

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010



Artwork provided by Natasha, Year 5P, North Reddish Primary School, Stockport.

TRANSPORT FOR SICK CHILDREN

A volunteer Driver scheme helping to transport children to hospital and clinic appointments



Transport For Sick Children Ltd.
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Directors

Chair John Sagar
Treasurer John Adams
Company Secretary John Adams
Roger Watts - Resigned September 2009
John Whittaker
Gaynor Kershaw

Staff

Transport Organisers

Judith Oxley
Jo Senior
Claire Bickley

Administrator

Anna Burns

Volunteer Support Worker

George Stenson

Chairman's Report



- Demand for the service remains high
- Our volunteers have been recognised by other organisations
- Welcome to our new director Pauline Cope

The demand for the service we provide, mostly from disadvantaged families, remains high. As the statistics show, the number of children helped and the mileage covered are about the same as last year. For the first time in the twelve years I have been driving for the charity the number of appointments for our volunteer drivers has fallen. This may well be the result of the move of some less specialised treatments to local health Centres. We are carrying out research to ensure that we are reaching the most vulnerable families. The Greater Manchester Hospitals and Health Centres continue to be the main area of operation but uniquely, geographical boundaries do not deter us, we have added Alder Hey Hospital Liverpool, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Leeds General Infirmary, St James' Hospital Leeds, Seacroft Hospital, Leeds, Sheffield Children's Hospital and The Glenfield Hospital Leicester to the list of specialist units "out of area" to which we deliver children.

The Charity continues its involvement with the implementation of "Making it Better" having representatives serving on the NHS Public Partnership Board and the Greater Manchester, East Cheshire and High Peak Children, Young People and Families network.

The Charity has been successful during the year in recruiting drivers and, despite the economic situation, in receiving funding from the NHS. The opening of the new Manchester Royal Children's Hospital has caused some issues for drivers. Restricted parking and prolonged waiting times being the main ones. Claire Bickley has been responsible for addressing these points, continues to monitor the situation and has established a good working relationship with the hospital.

A number of volunteers were recognised by voluntary organisations throughout the year. Norman Robinson was awarded Volunteer of the Year by Stockport CVS, Martin Jones was awarded for his achievements by Salford CVS and Rochdale and Bury CVS recognised our whole organisation for our work.

The main challenges for the year ahead are:

1. To obtain the funding needed to continue our work. During the year we have published a report, circulated to the commissioners with whom we deal, that shows the reduction in Did Not Attend brought about by the service we provide leads to a substantial financial saving to the NHS, by reducing the number of missed appointments experienced by the medical centres. We must not lose sight of the other advantages of the service to the child and carer such as stress reduction and health improvement.
2. Finding and moving to new suitable and affordable office space before our current non-renewable lease expires in October 2010. This is being brought about by the re-organisation of Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Limited throughout Greater Manchester.

Without the dedicated support of all our volunteer drivers and office staff the Charity would not be able to contribute as it does to the well being of so many children and their families.

Thank you to them and the Directors who give their time and expertise to keep the charity working so well. We'd also like to welcome our new director Pauline Cope who will make a valuable contribution to the charity.

We look forward to another successful year.

John Sagar – Chairman

Why we do what we do



“My daughter was diagnosed with Spina Bifida - a series of birth defects that affect the development of the spine and nervous system. My daughter has lots of medical appointments at Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, which is quite far from where we live in Rochdale. My little girl has recently had surgery to try to straighten one of her legs and this has meant lots more appointments.

It would take hours on public transport to get to all the appointments and would not be suitable for my little girl as her leg is on plaster at the moment. We don’t have a car and simply wouldn’t be able to get to the hospital.

I really rely on Transport for Sick Children and just don’t know

what we would do without their help. The drivers are really good.”

A service user and her 3 year old daughter

“Transport for Sick Children is a fantastic service - very much appreciated by professionals and parents alike.”

