STEPHENV’S STORY

Making a Difference

May 2016

Stephen’s Story captured the hearts and minds of the nation in 2014 when Stephen shared his incredible story with the world. Now in 2016, Stephen’s Story lives on and we wanted to share updated information about how the money inspired by Stephen is making a difference to the lives of other young people with cancer.

The fundraising total is now at over £5.5 million on Stephen’s JustGiving page and continues to rise. We always make sure that every penny given to Teenage Cancer Trust achieves as much as possible for young people with cancer. The donations inspired by Stephen are no different.

We’ve worked really hard to make the money go far and, because of this, and the fact that people are still so inspired and supportive of Stephen’s Story, we’re now able to invest in more. We’ve been able to make more improvements to our specialist units, and invest more in the professional development of doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals who work with young people with cancer.

These investments are going to be key in helping us achieve our goal of reaching every young person with cancer who needs us.

Stephen’s Mum, Jane Sutton:

“No a day goes by when I don’t miss my brave, brilliant son, but when I think about everything he achieved and how much he’s helping other young people, it makes me feel so proud.

He touched many lives with his positivity, and Stephen’s Story will go on. So many people say that he inspired them, and none more so than me. With his voice in my ear, I’ve run a marathon, jumped out of a plane and in a few months, I’ll be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. I’m honoured to call myself an Ambassador for Teenage Cancer Trust, and feel privileged to be able to continue to spread Stephen’s unique message of positivity.

It’s fantastic to know that Stephen’s legacy is helping other young people going through a similar cancer experience.”
HERE’S A BREAKDOWN OF HOW THE DONATIONS STEPHEN INSPIRED ARE WORKING HARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CANCER:

£2.7 million on specialist units for young people with cancer in NHS hospitals

We’ve already invested £1.6 million in making some fantastic improvements to 13 Teenage Cancer Trust units. And with more to come over the next few years, a total of 16 units, containing at least 121 beds and three day care areas, will benefit. In 2014, we announced that 8 units would receive funding, so we have been able to double this. These investments are spread across 12 cities, including Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, London, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield and the Wirral – adding the four highlighted cities to the original announcement.

£1.6 million on professional development for nurses and specialist staff

Currently, for every young person with cancer we support, there’s another we can’t reach. So we’re doing more, focusing on developing a network of specialist staff to make sure there are more expert Teenage Cancer Trust nurses and Youth Support Coordinators across the UK to make sure no young person faces cancer alone.

Stephen’s Story has committed £350,000 to Coventry University towards specialist training and development of health professionals who offer expert care and support to teenage and young adult cancer patients. This includes the provision of scholarships for 50 professionals over 5 years to undertake a Postgraduate Certificate in Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Care. The first recipients have already begun their scholarships and applications are now invited for scholars wishing to start the next course in September 2016 by visiting www.coventry.ac.uk/teenagecancercourses.

In addition, Stephen’s Story is now also able to fund our pioneering International Conference and Adolescent and Young Adult Global Cancer Congress. The next one is in Edinburgh from 5th to 7th December, 2016. Up to 400 healthcare professionals from across the world will gather to share best practice and learn from each other, focusing on improving the care and treatments available for young people with cancer. We’re also providing a Stephen Sutton Fund to help professionals with the cost of attending.
Stephen’s Story is helping to fund JTVCancerSupport.com, with £340,000 already invested. JTV Cancer Support is an online project that uses film and creative media to help young people with cancer explore and express their feelings, and make some sense of their very personal journeys from diagnosis onwards.

The JTV Cancer Support website hosts thousands of films made by young people with cancer, providing a huge source of support. This extra funding allows JTV Cancer Support to continue to provide valuable services for young people.

Stephen’s Story is funding travel costs so more young people with cancer can attend our conference weekends called Find Your Sense of Tumour (FYSOT). As a result of Stephen’s Story, we have enabled over 400 young people to attend this event.

These events bring young people with cancer together to learn, make friends, share experiences and support each other, build confidence and have fun. FYSOT played a very important role in how Stephen viewed his cancer.

We hope to support a further 600 young people with cancer to attend over the next three years.

Stephen Sutton: “You would not imagine that there is a conference attended by young people with cancer from up and down the country, all gathering in one place and having an absolutely awesome time. Through this common bond, you can make an invaluable support network. It’s incredible.”
A vitally important part of improving diagnosis experience is to educate young people and families about the signs of cancer and to encourage young people to be persistent at the doctor’s if they’re not getting better.

Over £270,000 has already been invested to help expand and develop our pioneering education and awareness work. We now have an amazing team of 16 on the ground who are already out visiting schools and delivering cancer awareness sessions, primarily to Year 10 students.

Stephen’s Story has also enabled us to commission our first education drama to teach students about the common signs of cancer, explore how family and friends react to a cancer diagnosis and look at how young people cope with all of these issues. The film complements our face-to-face presentations and will be used as a follow-up to those sessions.

In addition, we’re now able to start working with other adult influencers and with GPs to explore an online resource to help with diagnosis of cancer in young people. We hope this resource will become part of GP and health professionals’ continued professional development.

“We are so grateful to everyone who has supported and continues to support Teenage Cancer Trust and Stephen’s Story. You’ve helped us make great progress in making sure that young people with cancer have the best treatment, care and support but there is so much more to do. Right now, for every young person we can reach, there is another we can’t. Our supporters make our work possible and, with continued support, we will be able to get ever closer to being there for every young person with cancer who needs us.”

Year 10 student, Lauren:
“The session made me feel confident about speaking to someone if I’m worried about my health. It gave me a lot more knowledge on cancer and the symptoms of what could happen. The presentation made me realise that I have to take care of myself, eat healthy and exercise.”

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