WellChild
the national charity for sick children

All Maisie wants is to be at home with her family

WellChild Care

WellChild Support

WellChild Research

Registered Charity Number: 289600

COLIN DYER
WELLCHILD CHIEF EXECUTIVE

With your help, we can bring care and support to Maisie and to thousands more children like her across the UK – young people with serious and complex conditions.

Working with seriously ill children and listening, every day, to their parents talking of the all-consuming effort, and the heartache, creates a determination – and our resolve – to give every one of those young people the very best possible care and quality of life.

I know I am far from alone in wanting to improve things for the many, many thousands of seriously ill children and young people spread right across the UK. There are more than 6,000 children in the UK dependent on technology to help them breathe or eat and more than 1,000 children are born each year with a rare medical condition.

Astonishingly, there are more than 4,500 recognised genetic conditions, many so rare they have no name. While a lot of these conditions affect only a few children each, combined they add up to thousands. Add to that the children whose lives are changed overnight by accidents or infections, and those living with more well-known conditions such as cancer or cerebral palsy, and the size of the problem becomes apparent.

WellChild's aim is simple. We work to improve the lives of seriously ill children, reaching as many children and young people as we can – many of whom need more than the NHS can realistically give them.

We are making progress, but with the numbers of children with serious long-term illness increasing daily, WellChild's support is more in demand than ever. That's why we are aiming to continue to add to our network of WellChild Children's Nurses and fund more urgently needed research.

We know there is some way to go, but with your help we can do it. Thank you so much.

Could you give just £2 a month?

Please take just a moment of your time to sign up to become a regular giver to WellChild. If each person reading this magazine was able to pledge just £2 a month to WellChild, we would be able to afford another WellChild Children's Nurse to support more sick children in the UK. It's easy to donate using the form on the inside back cover. Alternatively, visit www.wellchild.org.uk or call 0845 458 8171.

A regular donation from people like you means more children like Maisie can be cared for at home

MAISIE'S MUM CLAIRE IS SO THANKFUL FOR WELLCHILD NURSE RHIAN:

"We would have been in hospital a lot longer if Rhian hadn't stepped in to help. She has been a great support. We've all decided the best thing we can do is take one step at a time."

YOU CAN HELP CHILDREN LIKE MAISIE AND HER FAMILY BY PLEDGING JUST £2 A MONTH TO WELLCHILD – YOU REALLY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Watching baby Maisie lying in a hospital bed her mum and dad's greatest wish was to have her home with the family.

When Maisie was born the moment of joy for her parents soon turned to heartache. After a traumatic birth, she was diagnosed with a rare disorder which could affect her breathing, speech, walking and coordination for the rest of her life. Like all parents in this position Maisie's mum and dad were desperate to take their little girl home.

But their daughter's complex care needs – Maisie is fed through a nasogastric tube and needs help from a team of medical experts – meant she faced a long stay in hospital. Then the family met WellChild Nurse Rhian Greenslade, one of our team of specialist children's nurses offering practical care and emotional support for seriously ill children and their families.

Rhian worked hard to put in place all the care and support needed to allow Maisie to leave hospital. Thanks to Rhian's efforts, Maisie and her mum and dad Claire and Dai now have feeding equipment and the help of physiotherapists, speech therapists and community nursing support to provide care for Maisie at home.

Maisie still needs regular trips to the hospital to see neurologists as the doctors will not know the full extent of her condition until she is older. But for now WellChild Nurse Rhian has helped Claire and Dai's wish to come true – Maisie is being cared for at home, with her family around her.

WellChild
the national charity for sick children

How WellChild helps sick children throughout the UK

WellChild is the national charity for sick children. We help children and young people who are seriously ill or who have complex health conditions – and their families – through our programmes of Care, Support and Research.

WellChild Care

WellChild Children's Nurses care for children and young people coping with serious illness or complex conditions, and play an essential role for families across the country. The ever-growing team of WellChild Children's Nurses helps to ensure that children can be cared for at home rather than in hospital wherever possible, and are vital in the prevention of frequent re-admissions for those young people. Our Nurses help to cut through the confusion experienced by parents with a child in long-term hospital care, and also ensure that families and other carers are able to meet the, sometimes complicated, needs of these young people.

