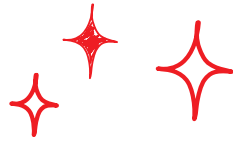




NOAH'S ARK
children's hospice



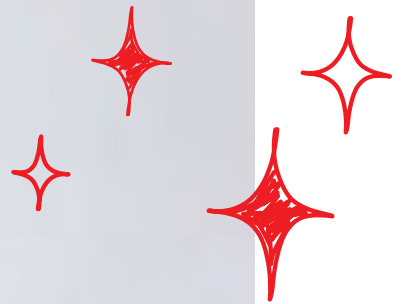
Winter 2023/Spring 2024

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Issue No. 3

Ray and Arthur

How Noah's Ark have helped two brothers create memories that will last a lifetime



Over £1 million
raised in
4 days



Play Team
of the Year
2023



Are you our next
home support
volunteer?



noahsarkhospice.org.uk

welcome aboard!

the third issue of our
Noah's Ark Newsletter – Moments That Matter.

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of Moments That Matter, Noah's Ark's biannual newsletter.

For babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell and their families, every moment they have together is precious, and as a children's hospice it is our job to help families make the most of every day.

In the pages that follow you can read about the moments of joy, reflection, laughter and fun that families have enjoyed this year. These include everything from a trip to the zoo and weekends away to circus mayhem and a photo shoot with world-famous photographer Rankin.

We strive to go above and beyond for those we support. We were thrilled to be shortlisted for a number of prestigious awards this half of the year in recognition of the work we do. Winning two awards, including Play Team of the Year at the 2023 Starlight Awards, was the icing on the cake.

As a charity we rely on our supporters to continue being there for families who need us. And we want to thank everyone who has supported us through fundraising, volunteering or by sharing their expertise pro bono this year. Your kindness means the world to us.



This edition of Moments That Matter was made possible thanks to the generous support of our partners, who provided their services either pro bono or at cost.

Thank you for enabling us to tell our stories to more people. Together we can help more babies, children and young people, and their families make the most of every day.



OLIVER

AIR BUSINESS

LINNEY 

h havas
CX
helia

OMP

THE 10 GROUP

FROM That MOMENT

Community Fundraising Movement 2023



In October we called on our community to come together to support our annual fundraising and awareness campaign, From That Moment.



Together we
raised over
£1 million!



Every penny raised will help babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell, and their families, do things they never thought possible.

A huge thank you to our campaign Backers, whose generosity meant we could double donations throughout the campaign:

We asked local businesses, schools, donors and all our supporters to get involved and donate between 15th-17th October, so their gifts could be matched pound for pound by our generous campaign backers.

Thanks to your incredible support we raised over £1 million.

What an achievement!

Andy & Jo Landesberg
Dr French Foundation
EMS Limited
Fairview New Homes
Fidelis Foundation
Hornsey Foundation Trust
RBC Investor Services
Rachel Charitable Trust
The Gary Landesberg Charitable Trust
The Lassman Family
The Regatta Foundation
Tottenham Hotspur Football Club
Twisted Sister Ltd

Rankin returns

As part of From That Moment, we invited six new families to take part in a photo shoot with Noah's Ark Ambassador and world-famous photographer Rankin. This is the second time Rankin has given up his time to support From That Moment and we were thrilled to introduce him to more of our families, as well as reunite him with three of the families he photographed in 2022.

In his photos Rankin captures the magic of Noah's Ark and celebrates the amazing families we support. **We are so grateful he came on board.**



Meet Roscoe, Gina,
Arthur and Ray...



Roscoe, Gina and their 12-year-old twins Ray and Arthur have been supported by Noah's Ark since the boys were babies.

When Ray was born, he suffered a bleed on his brain, which has affected his development. Despite his conditions, his wonderful personality shines through.

Roscoe explained: "Ray is a real character. He brings light into our lives."

Vicky, one of our Play Specialists, first started visiting the family at their home when Ray and Arthur were just six months old. Gina told us: "Being introduced to Noah's Ark was like finding someone who knew what you're going through. We didn't feel alone anymore. For someone to turn up at my house and just look after Ray was so important."

