



SKY'S THE LIMIT

Every day our
charity is
changing lives.

Read about how you
are making a difference
for patients and their
families.

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keeping hope alive

WELCOME

Welcome to our supporter newsletter! As the new CEO, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this incredible team that works tirelessly to help critically ill children.

I've spent my career so far helping people in the healthcare and the voluntary sector, serving as a CEO for 25 years. I'm thrilled to be part of the Children's Air Ambulance's future, as I have seen the real difference they are making to the lives of children and their families.

In this edition of Sky's the Limit, I am honoured to share with you how your generous donations have been used to make a difference in our mission.

I was also astounded to learn that since our incubators launched last year, we have transferred 78 premature babies. Our operations team have given us a closer look at how this amazing equipment works on page 4.



We also have a fantastic patient story on page 6, which showcases how vital our fast air transfers are to critically ill children and their families.

Our mission is made possible by the passion, dedication, and generosity of our staff, volunteers, and supporters like you. Your unwavering support empowers us to transform more lives. We're grateful for everyone who makes our mission possible. Thank you!

Peta

Peta Wilkinson
CEO, Children's Air Ambulance

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Vision:

To ensure children grow into adults, for adults to live longer and for families to stay together, as bereavement through trauma becomes rare.

Mission:

Our rapid response services work tirelessly to save lives and alleviate pain and suffering, wherever and whenever needed.

Values: The core values that drive our organisation are:



CREATIVITY



COMPASSION



COURAGE

MISSION STATS*

Our clinically designed aircraft provide a flying intensive care unit for transferring babies and children that need to receive urgent care.

£3,600
Avg Mission Cost

875
Total Missions



2 Aircraft



11 NHS Clinical
Team Partners



4 x Faster
Than Road



2 Airbases Covering
the UK

*These figures reflect our missions from 2013 to 30 Nov 2023. Visit our website for updates.

Last year we introduced England's first incubator on a rotary-wing aircraft to assist specialist NHS transport teams during lifesaving flights.

These new and bespoke Neonatal Transport Systems were designed with input from leading neonatal transfer clinicians to ensure they can provide outstanding care in the air. In addition to the incubator, the system includes a Patient Monitor, Ventilator, Suction Unit, four Infusion Devices, Oxygen, and specialist Nitric Oxide Therapy.

Here is a closer look at this vital piece of equipment:



KEEPING HOPE ALIVE



1

Incubator. This has a cover on it to keep baby warm. It has two little side doors on each side for access. One whole side comes down to get baby in and out and the head end opens should quick access to the airway be needed in flight. Baby is secured safely in a little soft harness that cuddles them.

2

Monitor. This gives the clinical team all the observations they need to monitor baby. Such as oxygen levels, blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate.

3

Infusion Holders. These give baby the medications it needs. They are set at a flow rate over a period of time.

4

Oxygen. Behind here is storage for two oxygen cylinders.

5

Ventilator. This helps the patient breathe if they can't breathe on their own or have difficulty breathing.

6

Power Button and Temperature Control. The incubator needs to be warm to keep baby comfortable.

“Working with TCAA provides so many benefits including reduced transfer times, reaching patients more quickly to deliver expert care and treatment at the scene, bringing babies closer to home when a mother delivers in another part of England, moving patients as an emergency to specialist neonatal units and repatriating them back to local units.

We look forward to continuing to partner with the TCAA to provide the best possible care for our babies and their families and make sure they get the care they need safely and as soon as possible.”

Dr Sarah Davidson, Neonatal Consultant at University Hospital Southampton, SONeT Wessex lead.

Declan's Story

PATIENT STORY

In less than 24 hours Declan went from a poorly boy, to a boy fighting for his life. He needed specialist care that was 100 miles away – we flew him in 43 minutes.

When a child is too sick to travel, we can be there to provide fast transport with specialised medical equipment to look after them in the air. The reason children and families need us can vary and no one circumstance is the same. Declan's journey was needed due to a quick onset and life-threatening condition, and we are thankful to his mum, Ashleigh, for sharing their story.

