

Newlife News

Together, we're making a difference



Sam Aged 7

Read more
about our
cover star
Sam on P7

**Celebrating 20 Years
of Equipment Grants**

Will you take on a fundraising challenge?

Scan to find out more



July

At Home Superheroes

14 June – 13 July - Anywhere
Remotely joining forces with hundreds of fellow Superheroes & Sidekicks in SUPER TEAMS to virtually race around the world!

Tough Mudder

Various dates and locations available

Are you ready to get muddy for a life-changing cause? Tough Mudder is not just an obstacle course; it's a test of strength, grit, and teamwork.



August

Skydive

Various dates and locations available

Freefall from 10,000 feet: Feel the adrenaline surge as you reach speeds of up to 125mph during an exhilarating tandem jump with a professional instructor.



September

London to Paris Cycle

7th - 11th September - London
Join Team Newlife for the London to Paris Cycle Ride 2025 and pedal your way from one iconic capital to another.

Walking Warriors

Anywhere
Walking challenge where we are asking you to walk 10,000 steps a day across the whole of September.



October

Cardiff Half

Half Marathon
5th October - Cardiff Castle
Take on this iconic route through Cardiff while raising funds for children with disabilities.

Oxford Half

Half Marathon
12th October - Oxford City Centre
This stunning route takes you through Oxford's historic streets and beautiful parks, offering the perfect mix of a personal challenge and breathtaking views.



Cannock

Chase Running Festival
5k, 10k & Half Marathon
12th October - Staffordshire
Official Partner

Lace up your running shoes and join us at the stunning Cannock Chase Running Festival! **Newlife is the official partner of Run Through** for this exciting event, and we need your help to make it a record-breaker.

November

Alton Towers Run

5k, 10k & Half Marathon
15th & 16th November - Staffordshire

Stride around some of the country's most famous rollercoasters for a race day you'll never forget!



At Home Winter Wonderwheels

9th - 23rd November - Make your festive build-up extra super by joining our virtual race across the world!

Welcome to the special 20 Years of Equipment Grants edition of Newlife News



Twenty years ago, our journey began with a £30,000 equipment grant trial to help a small number of families. Little did we know the profound impact our vital services would have. Specialist equipment has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of children across the UK, bringing joy and possibilities. From helping children achieve dreams like attending college or university, to enabling families to enjoy everyday activities like visiting the park, to helping children in crisis, our support has been life-changing.

Yet the need is greater than ever. Our 2024 report, Fight for our Future, revealed only 40 percent of families feel their child has all the necessary equipment, and one in four local authorities leave children waiting more than 12 months for assessments.

One dad told me that his daughter was having up to 30 drop seizures a day and needed a safe bed to sleep in. He said he wouldn't change one thing about his daughter, because that is what makes her who she is. He simply wished that he didn't have to battle to get her the vital equipment and support she needed.

You can make a difference. Please help us ensure every family gets the support they need, when they need it most.

Stephen Morgan

Stephen Morgan
Director of Charitable Services

To keep up to date with our latest events and updates follow us on social media:



newlifethecharity



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newlifecharity

Celebrate 20 years with us – Take on a challenge today and make a difference for the next child waiting.

newlifethecharity.co.uk/fundraising-events

A special service born from a passion for helping

Celebrating
20 Years
of Equipment
Grants

Key to creating Newlife's Equipment Grant Service in 2005 was Newlife Consultant Nurse, Karen Dobson, who still works for Newlife today.

Over the years she has seen the service grow from an initial desire to help children in the areas surrounding its Staffordshire-based HQ, into something thousands of families rely on each year across the UK.

Karen said: "The Equipment Grant Service came into being when we were still BDF Newlife and we began receiving numerous calls about seating systems. It quickly became apparent it was an issue in Cannock and Stafford – but little did we know how big the issue really was!

"We thought we would be providing all

"In those early days the most surprising thing to me was the number of children without the specialist equipment they needed. You assume they will have what they need, and that's not the case at all."

the nice things like bikes, trikes and toys to help disabled children, but we found the real issue was that disabled children couldn't even get the basic equipment they needed. So, we began supporting them and, by doing so, also helping the NHS.

"There are so many children we have helped over the years, but there are some that I still remember today, stories that were heartbreaking

to hear, but really helped shape the direction of Newlife. One of these was a 12-month-old who was taken to see an elderly neighbour to thank him for his birthday money, but while he was there touched an old-fashioned element fire and was electrocuted, leaving him severely disabled. Newlife provided one of the first ever buggies for him. Sometimes children are born with a disability, but life can also change in a split second."