WellChild people – making a difference

Lucy Andrews

WellChild Children's Nurse, Cambridge

"My job is so satisfying and fulfilling, I love working with the kids because they can be such fun. I have just been with a little boy who is so brave and who I so admire – these children are just remarkable. In a nutshell, my job is about getting children home from hospital and all my work is in making that happen. I am a bit of a jack of all trades and provide a link for the families between hospital and home and make sure everything is organised as smoothly as possible. The children and families supported by a WellChild Nurse get home quicker with the support they need and since everybody wants to get home and nobody wants to be in hospital that is a real benefit. I love this job – it's fantastic!"

Sylvia Johnson

Regular monthly donor since 2006

"I'm a long-term supporter of WellChild because they look after children in the UK who really need our help. And the support WellChild offers these seriously ill children is very clear and straightforward – nurses, helping hands projects and medical research, things which will really make a difference for them and improve their quality of life. I have found that a small monthly donation to WellChild is not an amount of money which you necessarily miss – but it can make a huge difference to the charity if lots of people get behind it. I think it would be wonderful if more people felt able to help WellChild in this way, because they are directly supporting seriously ill children in this country and helping them to have the support we would all want for our own children in that situation."

Mia

Helping Hands transformed her garden

Six year old Mia from Liverpool was born with many health problems, including Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy, WellChild transformed her garden as one of its Helping Hands projects with volunteers from manufacturing company SSL International. Julie Brown, Mia's mum said:

"Thank you is not enough to describe how grateful we are to all of you for making the project possible. Mia is now able to play with her brothers instead of just watching and for that we will be forever thankful. We have just had such a fantastic experience and we are so touched by all the effort that WellChild and the volunteers have put in to making our garden so perfect."

WellChild Support

Our unique WellChild Helping Hands scheme enlists the support of volunteers from companies and organisations of all kinds up and down the country to tackle individual home development projects – helping seriously ill children, young people and their families in truly practical ways. Supporting a young person with complex care needs can be exceptionally time consuming, and many families find that projects in the home go unfinished. Also, many children return home from hospital after illness or injury to homes which are no longer suitable for their needs. WellChild provides the Helping Hands for those families.

WellChild Research

WellChild has invested more than £20 million in ground-breaking children's health research projects – leading to key breakthroughs which will make a tangible difference to the lives of young people both now and in the future. Those projects have ranged from pain relief and cancer, to liver and kidney disease and diabetes. As a charity which is not restricted to any one condition, WellChild is able to provide funding in those areas where there is a priority need, and also to those researchers whose work has the vision and innovation to make a real impact on the health of children and young people in the UK and beyond.

To join them and start helping the UK's sick children, please visit www.wellchild.org.uk

Jess Akino

Office and events volunteer

Jess Akino is a volunteer worker for WellChild who has supported us at the WellChild Awards and at fundraising events, and regularly gives up her time to help out in WellChild's office.

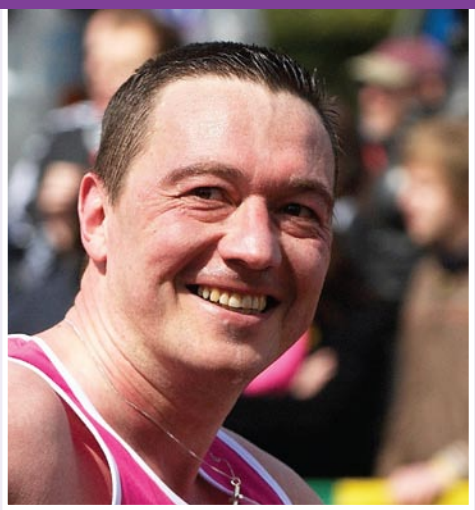
"It's fantastic volunteering for WellChild because I know that when I help the charity I am supporting seriously ill children and their families all across the UK. There is a real sense of satisfaction in being able to do my bit for children who really need our support. Everyone in the WellChild office has been wonderful and welcoming and the support we get from the public is amazing. Being at the Awards was a great, heart-warming experience. I'd encourage anyone with some free time to think about volunteering for WellChild – it really is very worthwhile and personally rewarding."

Prof. Tim Barrett

WellChild Researcher, Birmingham

Professor Tim Barrett, Children's Consultant Paediatrician at Birmingham Children's Hospital carries out WellChild funded research into childhood diabetes and was the winner of the WellChild Award for Researcher of the year, 2011.

