

Can you help  
'Kids Like Us'?  
If so please  
ring Irene on  
**0121 429 3788**



At any one time we have fund raising projects under way. We get a great deal of support from individuals who raise money on their own and donate it to 'Kids Like Us'. We are very grateful to everyone who supports us in this way from the individual donation of pocket money to those who run the marathon, we make every penny count. If you want to raise money, make a donation or support by attending one of our events, such as the Ball, please contact Irene on 0121 429 3788.



# kids like us!

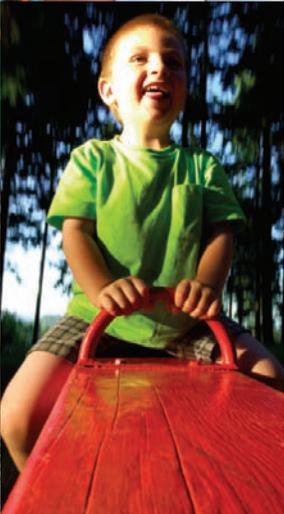


The committee is run entirely by volunteers all of whom have some connection with arthritis.

## 2 Facts about Arthritis

- 1 in 3 people in Birmingham suffer from Arthritis or Rheumatism.
- At any given time 1 in 1000 children will also suffer from Arthritis

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E: [questions@kidslikeus.info](mailto:questions@kidslikeus.info)  
[www.kidslikeus.info](http://www.kidslikeus.info)



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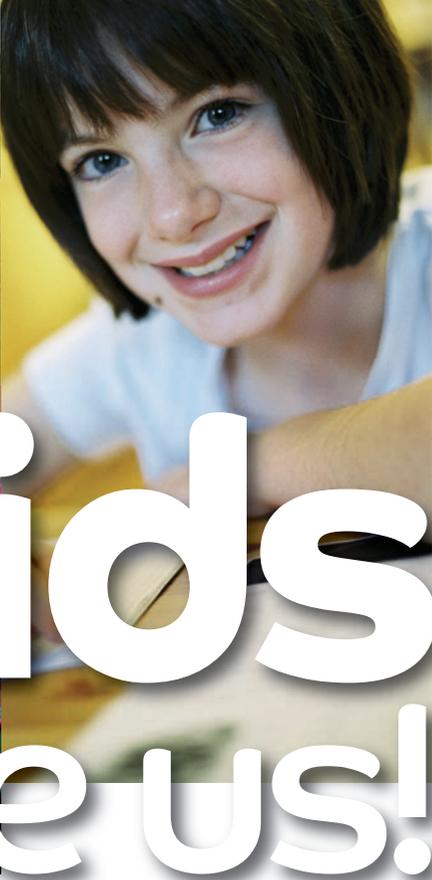
Registered Charity  
Number 1075335

"Kids Like us" is a West Midlands based charity which raises funds to support children and young people with arthritis.





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**It is not generally appreciated that arthritis is one of the most common physically disabling diseases in children and adolescents. Arthritis can affect children of any age but it mostly begins during the pre-school and early school years.**



Registered Charity  
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Arthritis affects 1 in 1000 children in the UK making it more common than diseases like cystic fibrosis and just as common as childhood diabetes. In spite of this, many people assume arthritis only affects 'older adults' and are unaware children and young people can have it too, affecting critical times of growth in their lives. It is a potentially deforming and disabling condition although with new and improved treatments and multidisciplinary management, the future for such children and young people is much more optimistic.

'Kids Like Us' is a local charity which supports children with arthritis and their families in the West Midlands. This involves supporting the work at Birmingham Children's Hospital. There are currently 1200 children who suffer from arthritis in our area. The cause of this disease is not clear and as yet there is no cure so that is why 'Kids Like Us' also support work that is looking for answers.

'KIDS LIKE US' was conceived as a committee in 1992 to raise money for the support of children suffering from Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and for research into the disease. The focus was a fund raising day centred around a sponsored walk where families and friends of children suffering with arthritis walked to raise money. The committee included, and still includes, Professor Taunton Southwood, Consultant in Paediatric Rheumatology at The Diana Princess of Wales Children's Hospital in Birmingham.

In 1998 'KIDS LIKE US' became a registered charity. Although we have now moved away from the annual walk we organise other fund raising events throughout the year to ensure we can keep supporting the children and their families. In addition we aim to raise awareness of the disease and the problems and unhappiness that it can bring.

## What have KIDS LIKE US done with the money recently?

- We have funded a "Kids Like Us" Nurse working with the children and also doing research at the Children's Hospital.
- We have bought sets of pain relief equipment and other items requested by the Rheumatology Department at the Children's Hospital. These items were bought to be lent long term to children in need of their own individual equipment at home.
- We are funding "Break Aways" for adolescents with arthritis. They enjoy a holiday in the company of people their own age but with a full team of medical carers. They have fun and hopefully begin to learn how to care for themselves. At the same time it gives families a break from being the carer. A separate leaflet with details of these is available, but some of the photographs in this leaflet come from an independence break. We also fund "Family Weekends" for the families of children with arthritis in the company of a medical team. This gives parents, brothers and sisters, and children with the disease, the opportunity to be with other people who understand their difficulties and professionals who can answer questions.
- We are currently producing sets of child friendly leaflets to help children to understand their disease more and to give help with ways to cope. The professionals at the hospital write these but the production is paid for by 'Kids Like Us'.

