



NOAH'S ARK
children's hospice

Summer/Autumn 2026

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Issue No. 8



Shanan Learn
how we stood with this
family after the loss of
their twin girls

Celebrating 20 years
of Noah's Ark services

Every Moment Matters
strategy launch

Running miles
that matter

noahsarkhospice.org.uk



At Noah's Ark we are privileged to receive generous Marketing and Communications pro-bono support from industry-leading organisations.

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.



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projectsgroup
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THE 10 GROUP

Mathys & Squire

welcome aboard!

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

Welcome to the latest edition of **Moments That Matter**, Noah's Ark's bi-annual newsletter.

For babies, children, and young people with life-threatening or life-shortening conditions, and their families, every moment together is precious. As a children's hospice it is our mission to help families make the most of every day.

This year is especially significant as we celebrate **20 years of providing Noah's Ark services** – two decades of compassion, determination and care made possible by our incredible community.

In this issue, we reflect on that journey and the people who have shaped it. We are proud to share Shan'an's family story, a powerful reminder of the difference compassionate, holistic care can make when families need it most. We also hear from Alison Goodman as she reflects on her remarkable contribution to building The Ark, and we celebrate

the dedication of our long-standing partners and supporters who continue to stand alongside us.

You'll also discover how we're supporting families to create joyful, meaningful moments, whether through activities at The Ark, time together in the community, or simply space to connect and be themselves.

Looking ahead, we're inspired by the next generation, as students bring fresh ideas to help us reach new audiences, and by the growing community of supporters joining us through regular giving and our newly launched Giving Club.

Everything we do is only possible because of you. Whether you support us through donations, partnerships, volunteering or sharing our story – thank you. Together, we can be there for more families, for the next 20 years and beyond.



Meet Shanan and her family...

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice has been supporting Shanan and her family since March 2023. Her story is one of unimaginable loss but also of strength, love and the importance of compassionate care.

In 2022, Shanan attended her first pregnancy scan. She says: "At my eight-week scan, they only saw one baby, but it wasn't until my 12-week scan that they confirmed I was having twins. I was shocked and really didn't know if I could cope with two babies."

That shock soon turned to worry. "It was explained to me that there was a possibility that the twins were identical and sharing the same sac and that it was a high-risk pregnancy. All I remember from the journey home was thinking I must be so careful."

Running on fear

A further scan at University College London Hospital (UCLH) confirmed the twins were Monochorionic Diamniotic, meaning they shared a placenta. "It was a relief knowing that they weren't in the same sac," Shanan says, "but... there was still a possibility that I could lose one or both babies. Throughout the whole first stage of the pregnancy, I was running on fear. It was like carrying an egg on a spoon."

At 16 weeks, Shanan was told one baby was not growing well due to Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome. "I was told they might need surgery or try to save the



Shanan, Ayden and Skye with their memorial butterflies for Amelia and Amaya

“I don't think I would be where I am right now if it wasn't for Noah's Ark. They didn't just offer support, they gave my family comfort, strength, and a sense that we were not alone.”

stronger baby by terminating the other one. That just wasn't an option for me."

Despite everything, there were moments of hope. "27 weeks was the highlight of my pregnancy... the only happy week to be honest." But complications

continued. Trusting her instincts after another scan at UCLH, Shanan pushed for further checks, leading to the discovery of a mass on one baby's head.

I didn't want to let her go

Amelia and Amaya were born by C-section on 15 February 2023. "They delivered Amaya, the twin with the mass on her forehead and I didn't hear her cry... I only had five minutes with her before she went to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). I didn't want to let her go and I hoped she knew that I was her mum."

Shanan and Amelia were moved

to GOSH the following day where both girls were diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer, Undifferentiated Pleomorphic Sarcoma. Amaya's condition was more advanced, and she died just 12 days later. "It was the hardest decision, to turn Amaya's machine off. Afterwards, as I sat beside her body, I went numb; I couldn't feel anything."

I had to get stronger

That same night, Amelia began chemotherapy. Shanan says: "I felt I had to get stronger for Amelia." But after further complications, Amelia also died just weeks later on 18 April. "That was the second time I had to make the decision... I fell to the floor, asking the nurse 'How do you lose two babies?'"



me to balance things out. It gave me a safe space to process my grief and I began to heal."

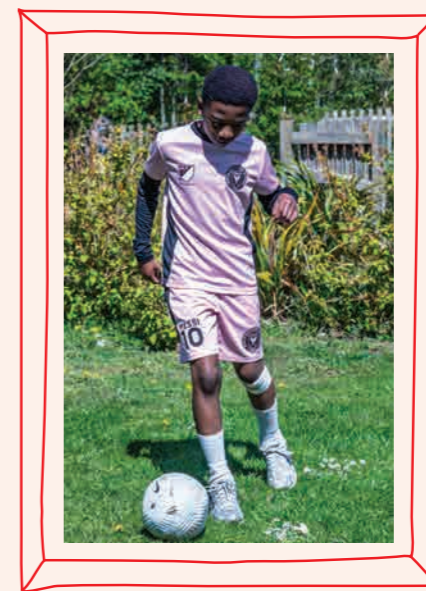
siblings' groups and family activities. "They've given them opportunities to smile again. Seeing them happy, even for a moment, meant everything to me." A family trip to Disneyland Paris created precious memories. "It gave us a chance to step away from our pain, create special memories together, and feel joy again as a family. That experience meant more than words can express."

