



Respite nursing for  
Oxfordshire's  
Sick  
Youngsters

## ***Supporters Pack – 2010. An Introduction.***

Dear friend.

I am delighted to provide you with an introduction to ROSY – Respite Care for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters and if, as I fervently hope, you are motivated to help, then with some ideas as to how you can do that.

We need to raise £200,000 per annum to maintain the level of support we provide now and we would dearly love to do more. ***With your help we can do just that.***

We do have a few major fund-raising events each year and we are very grateful to those who arrange them. That said, our "lifeblood" is the small fundraising event which not only raises money, but also raises the profile of ROSY across the County, which is essential if we are to achieve our objectives.

I know that many worthy charities seek your support and your disposable resources are limited. It follows then that we must strive to make out a powerful case for your support. I trust that this pack will go some way to achieving that aim and in seeking that I give you one guarantee.

***All the money raised, every single penny,  
will go to those who, with your help, we seek to support***

So please think about what ROSY is trying to do and how you might help. If you require further information you can: -

- Contact us at [help@rosy.org.uk](mailto:help@rosy.org.uk)
- Visit <http://www.rosy.org.uk>
- Telephone 01865 848696

You can write or sent a cheque to: -

ROSY, c/o The Administrator, 80 Evans Kane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 2JB

G.E.Hedges. QPM DL.  
Secretary



Respite nursing for  
Oxfordshire's  
Sick  
Youngsters

## **Supporters Pack – 2010.**

***It is difficult to contemplate, but some children are born with incurable illnesses and occasionally healthy children develop terminal or chronic conditions***

Advances in medical science means that many of these children can be nursed in the home, and that is what their families desperately want. The children require constant care and support, placing an enormous burden on their families, a burden willingly and bravely undertaken.

Of course the carer's normal life does not stop, but it does change dramatically. They have to carry out their normal day-to-day tasks whilst caring for their sick child. ***A good nights sleep will be a thing of the past.***

Help is available in the form of Respite Care Nursing, nurses who give the carer(s) a break in the knowledge that their child is in safe hands. The nurses' duties range from giving tube feeds, oxygen and medicine to providing physiotherapy or simply interacting with the patients thus providing essential stimulation. They have another crucial role, the family. The Respite Nurse not only provides the peace for the carers to allow them to take a real break, however short; they also offer that vital support through the difficult, and sometimes final hours. ***This respite is a necessity not a nicety.***

In Oxfordshire in 2002 there were only two part time Respite Nurses delivering this support. Following strict assessment, if the carer qualified for support, they would receive 3 hours support per week. ***They were on their own for 165 hours per week.***

In 2002 a group of young people one of who was a Respite Nurse, conscious that the National Health Service was doing its best in the light of all other competing demands, decided to do something about the situation. ROSY was born.

ROSY 'Respite nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters' is an organisation that carries out and promotes fund-raising to boost the limited resources of Oxfordshire's Respite Nursing Team.

We now pay the salaries of nine nurses, one of whom is a specialist in training the families to meet the challenges they face; some indication of what is to be faced! In addition we have purchased in excess of £100,000 worth of specialist equipment and toys to assist both the families and the nurses, and we will continue to purchase vital equipment.

Since 2002 we have raised over 1 million pounds and we are able to support our nurses on 3-year contracts. We aim to do much more and have an ambitious three year plan which, amongst other things, sets the target of recruiting a further three nurses over that period. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO THAT



Respite nursing for  
Oxfordshire's  
Sick  
Youngsters

## **Supporters Pack 2010.**

All ROSY Committee members are volunteers who give of their time and money to aid our cause. We are enthused by our patron The Lady Rotherwick. The Administration of ROSY is sponsored so we can assure you that every penny we raise will go to those we seek to support. So what does our money buy in real terms?

- £100 – Enables ROSY to cover the cost of a 3hour Children's Respite Nursing session
- £230 – Enables ROSY to cover the cost of a Children's Respite Nursing day.
- £1,500 – Enables ROSY to cover the cost of a Children's Respite Nursing week.
- £5,500 – Enables ROSY to cover the cost of a Children's Respite Nursing month.

In addition we provide for the Respite Team to supply additional nursing for families in the hours of greatest need.

We have also purchased many thousands of pounds worth of vital equipment.

So, what motivates ROSY? It is difficult to explain that in words so let us consider just two of the many cases that drives us to do even more:

***As Tom, age 12, was dying from cancer, he asked his Mum where he would be when he died. She thought at first that he was talking about an afterlife, but after gentle questioning found out that he wanted to die at home and 'not in hospital'. His family did everything they could to make sure he was at home where he wanted to be. Tragically, because of a lack of funding, they were alone and had to watch him die with no nursing support. His sister, Hazel, died 12 days after Tom, also from, a brain tumour. She was 16. Hazel had to go to a Children's Hospice because the family were so exhausted and that is where she died. If there had been support they would have preferred for Hazel to die at home, as Tom did. Both Children died in June 2003, before ROSY employed its first Nurse.***

Sarah is three years old but she is no ordinary three year old. Sarah is confined to her bed. Fed through a tube and breathes with the help of a ventilator. Day after day her Mum and her six-year-old sister look her after at home. That is except for three hours when the Oxfordshire Respite Team takes over. Then Mum and her other child can take a short break; they can walk together, talk together and do those normal things that we are all fortunate to take for granted.

**WE WANT TO DO MORE SO PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THOSE WHO FIND THEMSELVES FACED WITH THESE CHALLENGES. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



Respite nursing for  
Oxfordshire's  
Sick  
Youngsters

## **Supporters Pack 2010**

***We have been absolutely delighted with the interest and support we have received over the last eight years, enabling us to achieve much more than we ever dreamed of. We know that the families we help have taken great comfort from the fact that others are prepared to help them in their darkest hours.***

WITH YOUR CONTINUING HELP WE CAN MAINTAIN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT TO THE RESPITE TEAM AND HOPEFULLY, DO MUCH MORE.

Fund raising events in support of ROSY have covered the whole spectrum, from small tea parties to the large corporate events such as Golf Days and Charity Balls, and we are indebted to those who have helped us.

### **Would you like to help?**

Can you organise an event to raise money to support the ROSY Nurses? You may already have ideas as to how you might do that but here are some of the more popular that you might wish to consider.

***Barbecues, garden or dinner parties. Why not ask your friends if they would pay an "entrance fee" to such an event. Our experience has shown that most are more than willing when they are aware of the organisation they will be supporting. You could take advantage of events already on the calendar!***

***Coffee mornings/girlie evenings/boys nights. Tried and trusted favourites! Need an excuse for a get together and catch up on the news? People are always willing to give to such a worthy cause at such gatherings.***

***Lunch meets. How about inviting a few friends to lunch? They pay a fee to attend, say £5, and at the end of the eats see if you can persuade others to do likewise. There is little need to provide anything grand, cheese and wine (if you are not driving!) goes down very well***

***A Garage sale. How many of you have "clutter" that you have promised to "get rid of". Why not a car boot sale? If you would prefer that we collect it from you and sell it the please ring 01856 848696***

***Do you have children in school? Many schools hold "bring and buy" sales for good causes. Are we a good cause? We can provide leaflets and indeed a speaker if that would be of assistance.***

***You can probably think of other activities you would wish to pursue, and if you do, let us know so that we can tell others. IF YOU CAN HELP YOU WILL ALSO BE SPREADING THE MESSAGE ABOUT ROSY.***