



Abbie's Fund

"Make my childhood cancer survivable"

Abbie's Fund News – March 2012

We write this update on what would have been Abbie's 11th birthday. She died aged 5 1/2 which means she has now been away from us for longer than her short life. We are immensely grateful for all your fantastic support which has enabled us to push forward the boundaries of understanding of this terrible disease, and gives us hope of one day making it survivable. This e-mail will bring you up to date with our story together with details of future fundraising. Please forward this to your friends, families, colleagues and anyone who might be interested in learning more about Abbie's Fund. As always you can keep up to date via www.abbiesfund.com. To read about Abbie and her story visit www.abbieshaw.me.uk

Research Update

Our research project at the Institute of Cancer Research, (ICR), at the Royal Marsden Hospital where Abbie was treated is progressing incredibly well. Three years on the team has been successful in developing a technique to identify neuroblastoma cells using a simple blood test. To date diagnostic tests have been primitive and inhumane and treatments have been generic in their application, rather than tailored to the individual's disease and response. This blood test could dramatically change all of this.

Recently, we were privileged to meet the world experts dedicated to progressing the UK's leading research into neuroblastoma. We are now committed to support taking this research strand into clinical trial - it is hoped this will start in the next few months at the new children's unit at the Royal Marsden which was opened in September 2011 by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Abbie's Fund target is to raise £30,000 a year to sustain our support for this exciting ground breaking project which could dramatically change the way not just neuroblastoma is diagnosed and treated but other cancers as well.

To read the latest full report on this exciting Abbie's Fund project written by the team at ICR visit [www.partyinaboxdirect.com/Abbie's Fund report feb12.pdf](http://www.partyinaboxdirect.com/Abbie's_Fund_report_feb12.pdf)

Donations

We are incredibly grateful for all support, fundraising and donations, no matter how big or small. We have a Virgin Giving account which can be used for donating and fundraising:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1003692>

Thanks again for your support



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Improving diagnosis of Neuroblastoma

Despite being the biggest killer of children under 5 apart from domestic accident neuroblastoma research receives only minimal funding. Although not instigated by Abbie's Fund we have become aware of a petition you may wish to sign to raise awareness and funding for neuroblastoma in order to improve the speed of diagnosis and survival. If 100,000 signatures are collected then we understand the issue will be debated in parliament.

<http://www.gopetition.com/petition/42787.html>

Fundraising Events

London Marathon

A big thank you and good luck to Hass Choudhury who is running the London Marathon in aid of Abbie's Fund this year. Hass's own son Louis was diagnosed and treated for neuroblastoma when he was just 10 months old and is now 7 and doing well. You can sponsor Hass by following:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HASSANCHOUDHURY>

Picnics & Pimms

A fantastic summer event which has become a regular must-do on those long warm summer evenings. Enjoy Pimms and a picnic in the amazing grounds of Chilworth Manor with family and friends whilst listening to live music. This year the proceeds from the Saturday night concert, (30th June 2012), will be split between 2 charities and Abbie's Fund are delighted to be one of them.

Tickets are £20 each and to reserve yours for what is likely to be a sell-out event please e-mail fundraising@abbiesfund.com Why not get a group of friends together and make it an evening to remember?

...and finally

thank you for your continued support. Please continue to help us raise awareness of this terrible disease and our efforts to make it survivable and forward this update to anyone who may be interested in helping us further.