

Bringing joy to terminally and seriously ill children  
by making their treasured dreams come true



*We all have a dream*

  
dreams  
come true

0800 018 6013 | [www.dctc.org.uk](http://www.dctc.org.uk)

# What we do

Dreams Come True, a national charity serving the whole of the UK, was incorporated as an independent charity in 1988 with the mission of bringing joy to children who are terminally or seriously ill by fulfilling their treasured dreams. Children have a gift for finding joy and giving joy, whatever their circumstances. And every child has a dream. Making that dream come true for a terminally or seriously ill child will not just brighten their life, it will be a gift that their parents and family will treasure forever. That is what we do every day.

We receive dream requests by telephone, post, email and online from the family, friends and carers of sick children. We respond to them all by getting in touch to clarify the child's condition and to research the nature of the child's dream. Once we have confirmed that the child is eligible, a member of our staff team establishes a personal relationship with the family and works with them, as well as with medical and support staff, to make the dream come true. We believe that each dream, like each child is unique and precious and we operate with complete integrity and dependability - liaising, co-ordinating,

organising, funding and if necessary accompanying - to ensure that the child has an unforgettable experience, and that the parents and family can share their joy.

Our Dreams children often have little to look forward to beyond continual rounds of hospital visits and sometimes painful treatments, or the prospect of living with a long-term debilitating disease. The work we do delivers a profound impact. It provides them with the delicious pleasure of anticipation, the thrill and excitement of their dream actually coming true, and the lasting joy of wonderful memories to share with their families.

## Our objectives

The charity's activities are designed to support the objectives of Dreams Come True that can be summarised as follows:

- Our mission** to bring joy to terminally and seriously ill children by making their treasured dreams come true
- Our vision** that every terminally and seriously ill child with a dream has the opportunity for that dream to come true
- Our commitments** to excel at fulfilling dreams and at creating the resources to fulfil them  
to recognize that every child is unique and every dream is unique  
to treat all children and their families with respect, care, compassion and empathy  
to recognize the importance of everyone in the organization to fulfilling our mission  
to celebrate the contribution made by all who work in and on behalf of Dreams Come True, all our hard working volunteer fundraisers and each and every donor to the charity

## *You can help to make dreams come true*

**Laura** was exhausted and depressed after undergoing long and gruelling hospital treatment. Her dream was to experience the joy of swimming with dolphins. We arranged this as part of a holiday in the sun with her family and we are thrilled to report that Laura is now doing well.

Dreams like this are often a vital contribution to the respite experience of the child.



Laura swimming with dolphins

**Beth** suffered from cancer of the eyes. When the consultant gave Beth and her parents the sad news that Beth had very little time left, they decided to bring her 21st birthday party forward. Beth's dream was to taste some of her favourite ice cream at her party. The ice cream was made by a small company in Cornwall, so, moving very fast, we arranged the refrigerated delivery to her home in the Midlands, and the family were able to share a very special birthday party with Beth. Sadly Beth died shortly afterwards.

## *What price makes a dream come true?*

**Jamie** is severely disabled and spends almost all his time either at home or in hospital. Jamie longed to be like the other kids and play outside with his brother and sister. We paid for a specially adapted trike and now Jamie's dream frequently comes true!

**Lucy** has had a stroke. She is going blind and has severely restricted movement, although she does still manage to get around on her bottom! Lucy loves to play and wants some specially made toys and equipment that will amuse and entertain her, as well as develop her spatial awareness and confidence.



Jamie with his new trike

We fulfil hundreds of dreams each year which require the provision of specialist equipment, each one costing from £500 to £4,000.

# How can you help to make more dreams come true?

Of course each Dream must be paid for, and we work alongside our hundreds of fundraising supporters with passion, imagination and integrity to raise the resources we need. We want as many people and organisations as possible to share in the joy of working on behalf of such amazing children, and we want them all to experience the fun and friendship that comes with being part of the Dream Team.

- Make a donation to Dreams Come True
- Become part of our team of Dream Volunteers:
  - Organise a Dreams Come True fundraising event
  - Raise funds by running, skydiving, walking – or just achieving!
  - Spend a few hours helping at an event
  - Visit schools to promote our events for schoolchildren
  - Promote events by putting up posters or giving out flyers
  - Make presentations about us to local community service groups
  - Help us with fundraising research either at home or in our office
- Ask your employer to sponsor our charity and encourage payroll-giving
- ‘Open the door’ for us to a potential corporate partner or to a benefactor
- Contact us today! Call **0800 018 6013** or visit [www.dctc.org.uk](http://www.dctc.org.uk)



Ashlyn surfing at Universal Citywalk



Jo running in the Flora Marathon

# Organise and take part in some exciting events

Here are just a few examples of the many events planned for the coming year.

- **The 'Dream Mile' for Schools**

Following a very successful trial in several schools, involving hundreds of children who raised thousands of pounds, we have developed an easy-to-follow blueprint for children to run, walk, scooter (anything really!) a Dream Mile. Would you be prepared to use your contacts with local schools to promote this event?

- **'Dream' Dinners**

Would you like to entertain your friends and relatives at home to raise funds for our Dream Children? It could be a fine dining experience with champagne and candles, or a simple barbecue with beer and burgers – whatever suits you. It could even be a “Dream Tea” with scones and clotted cream!

- **'In Your Dreams' Walk or Run**

This is a fancy dress event which invites people who might dream of being someone else (who doesn't?) to assume a new identity. It will be great fun to take part with family and friends – definitely one for the photo album – and fundraise to make dreams come true,

- **Running**

Hundreds of people every year raise sponsorship for us by taking part in running events. In 2009 our London Marathon Dream Team was 130 strong and we are represented in virtually every major running event in the UK and many more abroad. We have guaranteed places in many of them but we very much welcome runners who have secured their own place as well.

- **Skydiving**

If you prefer white knuckles to sweaty trainers, why not join in one of our sponsored parachute jumps. They are the ultimate adrenalin rush and we get all types doing it! From 16 to 70 year olds, groups of work mates, husband and wife teams, father and daughter teams – all throwing themselves out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft in order to make dreams come true.

# *We have a dream too!*

Since Dreams Come True was founded by Margaret Hayles in 1988, we have made a difference to more than 4,500 children and their families all over the UK.

**Last year alone we brought joy to 400 Dreams Children.**

With 25,000 children accessing palliative care services every year, our vision is to make a 'Dream Come True' for many more of them. **Join the Dream Team and help us achieve it!**



Luke meets Thomas the Tank Engine



Carlos meets Dennis the Menace



Ryan meets Dimitar Berbatov



Liam meets 'heavy metal' band, Machine Head

dreams come true 

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