masterpieces

Riley (aged 6) came in to make a generous donation after raising £260 through his love for drawing.

Riley created some beautiful drawings and, with a little help promoting them, sold 21 pieces! His hard work and creativity have made a real difference, and we're so proud of him for giving back.

**£36,733.04
Raised**



Boundary 500 Santa Ride

In November 2024, 160 motorcycles and 225 participants took to the streets of Teesside in the 22 mile motorbike ride! Spectators a plenty, this much-loved event holds a special place in the hearts of many.

A huge thank you to founders, Brian and Paul, and everyone who makes this happen for Zoe's Place. The ride is back on Saturday 22nd November 2025 - register early to secure your spot!

**£32,014.22
Raised**



For the third consecutive year, the incredible One Team Charity Cycle group have cycled the 128km journey from Humberside to Teesside, the two land locations of the BP, East Coast Cluster carbon capture storage projects. They've raised £32,014.22 to date, with their fourth ride set to take place 19th July!

Pedal Power!

Upcoming Events



For more events!



**It's a knockout
June 21st**



**Zoes Fest
June 28th**

★ ★ STARS ★ ★

6

Nick is about to take on his 10th Coventry Half Marathon for Zoe's Place! He shared, **"I'm glad to do it, and I even enjoy it!"**

Thank you, Nick! Why not join Zoe's Place at our Charity Cheer Point on Sunday, 27th April, to cheer along Nick and the rest of #TeamZoes.

Meet Nick Muller!



**£1,000
Raised**

In 2024 Shaftec raised an incredible amount of £11,343 with a target of £6000. This year to celebrate their 30th anniversary Shaftec are pledging 30k!

They have already Stepped It Up for February and signed up to Skydiving, the Skinflint Rally and Starley Sportive! A huge thanks to Shaftec for their continued support.



**30k
Pledge!**

Celebrating Shaftec!

Our fabulous friends at Strictly Christmas danced their way to another incredible success for 2024, raising a dazzling £222,518. Sparkles a plenty, the committee and dancers put in countless hours to make this event a success, and we are so thankful for their ongoing support.

We look forward to Strictly Christmas 2025! And maybe you can dust off your dancing shoes...



**£222,518
Raised**

Strictly Christmas 2024



**Inflatable 5k
July 26th**



**Middlesbrough 10K
August 31st**

Join us in the desert in 2026!





Ellie and Renae's Story 7

At just 19 years old, I found out I was pregnant. I was over the moon, but just a little terrified. When my 20-week scan came around, my baby decided to hide her head, struggling to take measurements.

COVID made everything harder, and alone, a week later, I headed back for another scan. It was then my pregnancy journey changed; but no matter the outcome, I would love my baby. The doctor told me Renae's jaw was extremely small, her head was shaped more like a baseball and her kidneys were bright and enlarged. By 25 weeks pregnant, I was brought into a room and told my baby had a life limiting condition and might not survive. Faced with unimaginable decisions, no family around, unable to get a hug from anyone, I was given a box of tissues and told to take all the time I needed.

"I took weekly photos of my bump, trying to make as many memories as I could, knowing she might not make it."

At just 31 weeks, I went to our local hospital because of reduced movement. A scary moment for any expecting parent. I soon found out this would be the day Renae was born. Due to complications, I was rushed to Leicester Royal Infirmary and met with multiple steroid injections and magnesium sulphate to help her brain. The ultrasound showed Renae was practicing breathing - I couldn't believe it, she was already proving everyone wrong. I was so proud of her. The doctors spoke in jargon I didn't fully understand, but my blood flow to the placenta was worsening and I was losing fluid. Renae needed to be born via emergency C-section immediately.



"I didn't know whether I'd go into surgery with a live baby or a lifeless one." 8

No cry and the screen wasn't dropped - sixteen long minutes passed. The nurse came over, took a photo, and told me Renae was alive but needed breathing support. She was tiny, with a full head of hair, weighing only 880 grams. The doctors were working hard to stabilise her.

