**Report of the Trustees of ‘KIDS LIKE US’ for the year 2021- 2022**

**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 2021, which offered many team and individual activities. The young people enjoyed the day, and it has been arranged again for August 2022.

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. With the Pandemic still being a consideration, we have been able to meet for a day at The Black Country Living Museum, hold the Christmas Party, and an Escape Room afternoon. These venues 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) have awarded KLU £1,000, Jack Give Back with Pennies £1,000, Mason Samaritan Fund £350 and Limoges Trust £250. £1027 has be received from other personal donations, gift aid and smile amazon. The quiz raised £565 was in April 2021.

**Applications for funding 2021-2022**

Limoges Trust granted us £250 this year, which will be used towards the next Adolescent event.

Mason Samaritan Fund granted the Charity £350 which they usually request be used to support the Breakaway weekend. However, this year they did not specify this, and we advised them it would be used towards our Outreach Projects.

We are very grateful for their continued support and have discussed looking at other Trusts we can apply to for funding.

**Requests for funding 2021- 2022**

 (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 the budget of £500 was appropriate for each event but would be assessed for each time.

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

 (c) An application was received from Birmingham Children’s Hospital to fund a three-month support pilot for under 12s with arthritis in Birmingham. It would involve an existing member of the team, Dawn, working an extra day each week as part of the clinical team, seeing approximately 96 children in clinic, both newly diagnosed and return appointments. Dawn and the team would offer individual support to the child and their family around their ongoing care, financial support, emotional well-being, and parent support from local groups including Kids Like Us. The child would be guided through the transition process to adolescent clinics by introducing them to the new team ensuring everything is child-led. This would benefit the child in areas such as reduced isolation, an increased understanding of their condition and the support available to them, increased confidence and self-esteem and a more positive outlook about their future. The family would be offered support too with the changes a diagnosis of Juvenile Arthritis involves.

The total cost for the three-month trial was £3,633.00

Application (c) was put to committee members who considered how this would benefit the children and the clinic. The members all agreed although the Charity could potentially support this for the trial, with some alterations to the figures, we would not be able to fund it for 12 months. However, if we fund the trial the hospital could approach other organisations, showing the results.

Our treasurer will draw up a response with what the expectations for our input would be.

The other applications were both granted by the Committee.

At last year’s AGM several longstanding committee members resigned due to changes in their circumstances. I would like to thank Irene Bannister, Tauny Southwood and Debbie Southwood, who are founder members of the Charity, and Shaun Clee, for their contribution and support to the Charity over many years. We wish them well in the future and we know they will continue to support Kids Like Us.

During the last year we have addressed these areas:

1. Following the resignations of committee members various documents had to be updated these included signatures on Bank Accounts, the names of Trustees, Governance documents and the website.
2. DBS certificates were obtained covering the Outreach Team at future events.
3. Further work needs to be done to store archive material.
4. 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, in a difficult climate, 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. This will ensure the charity will go from strength to strength.

On behalf of the Trustees of ‘Kids Like Us’