Ruth Trickett, Health Visitor, Oldham

“My colleague Jane Clayton and I care for children with long-term illnesses. Prior to discharge home they have to learn new skills of how to care for their child using sterile techniques and highly technical machinery. Once they are home the hard work really begins.

One of the main concerns families have is that they are still supported at home and Transport for Sick Children has proved invaluable for this to be possible. Families can have huge concerns of how to reach their appointments and the relief on their face is amazing when we tell them of the charity transport service within Greater Manchester.”

Jane Roberts, Specialist Nurse Practitioner for Gastroenterology, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital

“Thank you very much for providing transport for a family in my care recently. It means that this little boy can attend his appointments and will now hopefully have his cochlear implant operation in a few weeks.

It really is a wonderful service that you run at Transport for Sick Children.”

Irene O’Keefe, Teacher of the Deaf, Manchester Sensory Support Services

“This is a very valuable service for families on low incomes to assist them in reaching and accessing the care their children require.”

Lisa Chalmers, Health Visitor, Oldham

Why we do what we do

"I am a Health Practitioner working in a Child in Need Team and have used the Transport for Sick Children on several occasions.

It provides an invaluable service to the families I work with, as many do not have the means to attend health appointments.

Whenever I have spoken to the staff at the office, they are extremely helpful and courteous and go out of their way to help.

I feel this is an excellent service & would like to thank you for all your good work."

**Jill Lunn, Health Practitioner, Child in Need Project Team
Durham House, Bury**



"I must take this opportunity to thank all the Transport for Sick Children staff. I have never felt as fulfilled as I do at the moment while volunteering, in over 40 years of my working life. The work I do is so enjoyable. Thanks one and all."

**Denis Edgar,
Volunteer Driver,
Transport for Sick Children**

"Transport for Sick Children has provided a helpful service for families I am working with. I work with children who have special needs and use this service often. Families really appreciate the help they receive from Transport for Sick children as it helps them to attend their children's health appointments without stress.

I have always found the service helpful and resourceful.

Without your service children would miss their health appointments.

I and families have received a brilliant service from you and are continuing to receive this.

I would like to thank you all for all your hard work and hope your service continues to help families - Thank you."

**Aisha Mustafa, Support Worker
Ashbrook Children and Family Centre Rochdale**

"Some children's wouldn't be able to get to health appointments because of the cost of transport and difficulty in getting to some hospitals. Transport for Sick Children reassures me as a professional, that the child's needs are being addressed. The service is invaluable, thank you."

Rebecca Reynolds, Health Visitor, Oldham

"Thank you for all the lifts to the hospital, it has been greatly appreciated. It has been lovely meeting such dedicated volunteers."

Service user, Wigan

Treasurer's Report



- The charity is currently well funded
- The price of petrol and diesel is putting pressure on our drivers
- Increase in journeys to other areas of the country

Incoming resources totalled £106,045 (last year £132,889) in the 12 months to 31st March 2010.

The reduction of income, of about £22,000, compared with the last financial year is as follows:

	£ down
PCT's	5,671
GMPTE	6,590
Donations	6,413
Interest	3,456
Total	22,130

The PCT income is down comparatively because in the last financial year we received £5,000 over budget from one PCT. During the year the financial support from Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive came to an amicable end. Donations were substantially down with one of our sponsors unable to host a golf day for us this year, because of the economic situation and last year a member gave a very large single donation. Interest is down because of the low interest rates available on secure investments.

Expenditure has been controlled but the price of petrol and diesel has put pressure on drivers and will be an issue unless the Inland Revenue change the allowances level.

Funding from NHS Primary Care Trusts is absolutely key to the Charity's operations particularly now that the support received for many years from the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive has been withdrawn because of the charity's success in increasing the income from the Primary Care Trusts.

The charity is currently well funded but with the growth in costs of accommodation and operation the income from the NHS Primary Care Trusts has to be increased, despite the economic climate, to allow the charity to continue to grow. In the year, expenditure exceeded income by about £1,000. While having to move to new accommodation in 2010 the search for a more economic location will continue. It is not expected that income will exceed expenditure in the next financial year. A reduction in our reserves is inevitable unless the income can be increased.