I had to wait five long hours before I could see her in the neonatal intensive care unit. I didn't get to hold her for 36 hours as she was on a ventilator, just held her tiny hand through the incubator. It was later confirmed that Renae has Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) that affects 1 in 10,000 to 30,000 children. This limits her vision, hearing, heart function and feeding, to name a few.

My world came crashing down. I had to grieve the child I thought I was going to have. Another Mum sent me the poem 'Welcome to Holland' -

"But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland."

(Extract taken from Welcome to Holland by Emily Perl Kingsley)



In 2022, Renae was referred to Zoe's Place by our community children's nurse. As a single Mum suffering with mental health, life became overwhelming. We couldn't access resources like others, and as a parent of a disabled child, you lose your identity and sense of purpose.

"You're not just a Mum, but also a pharmacist, a physio, a secretary, and more."

Zoe's Place sounded like a dream and truly lived up to it. A hug when we needed it most. Renae experiences comfort and care, and I get support, solace and sense of community. It's the little things that make Zoe's Place so special. Renae loves the sensory rooms, making friends, and the gardens. Zoe's do much more than what people might think.

I found my strength and they give us both beautiful memories. Memories to last a lifetime. I'm so grateful for the incredible team who pour their hearts and souls into supporting families like ours.

Renae lives life to the fullest. She is a happy, cheeky little character, and her smile lights up the world.



1st Day of School
Sept 2024

GO YELLOW APPEAL

9
Campaign
sponsored by
TRITON THE UK'S
SHOWER COMPANY
For a cleaner conscience



CUSTARD DUNK

SUPPORT CHILDREN LIKE MARCO, AGED 2



July 2025

Supporting children and their families to live life to its fullest

#GoYellowForZoes



RAFFLE



BAKE SALE



FANCY DRESS

GO YELLOW Word Search

Z Q H S M P R S N J D J K F W
V E A U E F O U V C L S M W X
Q L P N V Z G O Y E L L O W M
C J P S B D V C U S T A R D X
R Y I H K B J U O Z Q S N L B
V I N I J N H O F T K G D J X
G L E N K Z B A N A N A O O A
O D S E U F K Q T R N G L H L
D U S I C H A L L E N G E B E
J C O W F O M B H Z W M U S M
P K D R S U N F L O W E R M O
T M I T H C A K E S N Q W I N
J N P Q M J H N Z I Y E W L X
Q S Y R C I A O A G I A N E W
O R Z F G U Y O Z J M B M Z S

Happiness

Banana

Go Yellow

Cakes

Lemon

Sunshine

Custard

Challenge

Duck

Sunflower

Smile

GO YELLOW APPEAL is back for 2025 and this year, we're taking over **JULY!** We need **YOU** to help us raise awareness about Zoe's Place in the **BIGGEST** and **BRIGHTEST** way possible ...

From bake sales to fancy dress, sponsored challenges to quiz nights, everybody is welcome to join in the fun!

Pick a day, week, or even the whole month of July and join **#TeamZoes** this Summer to make a difference to families like Marco's.

Remember, our Fundraising Teams are on hand to help:

hellocoventry@zo-es-place.org.uk/hellomiddlesbrough@zo-es-place.org.uk



Gifts In Wills

Would you consider making it your legacy to secure the future of Zoe's Place?



We've partnered with the National Free Wills Network to give our supporters the opportunity to write or update a simple Will with a trusted solicitor in your area.

The network offers access to over 800 solicitors across the UK and once you register, they send out a 'Will pack' within 10 days which includes a list of participating solicitors local to you. Then all it takes is to arrange an appointment with your chosen solicitor and they will help write your Will.

If you do consider writing or updating your Will, as a valued supporter, you can do so at **no cost** to you thanks to our Free Will Service. This can be done either by requesting a pack through our website or emailing your full name and address to:

legacy@zoes-place.org.uk.

Every gift in every Will regardless of size, makes an enormous difference to the children and families we support.

**Request
your
pack**

