**Report of the Trustees of ‘KIDS LIKE US’ for the year 2022- 2023**

**Aims of ‘KIDS LIKE US’:**

1. To educate the public in all matters relating to arthritis and particularly as it pertains to children.

2. Fund research into the causes of arthritis particularly in children.

3. To alleviate the suffering of those with arthritis particularly children, and to provide support to those who by reason of caring for a person with arthritis are leading a restricted life and need assistance.

**Fund Raising**

Over many years our main fund raising has supported the Breakaway for adolescent patients but unfortunately again this year it did not go ahead. However, we were able to take a group to the Ackers Adventure, Birmingham, in August 2022, which offered various team and individual activities. Each year we concentrate on outreach events to offer young people with Juvenile Arthritis, their siblings, and their parents the opportunity to come together with the committee members and offer mutual support. This year we have been to ‘Go Ape’, with a picnic, ‘Red Point Climbing Centre’, we held the Christmas Party and we enjoyed an afternoon bowling. We have been able to support local businesses for each of these events and we will continue to do this wherever possible in the future. These activities were all suggested by the children. The Outreach Team is led by Louise and supported by Kirsty, Marion, Moira & Gemma

Donations to the Charity have continued, some regular supporters and some new. ‘We Are All Making A Difference’ (WAAMAD) & Waitrose have awarded KLU £1,000 each. We have received donations from supporters fundraising including £582.50, Laura Salt and a bike ride by Nigel Jones raised£286.30. £1548.81 has be received from other personal donations, Smile Amazon and Easy Fundraising. The quiz took place in April 2022 and raised £1344.

**Applications for funding 2022-2023**

This year we concentrated our applications to Trusts who donate to charities focusing on children with disabilities, as discussed last year.

We have received the following generous donations:

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| Cadburys | 500.00 |
| Grantham York Trust | 500.00 |
| Eric W Vincent Trust | 500.00 |
| Goodenough Charitable Trust | 750.00 |
| James Beattie Trust | 1000.00 |
| GHW Turner trust | 1000.00 |
| George Henry Collins Charity | 1000.00 |
| Grimmit Trust | 1200.00 |

Previous donors Limoges Trust granted us £250 this year, which will be used towards the next Adolescent event, and Mason Samaritan Fund granted the Charity £1300.

**Requests for funding 2022- 2023**

 (a) Request for funding for Outreach Activities

It was agreed by the committee to continue the outreach activities as they were proving beneficial to the children and families who attend them, and they were also raising awareness of the charity. It was felt a budget of £2500 per year was appropriate.

 (b) Funding for Communications Plan: To include printing leaflets, merchandise and information sheets Estimated cost £2000.

Both applications were granted by the Committee.

During the last year we have addressed these areas:

1. Donations: the committee identified that since Covid and with the cost-of-living crisis, donations have reduced and with this in mind we sought a Bid Writer to help us reach Charitable Trusts who support Children with disabilities.
2. During the completion of some applications, we have noted that some policies and procedures needed to be updated e.g., a dissolution clause within our Deed of Charitable Trust, this has now been added.
3. Leaflets: it has been agreed that our leaflets should be more accessible and this may be possible by using QR codes and producing the leaflets in various languages e.g., Urdu, Arabic, Punjab & Turkish.
4. Our reserve policy was revisited and a more detailed document was drawn up with an instruction to review it at the AGM.
5. At the AGM the following people were appointed to the following roles:

 Kirsty Turner - Chair

 Marion Scott – Treasurer

 Moira Green - Secretary

 Louise Green – Outreach Lead

 Gemma Turner – Social Media Lead

On behalf of ‘Kids Like Us’ I would like to formally offer our thanks to Mike Walmsley who is the independent examiner of our accounts.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that each member of the committee has given to ‘Kids Like Us’ over the last year and to thank them, their families, and friends for their continued support.

With the strategy still foremost in our minds and the achievements of the last year acknowledged, the focus over the next year will be to reach out to more families at Birmingham Children’s Hospital, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire & New Cross, Wolverhampton. This will ensure the charity will go from strength to strength.

On behalf of the Trustees of ‘Kids Like Us’