Roscoe and Gina describe Noah's Ark as a 'constant in their lives' and love spending time with Arthur and Ray at The Ark. Gina

continued: "It's hard for us to create memories as a family. But when you come to Noah's Ark you're made to feel very special. Ray loves the soft play. It's quiet and clean, and he enjoys being with his brother – it's not easy for them to do things together outside of Noah's Ark."

"The hospice supports Arthur a lot. He used to be so shy but now he goes to all the sibling groups, which have really helped him with his confidence. Arthur has met Harry Kane, seen Spurs play and been to Chessington World of Adventures, all thanks to Noah's Ark."

Roscoe and Gina are regulars at our Parent Groups and events, which they say make a world of difference.

“ At Noah's Ark you can meet people in a similar situation and immediately have an open conversation with them because you know they get it. You don't have that anywhere else. ”

The family took part in this year's From That Moment campaign. Arthur was so excited the night before that we spent ages doing his hair in preparation!

Roscoe said: "Arthur came alive behind the camera. I don't think we'd go for a photo shoot and feel comfortable anywhere else. The boys look wicked in the shot."

It is such a privilege for us to help Roscoe, Gina, Arthur and Ray make the most of every day. We think they all look fabulous in their portrait!





A special place
to remember
a child

Located in our beautiful 7.5-acre nature reserve at The Ark, our Butterfly Woodland Walk is full of colourful butterflies designed and created by artist Paul Cox.

Each one has a tag attached, inscribed with a message celebrating and honouring a child who has died.

A gift from Noah's Ark, funded by charity Ripples of Compassion, the butterflies are a way for families to remember their child and all the happy times they had together. They mean the world to the families we support.

Thank you to Ripples of Compassion.

They're both fluttering away

Rose's grandson, Ben, and Riffat's daughter, Zoha, were both cared for by Noah's Ark before they died in 2014 and 2020 respectively. The two children were friends and, through this bond, Rose and Riffat became close too.

In 2020 Riffat added a butterfly to our Butterfly Woodland Walk in her daughter's memory. She placed it next to Ben's.

Rose said: "Ben and Zoha's butterflies are together, which is so lovely because they grew up and were in the same class together. So much has happened in both families over the years, but it's so comforting to know they're both fluttering away in the Butterfly Woodland Walk together."

Riffat added: "When I put Zoha's butterfly in the ground, two butterflies came from somewhere and they just fluttered up and away. It was such a surreal and beautiful moment. Because of Covid, my family couldn't come to Zoha's funeral, so this was our proper goodbye. It was very precious."

Like Rose, Riffat finds it comforting to think of Ben and Zoha being side by side in the Butterfly Woodland Walk.

"[People often say] 'friends forever' but Zoha and Ben have proved



Ben



Riffat, Saad and Zoha

that they are friends forever because their butterflies are together."

When Rose and Riffat met for the first time after Zoha's death the bond between them was stronger than it had ever been. Riffat said: "I saw Rose and I don't know how long we hugged for. A wonderful moment."

“ [People often say] ‘friends forever’ but Zoha and Ben have proved that they are friends forever because their butterflies are together. ”



Rose and Riffat

Support Noah's Ark with a regular gift

It only takes a moment to make magical moments happen



For children who are seriously unwell and their families every moment is precious, which is why we create and celebrate moments of all kinds.

Happy ones. Sad ones. The big and the small. They all add up and they all help families make the most of every day.

But it takes a lot of teamwork, equipment and money to create even the smallest



The moment Adam smiled at the zoo

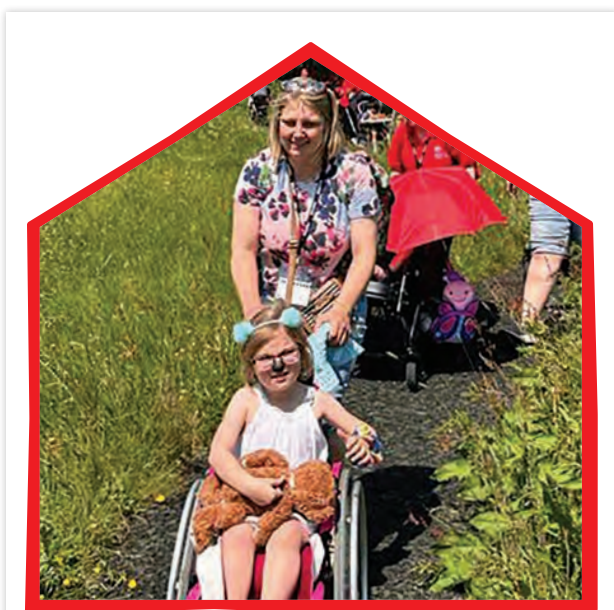
moment, and as a charity we rely on our supporters' generosity. Did you know it costs around £11,000 every day to fund our services?