Precious memories

Noah's Ark has also supported Shanan's two older children, Skye and Ayden, through

Amid overwhelming grief, Shanan found support through Noah's Ark. Family Link Worker, Maria, helped guide her through the darkest days. "She's been my rock. I don't know how I would have been if it wasn't for Maria and Noah's Ark."

Shanan chose to bury her daughters together. "They were born together, so I wanted them to be laid to rest the same way. It was comforting to know they would not be separated. They were the most beautiful girls, and they will always have a special place in my heart." Over time, our Bereavement Therapy has helped Shanan begin to process her grief. "Therapy helps



Reflecting on the past three years, Shanan says: "I don't think I would be where I am right now if it wasn't for Noah's Ark. They didn't just offer support, they gave my family comfort, strength, and a sense that we were not alone, and I will carry that kindness with us forever. I am truly thankful from the bottom of my heart."

You can read their full story on our website here:



With kind thanks to Shanan and her family for sharing their story.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is 20

This year, we mark our 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of vision, determination and compassionate care for children with life-threatening and life-shortening conditions, and their families helping them to make the most of every day.



Our story began in 1999, when local businessman and founder Michael McInerney, moved by personal loss and the lack of local children's palliative care, set out to create something better.

By 2006, that vision began to make a difference as Noah's Ark launched our first Hospice-at-Home and community services. At the same time, plans for a dedicated children's hospice, The Ark, began to gather momentum.

Building The Ark was an ambitious undertaking, driven by community support and tireless fundraising. Campaigns such as 'Give an Hour' and

'London's Crying Out' captured public imagination, while supporters, volunteers and well-known figures rallied to raise the £10 million needed. Families played a central role to the design, ensuring the hospice would truly meet their needs.

Our first year

Construction began in 2017, and in September 2019, The Ark, officially opened its doors. Just months later, the Covid-19 pandemic put that vision to the test. Choosing courage, the team opened early to support children who might otherwise have died alone in hospital. In our first year, 30 children were cared for at The Ark, surrounded by loved ones, an enduring testament to its purpose.



Today, The Ark is a haven set within a nature reserve, offering specialist clinical care alongside holistic therapies, family support and bereavement services. From sensory spaces to accessible outdoor areas, every detail is designed to provide comfort, dignity and moments of joy.

Reaching more families earlier

Over the past 20 years, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice has grown into a leader in paediatric palliative care, sharing knowledge globally while staying true to its founding mission: helping children and families make the most of every day.

Looking ahead, our focus is on reaching more families, earlier, and ensuring our services remain sustainable for generations to come. As our CEO, Sophie Andrews OBE, inset right, reflects: "As we mark our 20th anniversary, we reflect not



"...we look to our community once again to help us achieve our ambition to build a sustainable future for Noah's Ark..."

only on how far we have come, but also on the responsibility we hold for the future.

"As we launch our new strategy for 2026-2029, Every Moment Matters, we look to our community once again to help us achieve our ambition to build a sustainable future for Noah's Ark so that we can be there for more families, earlier, over the next 20 years."

Read more about our new strategy on page 10.

Farewell but not goodbye...

Alison Goodman: Over and Out

From the beginning, when the land was purchased but The Ark was still just an idea, Alison Goodman knew she wanted to be part of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

She wrote letters. She sent emails. More than once, she was told the organisation simply wasn't ready. So, Alison got on with her life, but she never forgot Noah's Ark.

When the role of Fundraising Director was advertised, she didn't hesitate. She applied, got the job, and the rest is history. Twelve years on, now Deputy CEO, Alison leaves behind a legacy that reflects who she is:



kind, courageous and relentlessly committed to excellence.

Looking back, one moment stands above the rest. "It has to be completing the fundraising target to enable us to build The Ark," she says.

Raising £10 million was no small task. Over four years, Alison and her team delivered creative campaigns and events – galas, film premieres, community initiatives – leaving no stone unturned. "We came up with some fantastic ideas, but it was hard to get the projects off the ground as we didn't have the

“ I'll really miss spending time with our families, who are just phenomenal. ”

same visibility as we do now. But in the end, we did it.”

Never doubted

They brought people with them through what Alison does best: building genuine, lasting relationships.

Even in the toughest moments, Alison never doubted that The Ark would be built. "We have some incredibly loyal funders, donors and



partners who always reassured me that we would be okay. That is the biggest gift you could get as a fundraising director, it's what enables you to sleep at night.”

Quick to share the credit

In 2017, construction began. In September 2019, The Ark was officially opened by the Mayor of London. The vision had become a reality.

True to form, Alison is quick to share the credit. "I haven't done any of the big things on my own," she says. "There are little things, like the idea for the charity mascots and introducing a monthly Culture Champion, but I was able to do these things because of my privileged position.”