One night, parents Ashleigh and Andy went to bed knowing their two sons were sleeping soundly, only to be awoken by their oldest boy, Declan, crying. He was covered in a rash with back and neck pain. Feeling concerned, they immediately took him to the hospital.

At their local hospital St Helier, Surrey, the doctors and nurses undertook a range of tests to determine what was causing Declan's symptoms. His temperature was over 40 degrees, the rash now covered most of his body, his skin had started to blister and he had become listless.

The doctors believed Declan was suffering from a rare and life threatening skin condition called toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) that affects only 1 in a million people per year. This would cause his skin to blister and fall off, and there is no cure.



It was agreed that if Declan was to stand any chance of surviving, he urgently needed care from a paediatric intensive care unit, a burns unit, a dermatologist and an eye specialist. To get that care he needed to be airlifted to Bristol – over 100 miles away.

We airlifted Declan safely in just 43 minutes. Our specialised helicopter can travel up to 165 miles per hour and so Declan received the specialist care as soon as possible. The journey by road took his parents nearly three hours.

Declan still had weeks of pain and worry ahead as he battled against TEN eventually losing 96% of his skin. They were also able to determine that this was triggered by Declan's sensitivity to an antibiotic.

Thanks to the donations of supporters like you, Declan's family could rely on the Children's Air Ambulance team in that most challenging time to reach the care he so desperately needed.

In the year that followed, Declan celebrated his 7th birthday! This was a huge milestone for their family, considering they didn't know if he would reach it. So, it was with immense joy and gratitude that they celebrated this special occasion, surrounded by loved ones and filled with hope for the future.

"Declan wouldn't be here now if it had not been for that air transfer to Bristol to get specialist care he desperately needed. If he'd had to go by road I am not sure he would have survived the journey."

Ashleigh, Declan's mum

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Liz Kelly

Job Title: Reuse Business Support Manager



How long have you worked for TAAS?

I started volunteering in April 2014. I really enjoyed helping at a charity and meeting new people with the same passion, so I took a permanent role in the Supporter Experience team for five years before moving into my current role in the Reuse Department. I have seen us grow in all areas of the charity since I started and am proud to work here.

What does a typical week look like for you?

Part of my role is raising awareness of our charity and it's reuse services so often I can be found at local business networking events or at a university open day. In our department we place clothing banks and data wipe surplus technology for resale, to not only raise funds for our services but to divert textiles and technology from landfill, keeping our environment a healthier and cleaner place to live. I love speaking to communities and businesses regarding their sustainability aims and how we can support this at no cost to them.

What has been your highlight so far?

Being nominated for three awards both internally and externally for my work in the reuse department.

What would you like to say to our supporters?

Thank you for your time, your donations or however you support us. We receive no government funding and simply couldn't do this without you.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself!

I have an allotment where I like to grow my own vegetables so that I can reduce my food miles and wastage.

DID YOU KNOW?

Along with our clothing banks for donating your preloved items, we also offer a **free** IT Asset Reuse collection and data wiping service for donated IT equipment which helps raise vital funds for our life-saving charity.

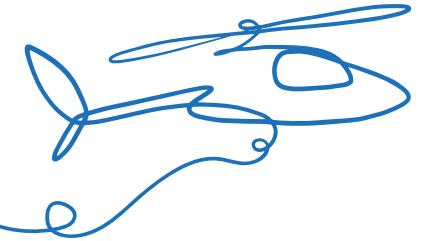
To find your nearest clothing bank, host a clothing bank, or find out more about our free IT Asset Reuse service please follow the link below, scan the QR code or call our friendly team.

 childrensairambulance.org.uk/ways-to-give/reuse-recycle
0300 3045 999



GIFTS IN WILLS WEEK

YOUR SIGNATURE CAN SAVE LIVES



Gifts in Wills have a profound impact on our charity, funding 1 in 7 of our missions. This is why we will have a special dedicated Gifts in Wills Week taking place **18th - 24th March**, emphasising the importance of these special gifts.