Operationally 1,241 children were carried, which is 30 less than the previous year. It is the first year the number of children carried has not grown since the charity was founded. Research is being carried out to ensure that we are reaching the most vulnerable children. The number of trips achieved is 6,429, 7.7 per cent down on the previous year. This is out of line with the number of children carried and while no definite cause has been established, there has been an increase in the availability of local medical facilities which is believed a factor. Mileage accomplished was 120,635 about 2,000 miles down on the previous year. Children are being carried to Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds, Leicester and Liverpool hospitals for specialist treatment.

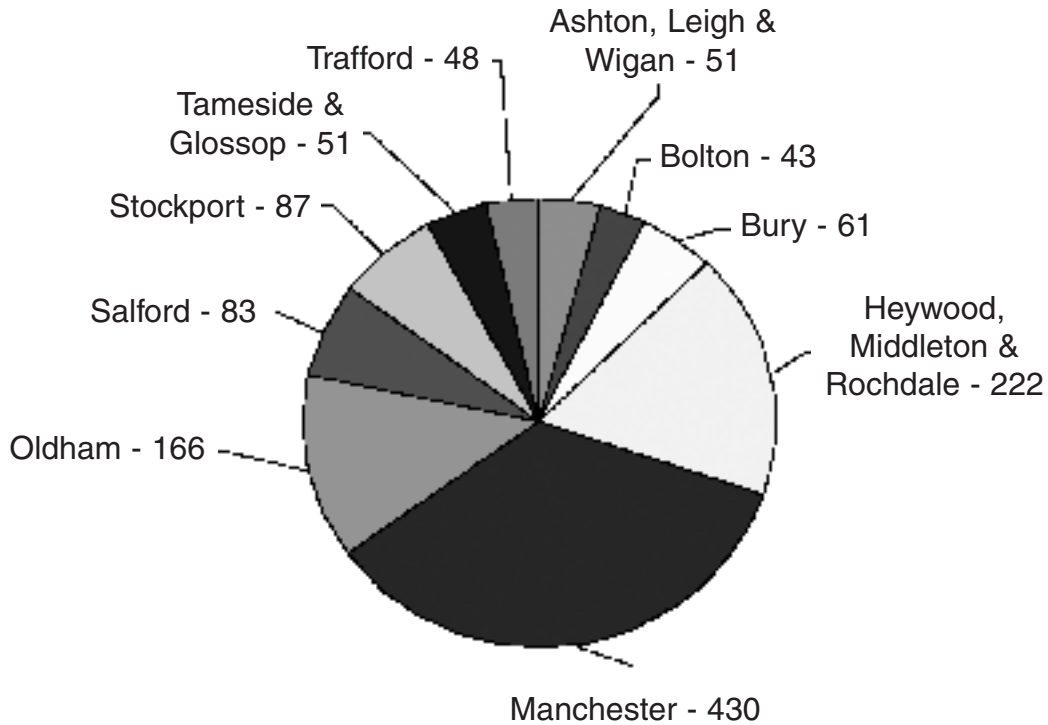
The application for funding to The Third Sector to allow our operations to be replicated in Birmingham, Liverpool and Sheffield was unsuccessful.

The charity continues to have the support of an excellent team of people who are capable of meeting the new challenges being made of them.