Moment Makers are marvellous

Moment Makers are part of an incredible community, helping to make every day the best one yet for the families we support.

Their regular donations make giggly moments, yayyyy moments, time-for-a-cuddle moments and so many more happen at Noah's Ark. We think Moment Makers are just brilliant!



The moment Willow went on a bear hunt

Be a Moment Maker

Moment Makers come in lots of different shapes and sizes but they all have one thing in common: they're all wonderfully generous, caring and passionate people.

If that sounds like you, why not join our Moment Marker community today by setting up a regular gift? We look forward to having you on board.

Create moments like this

Sienna-Rose and her mum had an incredible time recently using our brand new pottery wheel in the art room at The Ark.

Our fabulous Art Therapist Eleanor told us how this new piece of equipment creates a world full of colourful and creative moments for the children we support. "The pottery wheel



The moment Sienna-Rose could be creative



The moment Montell relaxed in the ball pit

is an incredibly accessible piece of equipment that opens up a whole range of different avenues for creative expression for both children and adults alike, regardless of ability.

"Using a collaborative approach with Sienna-Rose, she was able to pick the paint colours she wanted using her gaze, and with Mum gently supporting her arm and grip, Sienna moved the paintbrush along the canvas stuck to the wheel, creating calming (and mesmerizing!) pictures. The pottery wheel provides a wonderful base for layered painting, multi-sensory and soothing exploration, splatter expression, and pottery! Not to mention that it's lots of fun!"

Eleanor and the rest of our brilliant Therapies Team help children and families have a great day every day – and our Moment Makers help them do it.

Discover more at noahsarkhospice.org.uk/momentmakers

Supporting families

Fun at The Ark!



The Ark is always full of babies, children and young people, and their families, making the most of every day. It is a privilege for us to welcome them in.

Lights, camera, BUBBLES!

There were bubbles and giggles galore when Noah's Ark Sensory Circus came to The Ark. Captain Calamity was in the house and no one was going to stop him!

Our 'Sensory Sunday Fun day' is a new addition to our Family Activities calendar. We created the event to focus on providing an exciting and safe space for the seriously unwell children we support, as opposed to our Family Days which cater for the whole family.

We would like to thank Spread a Smile UK for making the day extra special by providing bubbles, music and a just a little bit of fairy magic.



Dinner is served...

We recently invited parents, grandparents and carers to join us for a night of fine dining at The Ark, created by chef Gary and our wonderful Rainbow Café Team.

Diners delighted in the Mediterranean feast on offer, and we have already had requests for a second date. Bon Appetit!



Creating castings!

The Care Team got their hands messy when Lena from Luxe Castings introduced them to 3D Life Casting.



Casting is a unique way to capture a moment in time so it can be treasured for years to come.

This training means we can begin providing these detailed keepsakes for families we support; leaving fingerprints and footprints in our hearts and art forever.



NOAHFEST 2023

Children and families joined us at The Ark for a fun-filled afternoon of music, activities, laughter and so much more.



From dressing up to live singers, face painting and crafts, NOAHFEST 2023 was a day to remember!

Thank you to our fantastic **Family Activities Team** for putting on Family Days like this so those we support can enjoy life as children, not patients; as families, not just as carers.

Thank you so much to our partners **Spread a Smile** and **Rays of Sunshine** who helped make the day so special.



We can't wait for NOAHFEST 2024!

Supporting families



Out and about with Noah's Ark

An unforgettable weekend for young carers

Our young carers had an adventure-filled weekend at the Young Carers Festival – the world's largest festival for young people with caring responsibilities at home.