Legacies were a vital lifeline to our charity during the pandemic when other fundraising activities had to stop, and they remain resilient in keeping our service going through other crises like the cost-of-living crisis. In fact, with the cost-of-living crisis, gifts in wills are becoming an increasingly accessible way for

people to support our charity as it's a way that someone can support us without it costing them anything now.

We receive gifts of all sizes from people of all walks of life. Any gift – however big or small – can make a real difference and support our lifesaving service.

Please call **0300 3045 999**, request more information on the response form and send back to us in the free post envelope or email legacies@theairambulance.org.uk.

HOW REGULAR GIVING SUPPORTS THE CHILDREN'S AIR AMBULANCE

To maintain the bespoke aircraft and ensure the best care is available to the children, we need to be able to plan. Knowing that our supporters have committed to giving every month, even just £1, allows us to keep our service the most effective as possible.

For those who already give regularly... *THANK YOU SO MUCH!*

If you would like to become a regular supporter, or would just like to find out more, please scan the QR code with your smart phone camera or call our friendly supporter experience team on **0300 3047 697**



MISSION COSTS UPDATE



The Children's Air Ambulance (TCAA) has increased its mission costs from £3,500 to £3,600 due to the increase in fuel prices, the advancements in its equipment, and other related costs in delivering its lifesaving service.

The Children's Air Ambulance is a national service, changing the face of paediatric and neonatal care through the high-speed transfer of critically ill babies and children and flying them from one hospital to another for specialist care.

The clinically designed helicopter provides a flying intensive care unit for babies and children and the charity recently introduced three brand new state-of-the-art incubators.

We work with 11 NHS paediatric retrieval teams across the UK, enabling them to bring their specialist equipment on board to safely transfer their patients from one hospital to another. If a child is too sick to fly then the Children's Air Ambulance can fly a specialist team directly to them.

All transfers of critically ill babies and children carry an inherent risk - the longer a child is out of the hospital, the greater that risk. With our ability to fly approximately four times faster than a land ambulance, we can minimise travel times and risk.



We receive no funding from the government or National Lottery for our missions and rely entirely on voluntary donations to raise the £3,600 needed for every mission.



VOLUNTEERING

GET INVOLVED

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP US SAVE LIVES

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our charity.

Quite simply, we could not operate our services and continue to save lives without the support of our volunteers. We want to provide our volunteers with a fulfilling and satisfying experience that comes with a range of benefits including new skills, increased confidence, friendships and the opportunity to make a difference to people in need.

If you want to meet new people, support a cause you're passionate about, or have time to spare, why not join our team of volunteers today?



For more information please contact our team:

EMAIL : volunteering@theairambulanceservice.org.uk

PHONE : 0300 3045 999

VISIT OUR WEBSITE : theairambulanceservice.org.uk/volunteering



OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO
FIND YOUR PERFECT ROLE!



♥ YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE ♥

£10

A month could pay to fly one of our aircraft one mile each and every month.

£24

Could help buy a pair of ear defenders to protect little ears.

£40

Could help pay for 2,400L of oxygen to be carried on board our helicopter.

£3,600

Could fly one complete mission for Children's Air Ambulance.



SCAN ME
TO DONATE



#TheCrew is an exciting club for children and young people where they can learn new skills and support the vital work of the Children's Air Ambulance. It's completely free to join and members receive an awesome welcome pack containing their very own lanyard and badge, fundraising toolkit, stickers and more. To find out more or to sign up please scan the QR code or follow the link below:

theairambulance.org.uk/childrens-air-ambulance/the-crew

WORD SEARCH

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

- AIR AMBULANCE
- AIRBASE
- ANNIVERSARY
- BLADE
- FAST
- GREEN
- HELICOPTER
- INCUBATOR
- MISSIONS
- PATIENTS
- PEGGY
- PILOT
- ROTOR BLADES
- TEN YEARS
- TRANSFER

STAY IN
TOUCH



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0300 3045 999



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SAVING LIVES

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**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

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