Newlife has always responded to the needs of families which is why the Equipment Grant Service has changed

over the years, both within this service and through the creation of other services such as Play Therapy Pods and Equipment Loans. But what has always remained is Newlife's passion for helping.

Karen added: **"I still have the same passion now for helping disabled children as I did back then – and I still see every single application for an Equipment Grant. The most rewarding thing is to know that we are truly making a difference to the children and families we support."**

Finlay's Story

When Finlay received a new wheelchair and specialist motorised wheels from Newlife, it changed his life. Not only did it ease the pain and discomfort he felt from using his old wheelchair, but it has allowed him to have a taste of freedom and independence that would have been otherwise impossible due to Cerebral Palsy, which affects his movement and coordination.

Now, two years after receiving the equipment from Newlife, 18-year-old Finlay is loving his life and says this is due to the wheelchair and powered wheels which allow him to go where he needs to without anyone pushing him. Finlay said: "I'm still loving using my wheelchair and powered wheels. It means I can go out and about to do different things. I have a cracking

social life and love watching basketball and going to the cinema, theatre and to watch rugby. I need to have someone with me, but I can get around on my own, which is lovely. I'm working in the garden centre at college and like serving people and working on the till. After college I want to get a supported intern role and then hopefully get a job."



Find out more about our services and the Nurses Helpline by visiting newlife.team/get-support

Newlife Timeline

20 years of transforming lives – your donation today can help the next child enjoy a brighter future. **20-years.newlifecharity.co.uk**



Eleanor's Story

Eleanor was 12 when she received a powered wheelchair from Newlife, which opened up a whole new world of adventure for her. Ellie was able to join her local Girlguiding group, progressing from Brownies at age nine, through the Rangers and now, aged 23, is a leader at the very same guide unit she attended as a child.

She said: "I was grateful for my NHS wheelchair, but it wasn't really suitable for outdoors, so the all-terrain powered wheelchair from Newlife was a gamechanger for me at the time."



The 'Just Can't Wait' emergency loan service was launched, to deliver essential equipment to children in crisis within days.

The 20,000th equipment grant was awarded - an incredible achievement.



The equipment grant service was launched, helping its 100th child within months.



The charity's Newlife Superstore opened in Cannock, selling donated goods from high street retailers to raise funds.



The Birth Defects Foundation was registered as a charity, supporting research related to the understanding, prevention and treatment of birth defects.



Our trading company and charity placed all their assets into the new registered charity called Newlife The Charity for Disabled Children, combining all of our focus under one umbrella.



We changed our name to Newlife the Foundation for Disabled Children to reflect the expansion of our services.



By the turn of the new millennium, the support groups offered by BDF had evolved to include a free Nurse Helpline.



The charity supported the setting up of a separate trading company to recycle and raise funds from the management of stock donated to the charity.



Connie's Story

Connie was diagnosed with a form of childhood dementia called Battens Disease after she developed seizures and lost the ability to walk and talk. Although she received a revolutionary new enzyme treatment, travelling to treatments – or anywhere – was difficult because she needed a specialist buggy with lots of support so she could recline to sleep and be protected during seizures.

Connie's mum, Caroline said: "Receiving this chair from Newlife changed our lives! Connie was able to be comfortable on long journeys to hospital, at school, and on holidays and days out. It had everything she needed. You've all made a huge difference to our daughter's quality of life."

Sam's Story

When Sam received a specialist sit-to-stand wheelchair from Newlife eight years ago, he knew it would allow him the independence and freedom to attend university and live his life to the full.

"I owe so much to that wheelchair," says Sam. "That wheelchair made my university life possible. I met my friends, I got a good grade so I could get the job I have now working for a national TV station. It was all because I was able to have the right piece of equipment at the right time."

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Change a Child's Life

 **newlife**
The Charity for Disabled Children



For more than 20 years, Newlife has been transforming the lives of children with disabilities and their families. **By leaving a gift in your Will, you can ensure that the next generation of children receives the vital equipment and support they need.**

For our Gifts in Wills Guide and to claim your FREE Will writing service visit newlifecharity.co.uk/a-gift-in-your-will



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Newlife The Charity for Disabled Children.
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