



**Crosshouse  
Children's Fund**

For the children of Ayrshire and Arran

# YOUR IMPACT

**2023 - 2024**





# Your Impact

2023 - 2024

**Every year, thousands of children require support and treatment from Children's services at Crosshouse Hospital.**

This care ranges from birth at the Ayrshire Maternity Unit, early care within the neonatal department, to emergency or planned treatment within acute paediatric services and community teams. Crosshouse Children's Fund aims to help the children and families using these services.

We are immensely grateful for the support that YOU give. With your donations and fundraising, enhancements can be made to family support services, hospital play programmes, medical equipment, and research. Crosshouse Children's Fund has been able to support numerous projects that improve the experience of hospitalisation for children and their families, such as the recent garden renovations. This renovation allows parents and carers to visit a vibrant and open outdoor space, which is crucial for supporting wellbeing.

Additionally, the Teddy Bear Hospital has been a fabulous initiative within acute paediatrics. This project aims to enhance the experience of hospitalisation for children and promote a positive experience during what can sometimes be a challenging time. By supporting the hospitalisation process for children, we help alleviate their stress and worries, as well as those of their parents.

Crosshouse Children's Fund supports many fundraising events, such as the Kiltwalk, Roon the Toon, and the Great Scottish Run, always going the extra mile to continue supporting the care of children in your local community. We couldn't be more proud to work together to improve the lives of children in Ayrshire.



**Laura McCulloch**  
Senior Charge Nurse  
Children's Services  
Crosshouse Hospital



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# Christmas Cheer for Calum



In the week before Christmas, Calum from Troon, who is being treated for cancer in Glasgow, was admitted to the children's wards at Crosshouse with a high temperature and fever.



Despite being in hospital, Calum still enjoyed some festive fun with special visits from Holly Christmas and Kilmarnock Football Club, which were facilitated by Crosshouse Children's Fund.



Thanks to the excellent care he received at Crosshouse, Calum was discharged in time for Christmas and spent the day at home with Dad, Andrew, Mum, Victoria and little sister, Emily.

Calum has since enjoyed further experiences with Kilmarnock FC, including walking out on to the pitch with his favourite player, Danny Armstrong.

# Killie's Contributions



Since 2019, Kilmarnock Football Club has supported Crosshouse Children's Fund, donating an incredible £11,400 in total. The team visited children in the hospital at Christmas and attended the Crosshouse Christmas Fair. A bucket collection at Rugby Park raised over £400 and further funds have been raised via their unique penicillin inspired away kit. The club also helped launch the Colour for Crosshouse campaign.

# Nurtured by Nature

Thanks to a generous legacy donor, the garden spaces at Ayrshire Maternity Unit have been renovated, providing a beautiful and tranquil environment for patients and staff to enjoy.

The smaller courtyard area of the maternity unit received substantial support from Ardagh Glass in Irvine. Not only did Ardagh Glass provide crucial funding, but their team also contributed by volunteering hands-on support during the revamp.

**"Our environment can have a powerful impact on our wellbeing and for patients who have to spend time in hospital during pregnancy or postnatally, having an outdoor space for some fresh air and quiet reflection, will be so beneficial,"**

**Kirsten Watson**

CEO of Crosshouse Children's Fund





The new garden spaces are designed to offer a place of peace, being surrounded by nature, within the busy hospital environment.

These improvements reflect Crosshouse Children's Fund's ongoing commitment to enhancing the hospital experience for young patients, their families, and NHS staff across Ayrshire and Arran.

**"These beautiful gardens will provide a much-needed sanctuary for patients, families, and staff, promoting healing and relaxation. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Crosshouse Children's Fund, Ardagh Glass, and all the volunteers and professionals who made this possible."**

**Claire Burden**

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Chief Executive





# Colour for Crosshouse

**The Colour for Crosshouse campaign is set to transform the children's wards at Crosshouse Hospital.**

The children's wards have been described as "drab, cold, clinical, outdated, and sad".

The current hospital environment has a major impact on parents, staff, and most importantly, the children.





The charity's vision is to create bright, fresh spaces that children find fun, relaxing, and distracting. Children, families, and hospital staff will all play their part in helping to design the innovative artwork and themes, ensuring that they are involved and empowered throughout the process.