"I think WellChild make a big difference because they are a children's charity and they are a comprehensive one, they don't just look after one disease area like diabetes. WellChild actually have the same holistic approach that we want, to care for the whole child whatever the condition they have and that's a great advantage."



Rob Schooling

Runs London Marathon for WellChild

Rob Schooling from Warrington has run the London Marathon for WellChild three times – twice while wearing our giant Nessa the Nurse mascot costume!

"The atmosphere on the day is fantastic – there's no other feeling like it in the world. It's amazing how many points along the course have WellChild people cheering – because you are wearing a WellChild vest they really give you their support. It's great at the post-race reception to have a chat to the other WellChild runners and get to know them – we all have one thing in common that day which is that we are doing the race to help the children. I am extremely positive about the whole experience. The thing with WellChild is that they have it off to a fine art and you really do feel part of a team. I would definitely run for WellChild again."

WellChild Care

"My role as WellChild Nurse working in Oxfordshire is to care for children at home rather than in hospital – that's the fundamental thing.

I work with some very sick children, like Poppy (pictured below). Poppy was born with congenital heart disease and club hands and has to be fed through a tube directly into her stomach. When I first met her she was in hospital, where she underwent several major operations, including heart surgery before she was one year old.

Now, after a long journey and a lot of hard work Poppy is home and leading as normal a life as possible.

When you start working with a family they are very anxious so it really helps to have the same person seeing them all the time. In hospital there is a large team of professionals involved and the child does not necessarily see the same nurse on a regular basis – I am able to focus on the child and family and establish a trusting relationship.

The main thing with the children is that you are trying to make their lives more normal – and to enhance family life by providing care in the home. A family home with a seriously ill child will often have a lot of medical equipment and a lot of health professionals visiting frequently. Therefore home can become like a mini hospital. My job is to help make it more normal by supporting the family – perhaps for the child to attend school, or after school clubs or even to go out as a family.

Without the help of a WellChild Nurse to get them home, many of these children would have to be in hospital, within a very medical environment with visiting times and hospital restrictions. Our role is to help these children and their families through the difficult times and help them live as normal a life as possible.

I really feel that we need more WellChild Nurses so we can provide more children with care at home. There are only a small number of WellChild Children's Nurses so far – the ideal would be to have at least one in every county. My hope is that, with the help of WellChild supporters, we can achieve this."

"**Jane, our WellChild Nurse, has been a saviour and in the really dark times has been just wonderful. She is so brilliant because she listens and gets things done, which is so difficult when so many professionals are involved in Poppy's care. I just can't thank her enough and with more surgery round the corner I know she will be there.**"

Olivia, mum of Poppy

Pictured right: Poppy, who with the help of WellChild Children's Nurse, Jane Alvey, was able to return home from hospital and is pictured here on her first day at school. **Inset:** Poppy spent much of the early part of her life living on a hospital ward.

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY OR TEAR OFF, THEN COMPLETE AND RETURN

Your regular giving can make a real difference

By setting up a Direct Debit to donate to WellChild, your regular gifts will provide steady, reliable income to support our work so we can plan most effectively to meet the needs of seriously sick children in the future. Regular giving also reduces our administration costs, which means we can direct more funds to our essential programmes, like our Children's Nurses.

Each month, you'll be making a real difference to the lives of children and young people with long-term complex care needs. Please use the form below to set up a Direct Debit to WellChild today. Thank you.

Yes, I'd like to make a donation to help the UK's sick children

YOUR DETAILS (PLEASE USE CAPITALS)

Title ____ First name ____

Surname ____

Address ____

Postcode ____

Email ____

Tel ____ Mobile ____

Please only provide your email address and/or tel no. if you are happy for us to contact you this way. We will not pass your details on to a third party. You can opt out of emails at any time.

Please accept my **regular monthly** gift of: £2 ☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ Other £ ____ (please specify)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

The WellChild Trust, 16 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3DA

Service User No 4 1 6 8 0 7

Reference (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

DIRECT Debit

Please pay WellChild Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with WellChild and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s) ____

Bank/Building Society Account No ____ Branch Sort Code ____ - ____ - ____

Please note that Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accounts.