That culture – warm, collaborative and full of personality – has become a defining part of Noah's Ark. Alison's much-loved State of the NACHion staff meetings became a fixture in the calendar, celebrating achievements and recognising those who embody

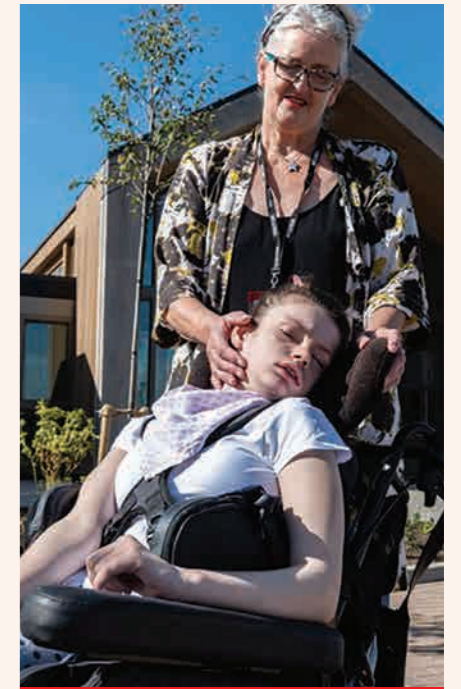
the charity's values. At her final meeting, Alison herself was awarded a Lifetime Culture Champion Award.

She's also proud of the Noah's Ark on Holiday programme: "Our Holiday Lodges are really special, and we get such fantastic feedback from families when they stay there.”

And then there are the everyday moments, helping colleagues, fixing problems, being the person people turn to. "Being that person means that you're constantly helping people out and that's a great feeling. I'm going to miss being needed and wanted.”

Her impact will be felt

After 12 years, what will she miss most? "The people. The children and families, the staff, the volunteers and the donors. I'll really miss spending time with our families, who are just phenomenal. It's such a grounding and humbling experience.”



There were standout moments along the way. Campaigns like 'In Time for Sophie,' led by Sophie's grandmother, Rose, determined that her granddaughter would receive the care her brother never had before he died in 2014 of the same genetic condition Sophie has. And 'London's Crying Out,' where Alison and team handed out tissues at King's Cross to raise awareness and publicise the campaign.

Her impact will be felt for years to come, not least in the relationships she built so carefully. One donor, whose support grew over many years into a significant legacy gift, summed it up simply: "I like the way you go about things.”

So do we. Over and out, Ali G.

Read Alison's full interview here:



Every Moment Matters, 2026-29



At Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, everything we do is driven by one simple belief: every child and family facing a life-threatening or life-shortening condition deserves the best support, when they need it most.

We are proud to launch our new three-year strategy, **Every Moment Matters (2026-2029)**, setting out an ambitious plan to reach more children and families, earlier in their journey, and to ensure our care is accessible to everyone who needs it.

Over the past 20 years, we have seen first-hand the life-changing difference hospice care can make. But today, demand is growing rapidly. More children are living with increasingly complex conditions, and many families are still not accessing the support available

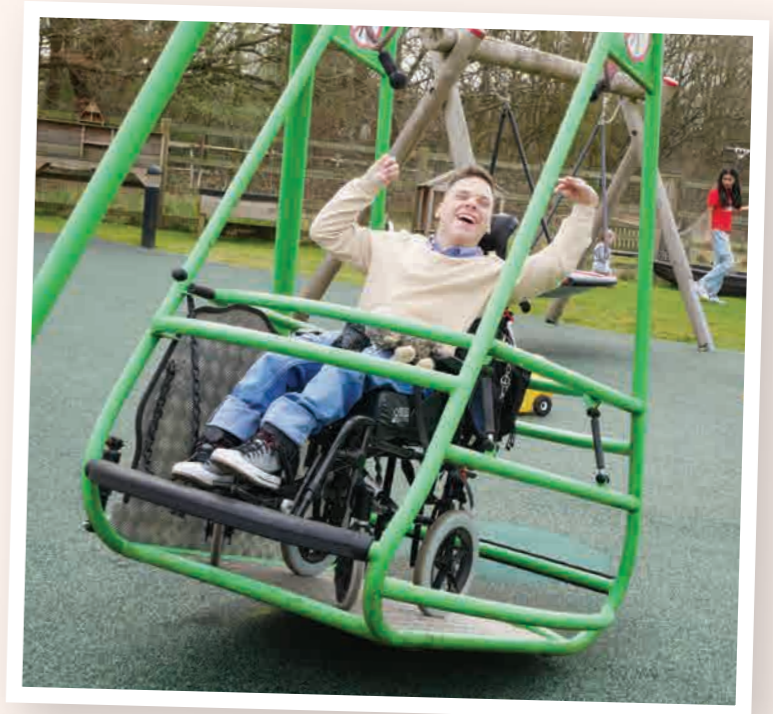
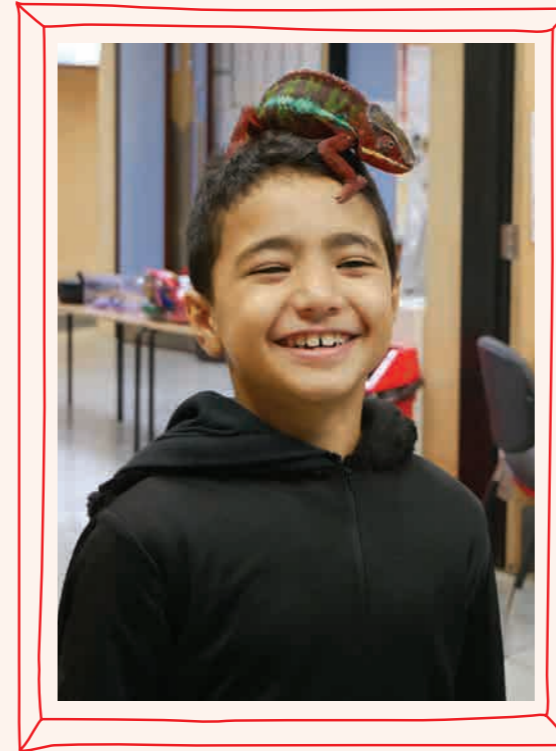
Our ambition is to increase the number of children we support by at least 30%...



to them. Across our catchment area of North Central London, North West London and Hertsmere, an estimated 5,700 children could now benefit from our care, yet we are currently reaching only a fraction.