Thanks to your kind donations, Crosshouse Children's Fund has provided an initial £30,000. Work is already underway to transform the ward entrance, where many children begin their hospital journey. With your continued support, more areas will be renovated in the year ahead.



# Running for Crosshouse

From Great Runs in Glasgow to 10ks in Kilmarnock, more people are running for Ayrshire's babies and children in hospital than ever before.

**Over £19,500 was raised from running events in 2023!**



# Callum's London Marathon Story



Callum, born prematurely, with just a 50% survival chance, defied the odds to become Crosshouse Children's Fund's first London Marathon runner, finishing in under four hours.

Callum and his twin brother, Andrew, were born three months early at Ayrshire Central Hospital in August 1997.



**"I'm excited to give something back and show other young patients what is achievable. Fundraising for a charity that helps families at their most vulnerable is priceless to me!"** Callum

**"Having a baby is meant to be one of the most exciting times, but for us, it was the scariest. With the care and support from dedicated doctors and nurses, they grew stronger every day."**

**"Giving back is so important, and I'm very proud Callum chose to fundraise for Crosshouse Children's Fund with his London Marathon to help families and babies in need."** Callum's Mum





# Junior Fundraisers Spread Joy

We are incredibly grateful for the wonderful support from young fundraisers, who have dedicated their time and energy to help children like them who need hospital care. The diverse range of activities they've organised, including sponsored walks, cycles, jewellery sales, and

parties, has not only brought communities together but also raised thousands of pounds for the charity. This amazing effort has made a significant impact, ensuring that hospitalised children receive the support and care they deserve.

# Support from Schools

Local schools, James Hamilton Early Childhood Centre (ECC) and Monkton Primary have generously supported Crosshouse Children's Fund through two fundraising events, a staff walk, and a "Wear Purple" day.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our educational centres who have fundraised to support Ayrshire's children in hospital.



## Championing our Littlest Fighters

We were delighted to support the NHS Ayrshire And Arran Women and Children's Service's coffee morning, celebrating our small but mighty heroes.

Staff Nurse, Molly Graham, told us:

**"Thank you so much for your help in organising our World Prematurity Day event. It was a fantastic day, and we had a great turnout!"**





# The Healing Power of Play

Hospital play programs help children relax and have fun through activities like arts and crafts, sensory play, birthday parties, and special visits. These programs are vital for reducing stress, distracting from pain, combating loneliness, and aiding in recovery.

We believe children shouldn't miss out because they are in the hospital. Your support allows families to celebrate special events despite their challenging circumstances.





# Jaxon Strikes Back

Scan to watch  
Jaxon's video

**"Jaxon was rushed to Crosshouse by ambulance to be treated for croup, and later suffered an asthma attack."**

**'Before the Star Wars characters came to visit, he had little energy and hadn't moved from his bed.'**

**'His wee face when he saw them was amazing! The visit really excited him and got him out of his bed - he almost forgot he was ill.'**

**Jaxon's Mum**

Thank you to the Imperial Scottish Garrison for visiting Jaxon and other patients on Star Wars Day, May 4th.

# Festive Fundraising



The Ayrshire community came together at Christmas to raise an astounding £8,600 at Crosshouse Children's Fund's Christmas Fair.

The charity's first-ever Christmas Fair had a huge turnout of over 2,000 people, who all contributed to a remarkable fundraising effort for young patients, from across the region.



Thank you to our stallholders and our partners, Holly Woodhouse, The Park Hotel, Ayrshire Mascots, Wellwood Alpacas, Kilmarnock Community Fire Station, and Kilmarnock FC.



# Speedy Skeletons:

## BoneXpert Brings Fast Diagnostics to Crosshouse Hospital

We are thrilled to announce that the Children's Unit will soon benefit from BoneXpert, a new software funded by your generous donations. BoneXpert helps doctors estimate a child's skeletal maturity, crucial for

diagnosing various conditions. It allows instant image analysis, speeding up diagnosis and treatment. Thank you for bringing this cutting-edge technology to our Children's Unit!

## Appy to Help

Crosshouse Children's Fund has committed more funding to an app that trains parents, carers, and professionals who care for children with complex needs. The app, expected to save NHS Ayrshire & Arran over £140,000 annually, offers videos and resources on topics like

epilepsy, diabetes, respiratory conditions, and anaphylaxis. It provides instant access to vital information for parents and staff in schools and nurseries across Ayrshire. Initially funded by Crosshouse Children's Fund in 2020 during Covid-19, the Paediatric Training App has been extended for another two years.