Signature(s) ____ Date ____ - ____ - ____

OR

Please accept my **one-off** gift of: £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ Other £ ____ (please specify)

☐ I enclose a cheque/PO for the above amount, made payable to WellChild **OR**

☐ Please debit my credit/debit card no: ____

Expiry date: ____ Valid from: ____ Issue no: ____ (Debit card only) Security code: ____ (Last 3 digits of number next to signature strip on reverse of card)

Name on card: ____

Signature: ____ Date: ____

Please return your completed form in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope (if present) **or in an envelope to:**

Freepost RRAY-AZGC-RETJ, WellChild,
16 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham GL50 3DA (no stamp required).

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE:

VISIT
wellchild.org.uk

CALL
0845 458 8171

Don't forget to Gift Aid it!

If you're a taxpayer, using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we get an extra 25 pence from the Inland Revenue. Your donation goes further, and it doesn't cost you a thing.

giftaid it

☐ **Yes**, I would like WellChild to claim back the tax on this donation. I declare that I am a taxpayer and I want the charity to treat this donation and any future donations I make as Gift Aid donations. I understand that I must pay an equal amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax deemed to have been deducted from this donation.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 289600

We would like to keep you informed of our activities, but if you do not want to hear from us again, please tick here ☐

WellChild
the national charity for sick children

GET INVOLVED!

There are all kinds of ways that you can help WellChild to support the UK's seriously sick children and their families, and we would love you to help us. Here are just a few examples of the fantastic efforts that our supporters have made to help raise funds for our vital programmes...

CHALLENGE EVENTS WellChild is very fortunate to have so many people who are willing to put their bodies on the line to help us through taking part in challenge events. We have a huge team each year in the London Marathon who are cheered on by our noisy and enthusiastic supporters. And we are actively looking for people to take part in other events such as the London Triathlon, Great North Run and the Sahara Desert Trek. Our supporters also take part in many interesting and unusual one-off challenges including everything from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to completing long distance cycling and canoeing events.

It's not only super-fit marathon runners and triathletes who can raise money for WellChild, it's amazing the different things some people do to help sick kids.

Keen fishermen John Cheyne and Gary Palmer hopped to it with a brilliant and inventive way to raise money for WellChild. They held a pike fishing event in Wales dressed as frogs – which are usually the pike's favourite food. The Frogzilla Froggy Frogathon as it was known was a huge success.

WellChild supporter Braham Snyman and his friends were successful in their attempt to break the Guinness world record for the longest barbecue ever held to raise cash for WellChild. The team smashed the existing record by 2.5 hours – setting a new record of 31 hours!

Schoolchildren Abbie and Izzy from Oxfordshire raised money for WellChild by undertaking an epic sponsored silence. They were sponsored by friends and family, and managed to stay silent for an amazing 42 hours!

Emily and her fiancé Simon generously decided that instead of sending friends and family a traditional wedding list they would do something different – they asked their guests and well-wishers to make a charitable donation to WellChild instead.

In addition to raising funds for our work, the annual WellChild Awards celebrate the courage of children coping with serious illnesses or complex conditions and honour the dedication of professionals who go the extra mile to help sick children and their families. The star-studded event held in London is often attended by WellChild's Patron Prince Harry and attracts huge media attention. It is a fabulous evening for the winners and their families that they will never forget.

If you know a brave child or caring health professional who you believe deserves to win a WellChild Award then please nominate them through our website at **www.wellchild.org.uk**

WellChild AWARDS

The gift of a lifetime...

WellChild relies on voluntary donations. That is why we are so thankful to our supporters who choose to leave a gift to WellChild in their Will. After you have provided for your own family and friends perhaps you might consider remembering WellChild in your Will? A gift of any size will make such a difference to a small charity like WellChild. By leaving a gift in your Will to WellChild you will be helping to save precious young lives and help future generations to have long and happy lives.

To find out more about how a gift in your Will can make a life-changing difference for future generations, please call Sarah Howley at WellChild on 0845 458 8171 or email her at **legacies@wellchild.org.uk** for more information.

Your legacy really can be the gift of life.
Please remember WellChild when you make or update your will.

Registered Charity Number: 289600

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To join in or find out more about any of the above fundraising opportunities, please get in touch:

Call: 0845 458 8171 **Email:** info@wellchild.org.uk
Write: WellChild, 16 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham GL50 3DA

WellChild
the national charity for sick children
www.wellchild.org.uk