This strategy is our response.

Our ambition is to increase the number of children we support by at least 30%, while also reaching families earlier – ideally from the point of diagnosis, when our care can have the greatest impact. No family should miss out because of where they live, their background, or a lack of awareness about our services.



To achieve this, we are focusing on four key priorities.

- First, we will **reach more families, earlier**, by building stronger connections within our communities, increasing awareness, and making it easier for families and professionals to access our support.
- Second, we will continue **delivering excellent care**, expanding our respite and community-based services, and supporting children and families across their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs, in line with the holistic approach championed by the World Health Organisation.
- Third, we will deepen **working in partnership** with hospitals, schools, local authorities, and other organisations, ensuring care is better coordinated and no opportunity for support is missed.
- Finally, we will **secure our future** by investing in our people, strengthening our systems, and building sustainable funding to ensure we can be here for generations to come.

We cannot change a diagnosis but together, we can change what happens next.

Download a copy of our strategy from our website, here:



FROM That MOMENT 2026



This autumn, From That Moment, our biggest fundraising appeal, is back! We're aiming to raise a phenomenal £1 million to support more babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell.

And the best part? Every pound you raise for the appeal will be DOUBLED, thanks to the generous support of our Backers! Here is how you can get involved:

Schools, youth groups, community clubs – we need you too!

Run non-uniform days, bake sales, sports events or coffee mornings. We'll provide free toolkits, posters and even present to your group.



Fundraising your way

Host a bake sale, karaoke night, quiz or wear red day at work. Whichever you choose to fundraise, your efforts will go twice as far.

walk 9-5: corporate challenge

Perfect for businesses! Encourage staff to track their steps from 9am to 5pm and raise sponsorship. Employers can also match donations or donate per step. Create team leaderboards and boost morale – all while making a big difference.



Be a champion

Set up your own fundraising page and rally your network during the last 36 hours of the appeal (October 11th-12th). Every donation will be DOUBLED in real time!

Take on a challenge Event

From Swim Serpentine to the Royal Parks Half Marathon – choose your event, go the distance, and raise doubled donations every step of the way.



To find out how you can get involved, visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk/support-us/campaigns/from-that-moment

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Fun at The Ark



We help babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell make the most of every day.

There's always something special happening at The Ark and we love welcoming families through our doors. From creative sessions to magical family days, it's a place filled with laughter, connection and moments of joy.



A Year of Sensory Stories

We marked a special milestone as our Sensory Stories celebrated its first birthday.



a Valentine's-themed session and party, complete with live steel pan music.

every child could take part and feel included. It was a joyful celebration of everything Sensory Stories has become; creative, inclusive and full of imagination.

Led by Pasha, our Drama and Movement Therapist, this much-loved interactive storytelling group welcomed families for

The session was filled with immersive, sensory-rich storytelling, with Makaton signs woven throughout to ensure

These sessions wouldn't be possible without our incredible volunteers, and we're so grateful to everyone who helps make them so special.

A Day Full of Magic!



Magic filled every corner of The Ark at our latest Family Day.

Families stepped into a world of wonder, enjoying activities from making enchantment cards and magic wands to creating potions, exploring messy play and chasing bubbles.

A magician kept everyone entertained with tricks and surprises, and a chocolate fountain added an extra touch of delight.

It was a day full of laughter, creativity and shared moments – bringing families together to enjoy something truly magical.



Fun at The Ark



We believe in supporting the whole family. Organising group activities for parents, grandparents and carers is important to us. We know how energising spending quality time with other adults can be; a chance to meet up, enjoy a little distraction and make connections with others who understand.



Letting Creativity Bloom

Our Parents and Carers Group enjoyed a peaceful and creative morning learning the art of flower arranging.

Guided by Em's Floral Designs, everyone got hands-on, creating beautiful bouquets and letting their creativity flourish. It was a chance to slow down, try something new and spend

time together in a supportive, welcoming space.

Moments like this matter. Taking time to recharge and connect with others who understand can make a real difference, and it was wonderful to see everyone leave with both stunning arrangements and smiles.

Out and About with Noah's Ark

We also love creating opportunities for families to get out and try new experiences together, making memories beyond The Ark.

A Recipe for a Great Day Out



This spring, our Older Siblings Group headed to the Underground Cookery School for a hands-on masterclass. Working alongside professional chefs, they learned new skills, teamed up to cook delicious dishes and, of course, enjoyed

tasting the results. Our siblings' groups are shaped around the interests of the children and young people we support, giving them the chance to connect, have fun and try something new together.