The festival gave children a chance to hang out with friends, have boundless fun and make memories that last a lifetime.

We would like to thank The Children's Society and YMCA Fairthorne Group for hosting and allowing the young people we support to enjoy a break from their responsibilities and have their voices heard. It was an absolute blast!



WARNING
THIS ACTIVITY CAN ONLY BE USED IN THE PRESENCE OF A QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR



Seaside fun at The Ark

This summer The Ark was transported to a whole new, and much sandier world, so the children could enjoy some summer holiday fun.

The event included everything from listening to airport sounds, smelling duty-free perfumes, and even a ride in a plane. Once we got to our holiday destination (otherwise



known as The Den), we explored the sandpit, built castles and had lots of fun with water beads and a room full of bubbles. Talk about getting into the holiday spirit!

Thank you to our award-winning **Play Team** and **Specialist Carers** for using the power of imagination and play to make seaside dreams a reality.

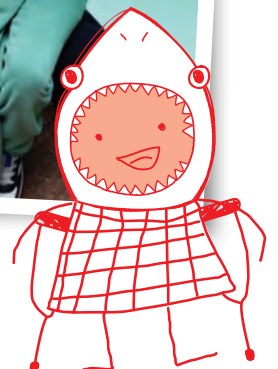
A day at the Zoo

We had the best time at ZSL London Zoo's BIG Summer of Fun! The children got to experience a world of leaping, roaring, squawking, wildlife.



The day was full of fun and adventure, with over 14,000 animals to get up close and personal with.

A huge thank you to our incredible **Care Team**, who make unforgettable days like this possible.



Leaders in our field

Our award-winning Play Team



We were thrilled to win Play Team of the Year at the 2023 Starlight Awards, which recognise organisations that go above and beyond to bring happiness into the lives of children who are seriously unwell.



Play is at the heart of our mission to help babies, children and young people, and their families, enjoy life. We love seeing children having fun through play – and we do everything we can to make it happen.

STARLIGHT



Our nomination

The Award judges were bowled over by our nomination, which described our Play Team in glowing terms and highlighted how they work tirelessly to make sure that every child at Noah's Ark, no matter the challenges they face, has fun.

The opening of a new play space in our Woodland Wing, where children nearing the end of their lives can stay, and our rollout of Makaton training were also praised.

One extract from the nomination read: *"The Noah's Ark Children's Hospice Play Team is a force of nature. The team, although small, are motivated by the core belief that 'play is powerful'. Play is key to a child's development and the Play Team both directly support children in reaching*

“ It's healthcare professionals like the Noah's Ark Play Team who are our real-life superheroes. The team have worked hard to ensure play is an integral part of children's care, particularly with end of life care, where they enable families to create positive and long-lasting memories. This Play Team is truly inspirational. ”

Cathy Gilman, Starlight Chief Executive

those milestones, focusing on what they can do, rather than what they can't, and empower other teams to deliver this level of care themselves."

We would like to thank the judges for making our **Play Team** their Play Team of the Year. A special thank you also goes to our Play Team for the amazing work they do day in day out. **You're the best!**

Leaders in
our field

ThirdSector Awards



A wonderful night at the Third Sector Awards

Following on from our spectacular Play Team of the Year award win, we were delighted to be shortlisted for not just one excellence award at the prestigious **2023 Third Sector Awards**, but four.

The nominees...



Charity Chief Executive **Sophie Andrews OBE**

Brave, tenacious and passionate about supporting children who are seriously unwell, Sophie Andrews has been the driving force behind Noah's Ark since January 2020. Under her leadership Noah's Ark has been rated Outstanding by the CQC, the highest category possible, and The Ark has become a place where children and families can make the most of every day.





Rising Star
Natasha Davis Whitehead

Head of Marketing and
Communications Natasha Davis

Whitehead was nominated in the Rising Star category for her incredible contribution to raising awareness of Noah's Ark and the difference that good palliative care can

make to children's lives. At Noah's Ark Natasha has led on projects that have transformed the way we talk about ourselves and created a brand that makes us a leader in hospice communications. We are thrilled to have her on our team.