# Supporting Families in Ayrshire

Family support services are essential in a hospital setting, offering emotional, informational, and practical assistance during difficult times.

Due to a rise in unexpected child deaths in Ayrshire, we appointed Victoria Maxwell as Ayrshire's first Paediatric Bereavement Liaison Nurse in 2023. Victoria collaborates with the government to understand and prevent these tragedies and offers vital support to affected families. This role, funded by Crosshouse Children's Fund, ensures families receive the necessary support during such tragic times.



Often families will be in crisis when visiting hospital and while the nature of the crisis varies, Crosshouse Children's Fund tries to provide whatever is needed at the time.

Such support extends to funding patient transport, providing emergency clothing for mothers and babies, and more.

Sadly, the support required for families sometimes relates to the loss of a child, so the charity has also recently funded bereavement books in Ayrshire Maternity, for parents and siblings.

**'My son Robbie was born prematurely, and we were rushed to Ayrshire Maternity. Thanks to Crosshouse Children's Fund, we were given clothes for Robbie.'**

**The team's exceptional care and support helped us through a worrying time. Robbie is now a thriving 9-month-old!'**

**Lorna, a grateful mum**



# Wonderful Workplaces

Partnerships are crucial for Crosshouse Children's Fund in raising awareness and funds. Supported by various local businesses and organisations, we have increased our visibility and fundraising efforts. These collaborations have broadened our audience, highlighted our essential services, and fostered community involvement. Our partners' participation in fundraising events has enabled us to launch new initiatives and improve care quality.







# A Group Effort!



We're extremely grateful to have received support from multiple groups and clubs throughout Ayrshire who have fundraised for us and had us along to speak at their events.

Images from top to bottom

**Hillbillies:** The Hillbillies MMC raised a fantastic £3,300 on their famous Easter Egg Run.

**Ayr Amateur Opera Company:**

The society raised over £1927.24 by hosting a concert party and collecting donations at their recent run of 'The Sound of Music'. Performers also donated their singing skills at our Christmas Fair with some festive favourites.

**Outlaws:** The ice hockey club raised £1,200 through their charity match at the Galleon Centre.

**Rotary Clubs:** Crosshouse Children's Fund is grateful for the support of Rotary organisations including Hunterston, Kilmarnock and Ayr.



## From Drivers to Walkers... Our Kiltwalk Heroes

Over 130 walkers looked out their tartan and took to the streets of Glasgow for the 2024 Glasgow Kiltwalk, raising an outstanding £20,369 for our brave, young patients.

The largest ever Team Crosshouse to attend the Kiltwalk was made up of patients, their families, NHS Ayrshire and Arran staff, and local businesses.



## Driving for Better Sleep

Volunteer drivers Alan and Brian are enhancing the lives of children with respiratory conditions in Ayrshire and Arran by delivering and collecting sleep monitoring equipment.

This service allows families to manage respiratory issues more effectively at home, reducing the need for stressful hospital stays. Their efforts improve the children's sleep quality, mental wellbeing, and the accuracy of sleep studies, making a significant difference in their overall health.



# Kyle's Teddy Therapy

Crosshouse Children's Fund supports the portable Teddy Hospital, helping young patients facing medical procedures, through play.

Kyle, a long-term patient, felt anxious about an upcoming surgery in Glasgow. Crosshouse Play Specialist, Michelle, used the Teddy Hospital to help Kyle prepare and alleviate his fears.

**'Play therapy provided by the Teddy Hospital was a huge part of preparing Kyle for his surgery in Glasgow, it was able to help him overcome some big fears.'**

**Kyle's Mum**



## Ted-ucation



Ted-ucation is an interactive talk delivered to schools across Ayrshire, teaching children about University Hospital Crosshouse, and the people who work there. We introduce children to hospital equipment they might encounter should they visit the hospital in future, and of course some teddy bears, to help alleviate any fears they may have about the hospital.



# Get Involved!

Crosshouse Children's Fund relies on the support of donors, fundraisers and volunteers to make our work possible.

If you would like to donate to our ongoing appeal, Colour for Crosshouse, please scan the QR code:



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