A Day on the Ice

We wrapped up the Easter holidays with a fantastic trip to Alexandra Palace for an afternoon of ice skating.

There was plenty of gliding, and a few wobbles too, as children and young people took to the ice together. The ever-popular 'seal' skate aids helped everyone build confidence and join in the fun.

It was a magical day out and a wonderful way to end the holidays; full of laughter, new experiences and special moments shared together.



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Drivers Needed

We're currently looking for **Volunteer Drivers** to support families across our communities. For people who enjoy driving, it's a simple but powerful way to make a real difference.

Our drivers help families attend medical, health and social care appointments, as well as travel to community groups and activities at Noah's Ark.

For families facing challenging circumstances, reliable transport can ease pressure and make everyday life that little bit more manageable.

The role is flexible, with opportunities to volunteer on a regular or occasional basis, depending on your availability. Even a single journey can have a meaningful impact, helping families access the care and support they need, when they need it most.

Give something back

If you enjoy driving and want to give something back, this is a practical and rewarding way to support local families.

To become a Volunteer Driver, you must be aged 21 or over and hold a full, clean driving licence. You'll need access to a roadworthy vehicle with a valid MOT and road tax, as well as fully comprehensive insurance (with your insurer informed of voluntary driving). Vehicles should also be suitable for supporting a range of family



needs. Alternatively we have a wheelchair-accessible vehicle or minibus available to drive.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, all volunteers will complete an enhanced DBS check and provide references. Full training and ongoing support are provided.

By giving your time, you could help make every journey that little bit easier.

Even a single journey can have a meaningful impact, helping families access the care and support they need, when they need it most.



To apply please contact the Volunteering Team at volunteering@noahsarkhospice.org.uk or visit: noahsarkhospice.org.uk/support-us/volunteering



MEET THE TEAM

Providing care, comfort and choice

Meet Saski

Saski is one of our Hospice Nurses in the Woodlands Team at The Ark.

Based in our Woodlands Wing – home to six fully equipped children's bedrooms – the team provides specialist palliative care, symptom management and emotional support for families.

In January, we launched our new Clinical Services Model, creating two specialist teams: the Community Team and the Woodlands Team. This enables the Woodlands Team to provide dedicated 24/7 care at The Ark.

Saski has been at Noah's Ark for just over two years, having previously worked as a newly qualified paediatric nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

What she values most

In her role, Saski supports children staying at The Ark for short breaks, end-of-life care and care after death, often as shift lead. What she values most is the time she can give: "I really enjoy working on Woodlands and taking the children to the Hydrotherapy Pool and out on trips."

When we do care for children at the end-of-life, I can give 100%



"I really enjoy working on Woodlands and taking the children to the Hydrotherapy Pool and out on trips."

of my attention and give them really good care."

The team has recently welcomed new staff and expanded its training. Saski says: "We've all had more training so we can look after children with more complex needs for short breaks, those are the families that really need a break. It's great that families can now benefit from longer, mid-week stays at The Ark, and we can also take the children to school and back."

Saski and the team are seeing the impact of the new model: "The Community Team are out there spreading the word,

building trust with the different professionals involved in a child's care while also trying to break the stigma around palliative care.

Build parents' trust

The Woodlands Team take over that work when the families walk through the door where we can build parents' trust by showing them that we can care for their child beautifully to empower them to leave their child with us."

Above all, she emphasises families should always have a choice where they receive care: "If they do want to have all their care at home, we make sure it's the same level of care that they would receive at The Ark."

Read Saski's full interview here: noahsarkhospice.org.uk/news-and-stories



Supporting Families Every Step of the way

Meet Adam

Adam is a Hospice Nurse at Noah's Ark, working in the community.

Since joining in July 2025, he has brought five years' experience in paediatric nursing, including roles in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and High Dependency Unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

Reflecting on what drew him to Noah's Ark, Adam says: "The word 'hospice' does scare people and there is a stigma around it but there were a lot of children at GOSH that could have benefited from coming to a hospice like Noah's Ark. That made me want to work somewhere that provided that type of holistic care."

A waiting game

Having worked in intensive care, Adam saw first-hand the challenges families face. "They can be quite sad places as you're looking after children that are critically unwell in hospital. Sometimes you know where the situation is headed and it becomes a waiting game and it made me think, how can we facilitate a quality of life for this child?"

He highlights the difference a hospice setting can make: "Intensive care is so focused on fixing problems and sometimes it's hard to acknowledge that you're not going to fix it and so how can we withdraw treatment but not care. We still need to facilitate that palliative end-of-life journey, so the child can still get the best out of whatever life they have left."

For Adam, building relationships with families is key. "At Noah's Ark, I can build rapport with families and take time to build trust and hold a safe space for them. It facilitates a better care journey, whatever the outcome may be." He also reflects on the breadth of care provided: "Some children are



“ It gives me purpose. Going home knowing that I've done something to support a family makes me feel like I've made some small difference in the world. ”

considered palliative, but they will go on to live into their 20s and 30s, depending on the nature of their diagnosis and their condition and some children become end-of-life sooner than you anticipated. At Noah's Ark we deliver wraparound care, wherever the family are in their journey."

While some families may feel uncertain at first, Adam sees perceptions change:

Passion for his work

"Once they come to The Ark, they're in awe of the place. When I do my assessments or clinical reviews

I focus on what we can offer and how we can facilitate the best quality of life."