Best Charity Film
From That Moment

From That Moment, a campaign film by Noah's Ark created in partnership with world-renowned photographer Rankin, featured six families we support. In the film every family describes the moment they were first told that their child was seriously unwell. The moment when everything changed.



Whilst most families do not have a child who is seriously unwell, most will have experienced a moment in their lives where everything changed. By focusing on this universal experience, the film helped people understand the difference that we make to those we support. The film was crucial to the success of our From That Moment fundraising campaign and enabled us to reach more families in need of our support.



Best Fundraising Campaign
From That Moment

Against a backdrop of rising energy prices and the cost-of-living crisis, the 2022 From That Moment fundraising and awareness campaign raised over £1.2 million in just 36 hours.

With the awareness film at its heart, the campaign beat its fundraising target and enabled us to grow our supporter base.

We were overwhelmed by people's generosity and cannot thank our supporters enough for getting involved.

And the winner is...

We were overjoyed to win the Best Charity Film Award, with judges describing our film as:

"Emotional, heartbreaking and heartwarming – all at the same time! I loved that it was a celebration of life and highlighted the spirit of families involved. The sense of a real community which Noah's Ark engenders was palpable. The fundraising effort was a clear tribute to that."



Meet the Team



Whether they volunteer, support families directly or work behind the scenes, everyone at Noah's Ark is committed to changing the lives children who are seriously unwell and their families.

My name is Kirsty. I'm a Music
Therapist and Researcher

Kirsty Ormston is an expert in music therapy. Alongside her role supporting families at Noah's Ark, Kirsty is carrying out ground-breaking research into the use of music therapy in neonatal wards. She said:

“ There are around 700 music therapists in the UK but almost none of them work on neonatal wards and there is currently no standardised practice for those that are. This means that families on neonatal wards whose children need hospice care may not be getting the support they need.

My research aims to change that. Funded by the National Institute of Health Research, my three-year research project seeks to define what music therapy should look like on a neonatal unit. This includes what materials a family might need; what language therapists should use to describe the support they offer; and when they should approach families. I'm collaborating with Kings College London and UCLH's neonatal ward on this project.

The first stage of my research involves focus groups with parents who have experience of neonatal wards, as well as various charities, organisations and chaplaincies to explore cultural connections to music. We also want to understand how we can use the voice, through things such as chanting or prayer, to connect with the baby at that time.

This type of research has never been done in the UK before. If it is successful, it could change the way music therapy on neonatal wards is delivered across the UK, making sure that every family with a child in need of hospice care gets the support they need. ”





I'm John and I'm a volunteer photographer

John Trigg has been a volunteer photographer at Noah's Ark for over five years. He has taken photos at everything from Family Days and activities to fundraising events and last year's photo shoot with Rankin.

John has captured so many special moments for the families we support. And it all started when he saw an advert saying 'volunteers wanted'. John told us:

“ Photography was a hobby I'd always enjoyed and so I applied for the volunteer photographer role quickly after seeing the advert.

It's been a great ride! With Noah's Ark I've photographed the Duke of Gloucester, various celebrities and worked alongside Rankin. The opportunities I've had are incredible. Volunteering means I'm doing more than just pushing a button on a



camera. People are so appreciative, and I know the photographs will get used.”

John thinks everyone should try volunteering because it gives people an 'opportunity to explore things' they'd like to do.

“ The people you meet in the charity sector are here because they want to be, and so if you have a hobby or interest you can put to productive use, give it a go. Volunteering at Noah's Ark enables you to contribute to an incredibly worthy cause – that's the bottom line really.

I am very proud to tell people I'm a volunteer photographer at Noah's Ark. This place is just incredible!”

Find out more about our staff and volunteers at noahsarkhospice.org.uk





Are you our next Home Support Volunteer?

“
To anyone thinking about volunteering, I'd say go for it; you won't regret it! It can feel daunting, but Noah's Ark is always there to support you and listen to you, and you'll have lots of fun.
Craig, Home Support Volunteer

”

We are looking for amazing people across north London and Hertfordshire to join our Home Support Volunteer service and help children who are seriously unwell and their families make the most of every day.