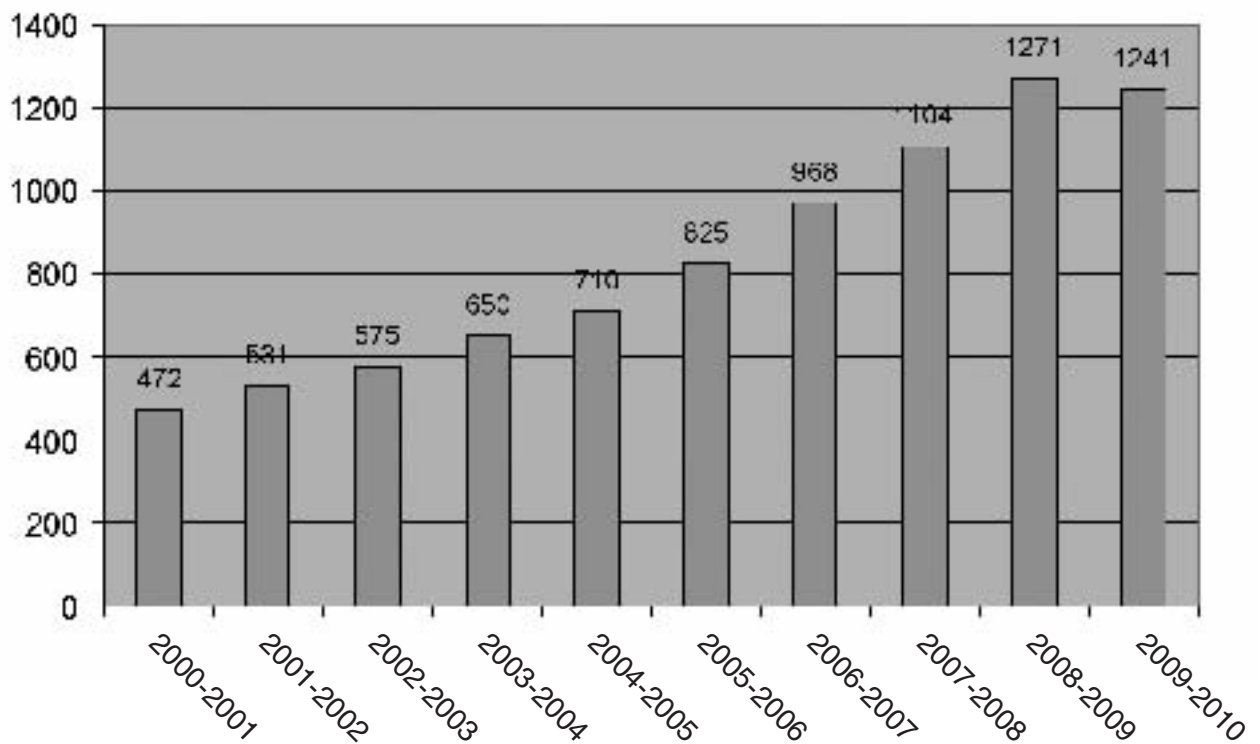
John Adams - Treasurer

Activity Statistics

Number of Children Helped by NHS Primary Care Trust