Adam's passion for his work is clear: "It gives me purpose. Going home knowing that I've done something to support a family makes me feel like I've made some small difference in the world."

Now also working one day a week with the Palliative Care Team at GOSH, Adam continues to strengthen partnerships and support more families.

Adam is sure he has made the right decision to work in children's palliative care. He says: "Our focus at Noah's Ark is not on the length of a child's life, it's about making the most of that life."

Read Adam's full interview at: noahsarkhospice.org.uk/news-and-stories



More Fun at The Ark

Things got a little wild at The Ark recently, as some very special four-legged visitors came to see us!



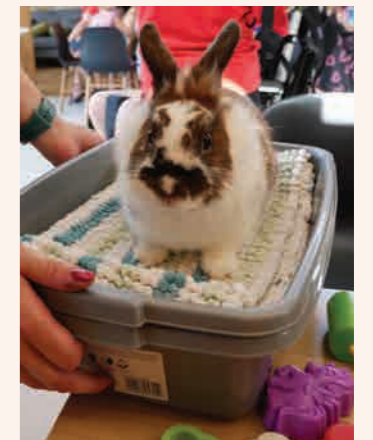
Children and families were delighted to meet the animals up close, learning how to care for them and discovering what makes each one unique.

There were plenty of smiles,



curiosity and gentle moments as everyone enjoyed this hands-on experience.

After all the animal encounters, the fun continued outdoors in our accessible playground, where families made the most



of the sunshine and enjoyed time playing together.

A huge thank you to Megan's Petting Paradise for creating such a memorable and joyful experience for the children and families we support.

Miles that matter

Meet Becky, a Clinical Psychologist from Enfield, who lives with her partner Tim and their two sons, Louis and Ivor.

Becky ran the London Marathon 2026 for Noah's Ark in memory of Emma, a little girl in her son Ivor's school class.

Emma was supported by Noah's Ark after being diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) in 2022. Despite intensive treatment, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy and specialist care abroad, Emma died in December 2025, aged six.

The school was very supportive

Reflecting on how Emma's school supported the children, Becky says: "All the children knew that she had cancer. The school was very supportive... they explained that she was being looked after at Noah's Ark, she was safe and being cared for. They showed pictures of The Ark and Emma's bedroom... it really took the fear out of it for the children."

Becky first understood the impact of Noah's Ark through Emma's family. "Her parents wrote this amazingly beautiful piece about Emma and the care that they received at Noah's Ark, describing the gift of precious time together in her final days and how peaceful and comfortable she was. I was blown away that services like that exist to give families what they need. What better motivation



“Emma had so much kindness in her, so we feel that it is a wonderful way to keep her light shining.”

to raise money.” She adds: “Emma was so effervescent, such a joyful little girl that everyone was drawn to.”

Embracing the Challenge

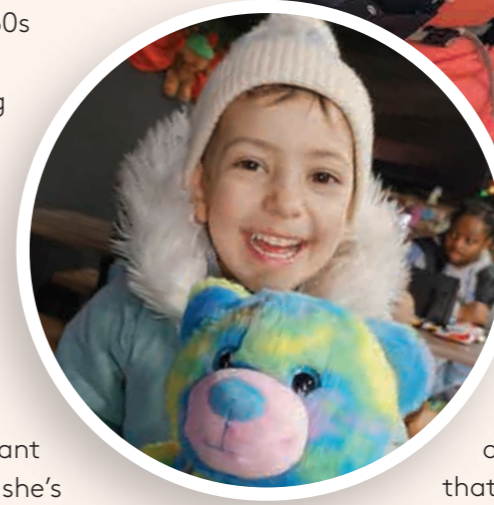
Becky is relatively new to running. “I did a Couch to 5K about two years ago and then joined a running club. I got to 8K, 10K and a half marathon last summer and absolutely hated every single step of it,” she laughs. But things changed when her name was drawn for a marathon place at her running club. “I reacted with a mix of horror and excitement... and knew I had to do it.” Since then, running has become something more personal. “It’s been my first grown-up hobby after having kids.



I just love the headspace and the feeling afterwards of having done something.”

Training wasn't without its challenges. “I started running lots... which was overwhelming and ended up with an ankle injury. I had to find that middle ground of preparing properly but not injuring myself.”

What kept her going was both simple and powerful: “80s music in my ears and knowing that I'm raising money for an amazing charity.” Becky also carried Emma with her in a special way. “Lots of the children from the class drew animals for my running shirt... they were all running with me on the day. I want Emma's family to know she's part of the class still – she's not forgotten.”



t-shirted crowd.” When the race got tough, Becky focused on why she was running. “Emma's mum gave me one of Emma's favourite hairbands which I wore on my wrist during the race. I kept looking at it to remind myself why I was running and that it wasn't real pain, it's suffering through choice and it's not the same as what Emma's family are going through. It gave me strength to think I can do this for four hours... I knew I was doing it for an incredible reason.”

Emma's mum, Nathalie, said: “We were so moved when Becky told us she wanted to run the marathon in Emma's memory. Emma had so much kindness in her, so we feel that it is a wonderful way to keep her light shining. Noah's Ark meant a lot to her, and provided so much support to all of us, so we know that the money Becky raised will help other families when they need it the most.”