Home Support Volunteers provide tailored, non-clinical support to families at home and in the community. The role could include everything from playing games and singing songs to trips out and helping with chores.

Only fun people need apply!

Find out more

For more information, please email volunteering@noahsarkhospice.org.uk or call 020 8449 8877.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Partnerships

Working together for families

It takes a community to help families make the most of every day, which is why we partner with some many amazing organisations, charities and supporters.

Here are just four of our brilliant partners:

Child Bereavement UK, a charity which helps families to rebuild their lives when a child grieves or when a child dies, has begun using our counselling room at The Ark to provide bereavement support to children in north and central London.

Our friends at **Spread a Smile** light up The Ark with fairies, bubbles and balloons, along with **Rays of Sunshine**, who support families in applying for wishes. Both bring smiles and sunshine with them, along with fun activities and toys thrown in for good measure!

Camp Simcha work with Noah's Ark Children's Hospice to ensure we are supporting Jewish families as best we can. This includes running bespoke training on approaches to death and dying within the Jewish community, to providing Kosher food for families to enjoy at The Ark.



We're so thankful to have such incredible partners helping the children and families we support. A huge *thank you* to all our partners. We cannot do what we do without them.

Our supporters

SuperStar Supporters!



We may be biased but we think we have the best supporters ever! Their generosity, passion and commitment to helping children who are seriously unwell is truly amazing.

Hitting the floor to raise funds

At the annual BGC Charity Day, Tottenham Hotspur legend Ossie Ardiles took to the trading floor to raise money for Noah's Ark.

Ossie was brilliant on the day and we cannot thank him enough for getting involved. We would also like to say a special



well done and thank you to our friends at BGC for having us. The work they put into the annual Charity Day in remembrance of their colleagues lost on September 11 2001 is nothing short of remarkable.

Remembering Callum



The Mellas Club – Ireland organised a special fundraising walk called 'Carry a Teddy for Callum' to honour the memory of 11-month old Callum, who Noah's Ark cared for at the end of his life.

Supported by Callum's parents, grandparents, family and friends, as well as their local community, the group raised over £7,000 for Noah's Ark. Every step they took and every penny they raised will help us be there for families like Callum's.

A special *thank you* goes to everyone who remembered Callum through this wonderful walk.

Crossing the line for Noah's Ark!

To celebrate reaching his eighth decade, Noah's Ark supporter Martin took on the Royal Park's Half Marathon in October.

Martin smashed his fundraising target and raised over £370 for our work.

✧ what a superstar! ✧

Gardening fun at The Ark

The gardens at The Ark looked better than ever this summer thanks to fantastic teams from TG Lynes, RBC and Hill Dickinson, who volunteered their time to help us with a spot of gardening.

✧ well done guys! ✧



Our supporters

Another Fantastic Fundraiser

THE WINTER BALL



Led by a dedicated and passionate committee, The Winter Ball is one of London's go to charity events. Over the last 30 years they have raised over £30 million for children's charities.

✧ what an incredible achievement! ✧

Noah's Ark has been The Winter Ball Committee's charity of choice for the last three years and their donations have funded so much, including our Noah's Ark minibus which we use to help families enjoy their time at our holiday lodge in Essex. A special thanks to the committee whose support and enthusiasm has led to a wonderful new partnership with The Dorchester hotel.



We need
highly-qualified
Healthcare Assistants
who can pull funny faces



At Noah's Ark we need HCAs to help children who are seriously unwell make the most of every day. We're looking for HCAs who want to spend more time with the children they look after. You'll be based in a stunning new building, set in a north London nature reserve. It's a place of laughter, play and real connection. With an atmosphere that's both supportive and inclusive. If you'd like to know more, please visit noahsarkhospice.org.uk





Create memories that last a lifetime, beyond your lifetime

Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to ensure that future generations of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions have access to expert and compassionate palliative care. Your legacy will help these children, and their families, make the most of every day.

If you would like to find out more about the impact you can make through leaving a gift to Noah's Ark in your Will, please get in touch at:

giftinwills@noahsarkhospice.org.uk, or by calling **020 8449 8877**.



The Ark, Byng Road, Barnet EN5 4NP
020 8449 8877

noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1081156