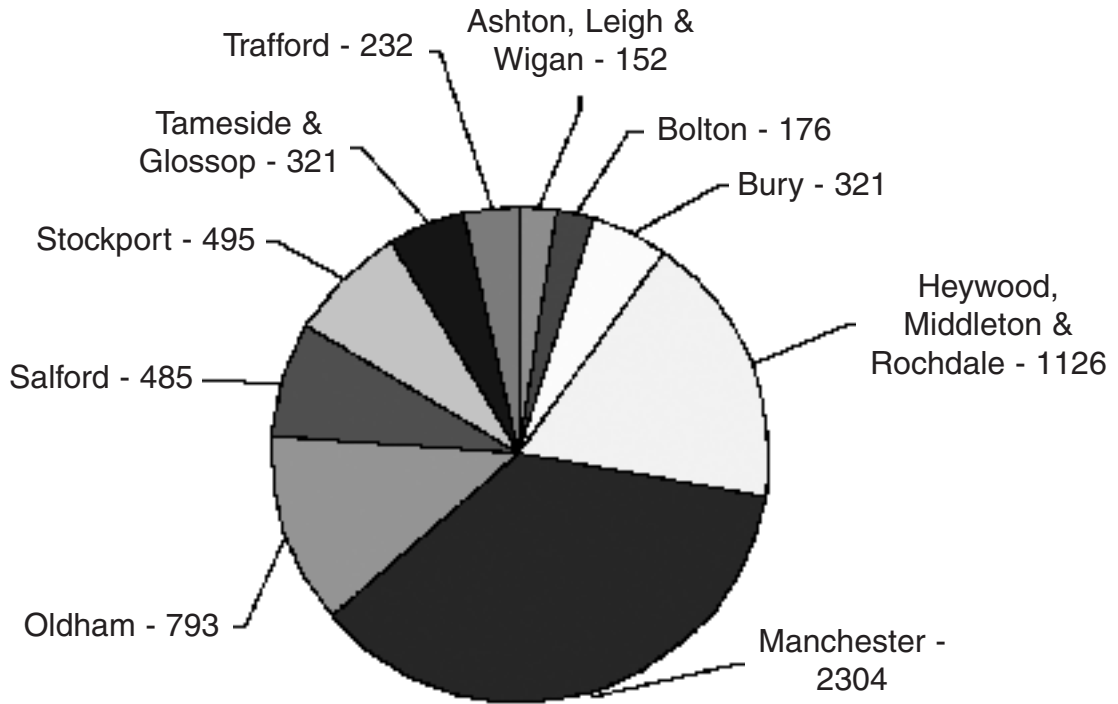


Number of Children Helped

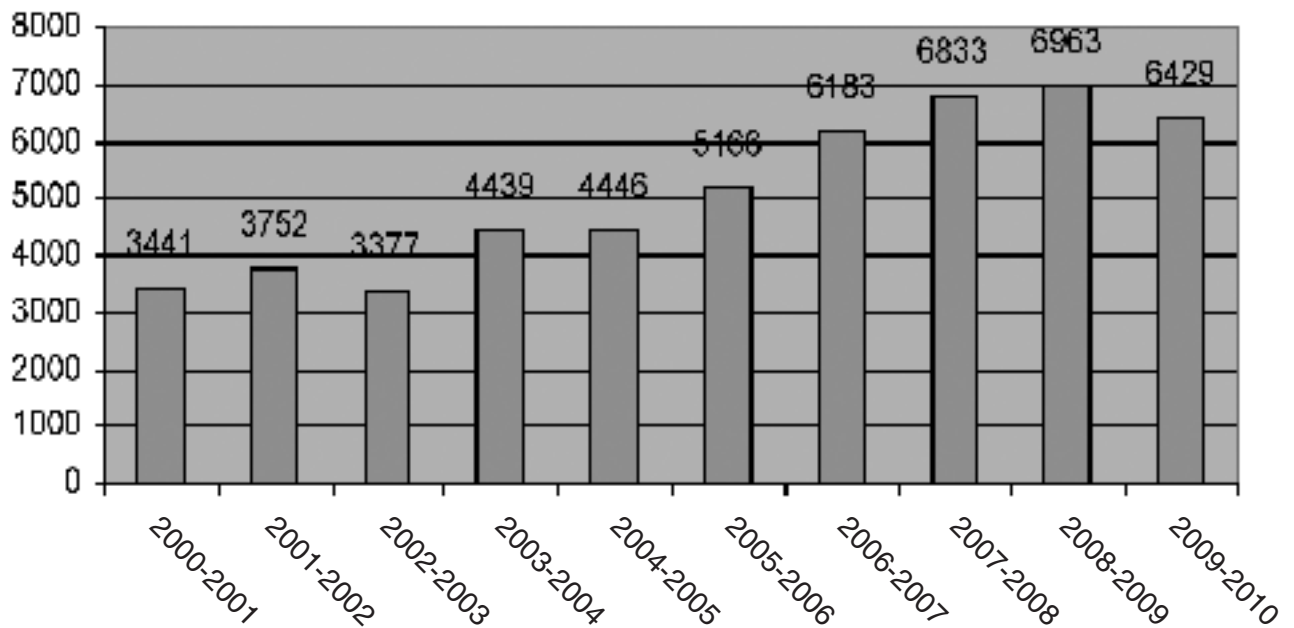


Activity Statistics cont.