The Support Behind Each Stride

Becky also found strength in the Noah's Ark community. “I thought I'd just set up a fundraising page but there was so much support. The WhatsApp group... everyone sharing their journeys... it's been incredible.”

And she's not stopping there. Becky is already back running with her club and has entered the ballot for next year's London Marathon and is doing a half marathon in September.

The Big Day

“It was all the things,” Becky says of race day. “Really overwhelming... the crowds, the noise.” She finished in 4 hours and 19 minutes: “I'm really pleased with that; it was well within what I hoped for.”

Among the crowd were her friends, family and the Noah's Ark cheer squad. “I came round the corner at Westminster and there they were – this big red

Read Becky's full interview here:



Taking on the London Marathon

My name is Jess and I'm the Business Development and Data Manager at Noah's Ark.



“It was an honour to do it in memory of [Arthur] – to keep his memory alive.”

Jess has been part of the Noah's Ark team for nearly eight years. This year, she took on the London Marathon in memory of baby Arthur, the son of her colleague and friend Ani, our Home Support Volunteer Team Manager.

Arthur was diagnosed with Alexander Disease shortly after birth and, heartbreakingly, died at just three months old.

Reflecting on race day, Jess says: "It was the most incredible experience – the atmosphere is amazing, it's indescribable. My goal time was 5.15 and I did it in 5.25."

Jess wasn't a runner when she signed up. "I wasn't a runner before. I struggled at the start but I've grown to love the freedom and the space," she

shares. "You don't realise that you need time on your own to process everything."

Support from family, friends and the Noah's Ark team carried her through. "We had a WhatsApp group and the support was amazing – you're not on your own," she says, adding that encouragement and practical help made all the difference.

When it got tough, Jess focused on Arthur. "It was an honour to do it in memory of him – to keep his memory alive."

Jess has already entered next year's ballot, saying: "I've never felt so proud of my city."

Well done Jess – what an amazing achievement!

Fundraising round-up

Providing expert, compassionate palliative care requires highly skilled staff and specialist equipment – both of which come at a significant cost. It takes £7.1 million each year to run our services.

With over 75% of our income coming from fundraising, we must raise more than £4.8 million this year through voluntary donations. We rely on the incredible generosity of our community to make this possible.

Our community is stronger with you in it

Sporting Stars Step Up for Noah's Ark

Our Question of Sport quiz returned for its second year this April, bringing together corporate partners, sporting legends and supporters for an unforgettable evening.

Hosted at Saracens StoneX Stadium, teams tested their sporting knowledge across a series of lively rounds, led by well-known names from the world of sport. The atmosphere was electric, with plenty of friendly competition, laughter and generosity on display throughout the night.

Thanks to the incredible support of everyone involved, the event raised over £62,000 – vital funds that will help us continue providing care for children who are seriously unwell and their families.

Events like Question of Sport are a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when our community comes together. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary year, this support



Paul Merson, Dave Beasant, Gary Mabbutt and Perry Groves

is more important than ever, helping us reach more families and be there when it matters most. A huge thank you to all our partners, players and supporters who made the night

such a success. Check out the Special Events page on our website to see what other events are coming up soon:



Feeling inspired? From marathons and cycles to swims and skydives, every step, stroke or mile helps us be there when it matters most. And we'll support you every step of the way.

You can find out more about organised challenge events on our website noahsarkhospice.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/challenge-events/ or call our team on 020 8449 8877.



Fundraising in the Community

Our **Community Team** work with groups in our local community – businesses, schools, clubs, religious and social groups – to help spread the word about what we do and how we support children who are seriously unwell and their families.



Inspiring the Next Generation of Changemakers

We were delighted to partner with **North London Collegiate School** as part of their innovative **Surge Start-Up Academy**, an inspiring programme designed to equip students with entrepreneurial skills while driving social impact.

As part of the Academy, students took on a final Social Change Challenge, working on a live brief from Noah's Ark: 'how can we better engage Gen Z with our work?'

Approaching it like a real client project, students brought fresh thinking and creativity to the

challenge. Their ideas explored new ways to connect younger audiences with our mission; from digital storytelling and peer-led campaigns to creative fundraising and awareness-building initiatives.

Their work has given us valuable insight into how the next generation engages with causes like ours, helping to shape how we connect with future supporters.

We're incredibly grateful to the students and staff at North London Collegiate School. Their passion and ideas will help us continue to evolve and inspire the supporters of tomorrow.

■ To find out more contact: the Community Team on **020 8449 8877** or email community@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Five Minutes with Elliott



In March, **Elliott Kindler-Harris**, joined the Fundraising Team as our new Head of Partnerships and Events. We spent five minutes finding out what motivates Elliott and what he hopes to bring to Noah's Ark.

Q Where did you work before coming to Noah's Ark?

I've worked in Corporate Partnerships since 2016 across a range of charities, non-profit organisations and educational institutions. I started my career in consultancy, but after a year decided to move into the charity sector. My first role was at Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, followed by roles at UNICEF, Place2Be and The London School of Economics. Most recently, I was New Business Lead at the British Red Cross, where I spent the past two and a half years.

Q What do you love about working in the charity sector?

The best incentive is seeing the real impact of what you do. There's something incredibly rewarding about achieving great things alongside people who are kind, compassionate and driven by a shared purpose. I love being part of a team united by a common goal.

Q What attracted you to Noah's Ark?

I've been fortunate to work across a variety of causes, but the roles I've enjoyed most have focused on children and young people. I'm delighted to now be part of Noah's Ark, supporting families in North London, a community I've lived in my whole life.

Q What do you hope to bring to Noah's Ark?

I'm excited to bring my experience in Corporate Partnerships to help grow a strong portfolio of



events and partnerships. I'm an enthusiastic team player and always happy to support colleagues in any way I can.

Q What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I have lots of passions outside of work. Glastonbury Festival is my favourite place on Earth - I've only missed one since 2016! I'm also a keen runner, having run the London Marathon for the third time this year. I love spending time outdoors, and at home I enjoy cooking and unwinding while watching live sport.

We warmly welcome new corporate partners. If you or your company are interested, please contact Elliott and our Corporate Partnerships team on **020 8449 8877** or email: corporatepartnerships@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Building Support

A Partnership That Makes a Difference

Long-standing corporate partner **Alan Cox Architects** has been a dedicated Noah's Ark supporter for many years, helping raise vital funds and awareness.

For Alan, the journey began with a visit. "I had a tour of The Ark when it first opened and realised how much still had to be raised to fit it out with specialist equipment," he says. "I felt I could assist with funding by arranging a yearly golf event for my network of local businesses."



What started as a single idea quickly grew into something more. Through his professional network, Alan has introduced new supporters to Noah's Ark, helping to raise awareness both locally and beyond.

"Meeting families and their children who are cared for by The Ark and hearing how much the charity means to them, that's what makes it so meaningful," he says.

One moment has stayed with him. "I met a six-year-old girl, the same age as my granddaughter at the time, who had spent most of her life in hospital. She was so cheerful. It made me realise how lucky we are and that we really have nothing to moan about in comparison."

Experiences like this have shaped Alan's perspective – not just on giving, but on life itself. "It has made me appreciate how lucky we are and that health is wealth," he reflects. Over the years, his involvement has extended beyond fundraising events. His family has also joined in, taking part in marathons and other challenges to support the charity. "It's made me think of additional ways to raise funds," he says, "whether that's through sponsorship, donations or auction prizes at events."

While Alan may not always see the day-to-day delivery of care, the impact is clear. "The fact that

the charity continues to thrive and expand is very encouraging," he says, "especially in the face of ongoing funding challenges".

Like many hospices, Noah's Ark relies heavily on charitable support. "They have little support from central and local government, so over 75% of their funding comes from private donations," Alan explains. "They provide amazing care for children and support for their families." That's why he encourages others to get involved.

For Alan and Alan Cox Architects, the partnership is about more than fundraising – it's about community, compassion and making a tangible difference.

And it all started with a visit that turned into something much more.

■ If you'd like to explore how you or your organisation can support Noah's Ark, we'd love to talk.

Please contact the Philanthropy Team on 020 8449 8877 or email: philanthropy@noahsarkhospice.org.uk



Regular Giving



Make Every Moment Matter

Making a regular monthly donation to Noah's Ark is a powerful way to create lasting impact for the children and families we support.

At Noah's Ark, every day is made up of moments. Moments of laughter. Moments of connection. Moments of comfort when it matters most. But these moments don't just happen, they're made possible by people like you.



Becoming a Moment Maker

Raj Bhayani, our Head of Supporter Engagement shares why monthly support is so vital:

"Regular giving is at the heart of everything we do. When someone chooses to give monthly, they're helping us plan and be there for families when they need us most. It's not about the size of the gift, it's



about consistency. Every donation helps create moments that matter, whether that's through specialist care, family activities or simply bringing comfort during difficult times."

As a Moment Maker, you'll be part of a community helping to make those moments possible, again and again.



Joining the Noah's Ark Giving Club

This year, we were proud to launch the **Noah's Ark Giving Club, bringing together a community of supporters committed to giving £1,000 or more each year.**

Our Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager, Celeste Carter, explains: "The Giving Club represents a community of people who want to make a lasting difference. These gifts allow us to grow our holistic services and reach more families."

Sofia, a member of the Noah's Ark Giving Club shared: "I'm incredibly proud to be a member because of the compassion and dignity at the heart of the care they provide to children."

Noah's Ark extends that care to support the whole family, recognising that when a child is cared for, everyone who loves them feels the benefit of that support too."

However you choose to give, you'll be part of something meaningful. With only 19% of our funding coming from government sources, regular donations are essential to ensuring we can continue to support families, today and in the future.

Become a Moment Maker or join the Noah's Ark Giving Club, and help create more moments of joy, comfort and care for the families who need it most.



NOAH'S ARK GIVING CLUB

Protecting the future of our holistic services





Donate
£20
today!

20 Years of Care. Help Shape the Next 20.

For 20 years, Noah's Ark has been there for babies, children and young people with life-threatening and life-shortening conditions, and their families.

Together, we've created moments of comfort, dignity and joy when they matter most.

As we look ahead, we're inviting you to be part of what comes next.

To mark our 20th anniversary, please consider giving £20 – helping us reach more families, earlier and continue to be there when it matters most.

Give £20 today and help shape the next 20 years.



Please scan the QR code or call our Fundraising Team on 020 8449 8877.



Every gift helps create moments that matter. ✨

NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

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NOAH'S ARK
Children's Hospice