Number of trips by NHS Primary Care Trust

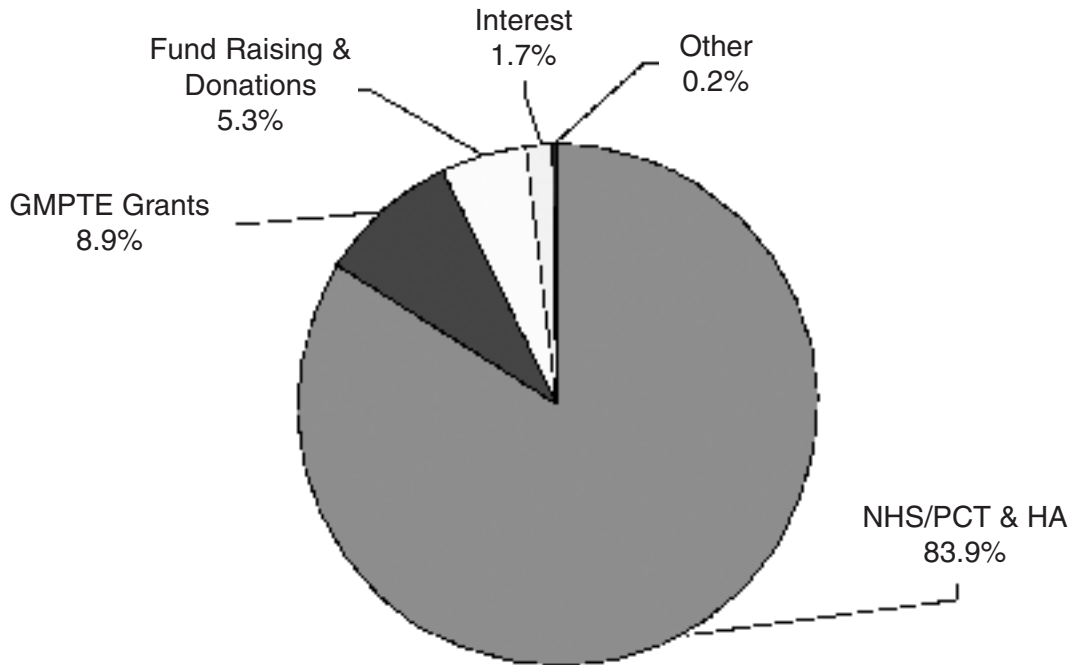


Number of trips

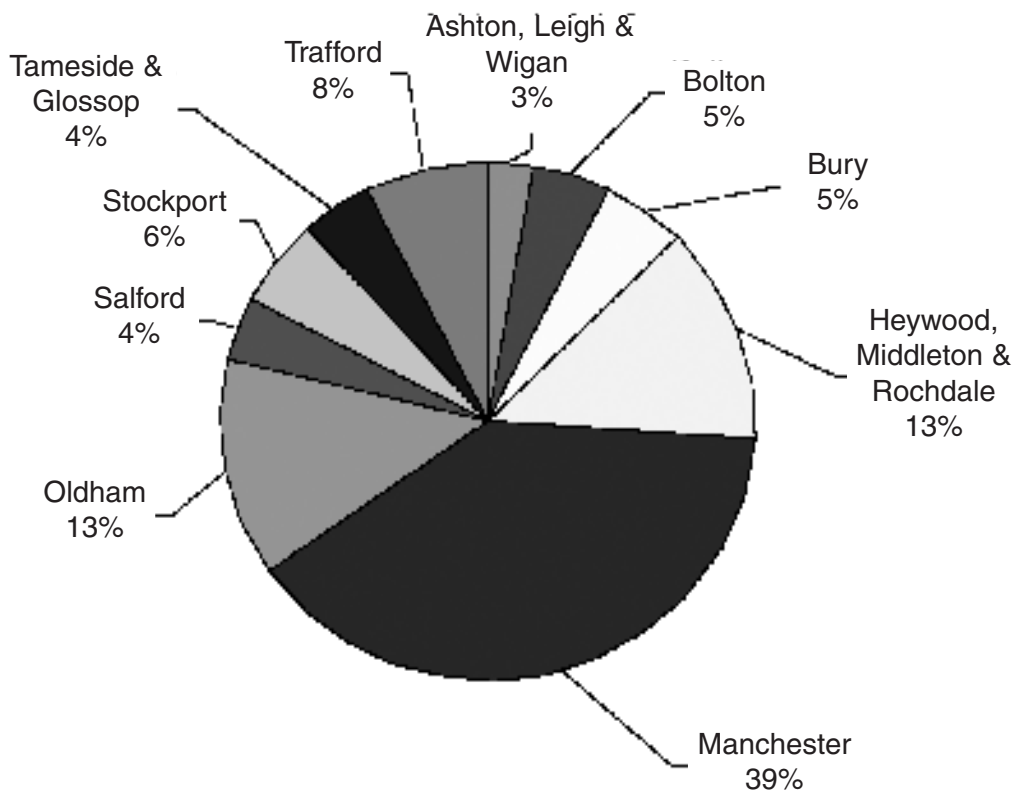


Activity Statistics cont.

Income by NHS Primary Care Trust



Income



Our Thanks To

Our thanks to Volunteer Drivers

Stewart Bale	Faye Haven	David Naylor
Sean Bell	David Haworth	Ronnie Newbiggin
Alan Berry	Eric Houghton	Arthur Oliver
Thomas Bevan	Martin Jones	Bryan Polin
Colin Bradburn	David Kelly	Norman Robinson
John Capstick	Wayne Kelsey	Irene Sagar
Barry Carney	Shahanaz Khan	John Sagar
Andrew Cooke	Keith Lear	Barbara Schickhoff-Brown
Barbara Donoghue	David Lees	Bob Sharples
Graham Duggan	Stuart Lodge	Alan Smith
Denis Edgar	Tony Loftus	Debra Tilson
Bernard Fawley	Victor Longden	Bernard Ward
Jennie Gilpin	Steven Lovatt	John Whittaker
Esther Goulden	Geoff Lucas	Sheila Whitworth
George Green	William Mitchell	Cliff Wignall
Anthony Gregory	Anthony Munday	

Donors

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S. Bale
P. Brunt
S. Drake
A. Berry
D. Naylor
Charnwood Nursery
The Treehouse,
Stepping Hill Hospital
Houldsworth Golf Club,
Reddish
North Reddish Primary
School
Green Reaper Recycling
Hobsons Bakery, Reddish

Trustee Volunteers

John Adams
John Sagar
Roger Watts
Gaynor Kershaw
John Whittaker
Geraldine Pickering
Pauline Cope

Events 2009-10



Volunteers Meet Coronation Street Star

Transport for Sick Children has a group of dedicated people who are happy to give their time, vehicles, energy and enthusiasm to ensure that deprived children get their medical needs attended to. Some volunteers are happy to do this marvelous gesture every day, some a few times a week and others when they can. All of them deserve our gratitude for the dignified way they carry out the task.

Some of our drivers are seen here with Brooke Vincent from Coronation Street at an event for children at Lancashire Cricket Club at Christmas.

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

A major change to children's services took place during the year with the closure of Booth Hall and Pendlebury Hospitals and transfer to the new Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. The change has made a huge impact on our operation but thanks to our staff and volunteers we have managed to overcome all the difficulties e.g. Parking, refreshments etc. The new fleece jackets given to volunteers has also helped to raise the profile of the charity, with so many of our drivers meeting and waiting at RMCH they are easily identifiable.



Artwork Competition

We are very grateful to the children and staff at North Reddish, Primary School, Class 5P for their marvelous contribution to our annual report. We asked the children to consider the theme "my journey to hospital" and draw a picture accordingly. We were delighted with high quality of the work produced which made it very difficult to choose a winner. The winning entry came from Natasha and features on the front cover. The runners up are displayed below.



Darcy



James



Amey E

Thanks to just some of our supporters



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