



News

Summer 2026

Welcome to our latest issue of MWL NHS Charity News!

With summer in full flow, it's been a pretty busy time over at Charity HQ! Our annual Whiston Hospital Abseil was once again a resounding success, and we also had the pleasure of being 'Charity of the Year' at this year's Southport Seaside 10k - read on for more details! You will also find information about our wonderful Butterfly Volunteer Service, helping patients at the end of their lives and supporting their loved ones, and read some inspiring stories of generosity and kindness shown by our amazing fundraisers.



Sunny seaside challenge sees MWL supporters run for a good cause

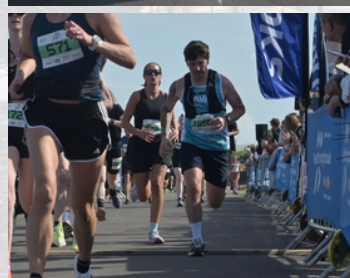
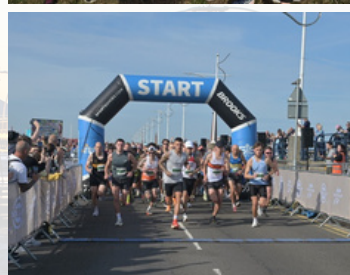
MWL NHS Charity was delighted to be named as the 'Charity of the Year' for this year's Run Through Southport Seaside 10k.

Over 2,000 people took part in the popular annual event at the beginning of August, which attracts runners from miles around due to its scenic coastal views, flat and fast closed-road course, and fantastic community atmosphere.

Runners signing up for the 10k could choose to pledge their support for MWL NHS Charity by fundraising. As a special thank you, each member of 'Team MWL' received a limited-edition running vest created especially for the event which they wore with pride on the day.

In the Event Village, the Charity Team enjoyed chatting with runners and spectators about the charity's work, handing out over a hundred goody bags, and cheering on the runners as they crossed the finish line.

A big thank you to all our fundraisers for their amazing support and also to EFT Group for their generous sponsorship.



If you would like to fundraise for MWL NHS Charity, or ask any questions, please get in touch!



hello@mwlnhscharity.org



0151 290 4400



@MWLNHSCarity

£22,000 raised thanks to our amazing abseilers

More than 80 brave fundraisers descended the front of Whiston Hospital in just eight hours to help raise funds for MWL NHS Charity, in what proved to be a hugely successful and memorable day.

Taking place under glorious blue skies and sunshine, the annual Whiston Hospital Abseil brought together patients, staff, families and members of the local community, all taking on the challenge for causes close to their hearts.

Together, participants raised just under £22,000 in total. One of the most special aspects of the event was that every abseiler was able to choose which of the Charity's funds they wanted to support from a selection of 21 different funds. It was fantastic to see that most of our funds were represented, meaning that many different services across the Trust will benefit from donations raised through the event.

The atmosphere throughout the day was incredible, with supporters gathering to cheer on participants as they made their descent. There was plenty to enjoy on the ground too, including a barbecue generously provided and run by the Rapid Relief Team UK Charity, while Dave & Sons ice cream van helped everyone keep cool with their selection of ice creams and lollies.

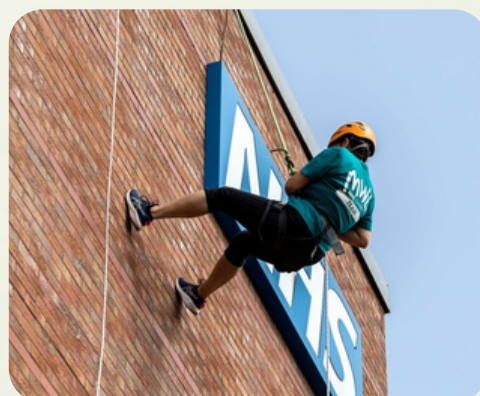
The Charity Team has been overwhelmed by the positive feedback received from participants and spectators alike, with many describing the event as an unforgettable experience and praising the supportive and encouraging atmosphere throughout the day.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who took part in the challenge, donated, fundraised, volunteered and came along to support the event. Every contribution has helped make a real difference to patients, families and services across Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Special thanks also go to the team from Adventure Days, whose expertise, encouragement and professionalism ensured all participants were safely fitted with their equipment and supported every step of the way, from the rooftop to a safe landing back on the ground.

Events like the Whiston Hospital Abseil would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of so many people. Thanks to everyone involved, this year's event has been one of our most successful yet, raising important funds for the areas that matter most to our supporters while creating lasting memories along the way.

Plans are already underway for next year's event, which will once again take place in July. If you would be interested in taking part and want to be ahead of the game, email the Charity Team at hello@mwlnhscharity.org to be the first to hear the details once they are confirmed!



Chief Executive Takes on Skydive Challenge for MWL NHS Charity

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Chief Executive, Rob Cooper, is preparing to take fundraising to new heights by taking on a thrilling charity skydive in support of MWL NHS Charity.



Rob will be one of twenty-five incredible supporters taking part in a tandem skydive to raise funds for MWL NHS Charity later this year. Every member of the group will be stepping well outside their comfort zones as they leap from thousands of feet above the ground, all to help make a difference for patients across our hospitals.

As our Charity continues to fund projects and initiatives that go above and beyond NHS funding, the skydive is a fantastic opportunity to raise both important funds and awareness of the impact donations can have. Every pound raised will help us enhance patient wellbeing, improve healthcare environments and provide extra support where it's needed most.

Speaking ahead of the challenge, Rob said: "This is certainly one of the biggest challenges I have ever taken on, but I am delighted to be doing it for such an important cause. Every donation will help support our patients and their families, and I hope the challenge inspires others to get involved and support the incredible work of our Charity."

We are incredibly grateful to Rob and the other fundraisers for taking on such a memorable challenge and championing the work of MWL NHS Charity. We're encouraging our supporters, colleagues and local communities to get behind our skydivers by making a donation and sharing the fundraising campaign with family and friends. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, will help us continue funding projects that improve patient experiences.

The skydive promises to be an unforgettable day and a fantastic show of community spirit, with twenty-five supporters coming together for one shared goal: helping us do even more for the people who rely on our services.

We wish Rob and all of our skydivers the very best of luck as they prepare to take the leap, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who is supporting this amazing fundraising effort. Together, we can make a difference.

To support all of our incredible participants taking part in the skydive, you can click [here](#) or scan the code to make a donation online.



More than £400 raised as MWL and VINCI staff take to the pitch

Staff from Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and VINCI Facilities came together on a sunny Sunday in July to compete in a charity football match in support of MWL NHS Charity.

The annual fixture saw colleagues swap their usual workplaces for the football pitch, enjoying an afternoon of friendly competition, teamwork and fundraising, reflecting the strong partnership between the Trust and VINCI Facilities. With excellent performances from both sides, the match was played in great spirits and cheered on by supporters who helped create a fantastic atmosphere throughout the afternoon.



While both teams gave their all on the pitch, VINCI Facilities once again emerged victorious, retaining the trophy for the second year running.

Most importantly, the event successfully raised over £400 for our Spinal Appeal.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who took part, organised the event, donated and came along to support. The match was a wonderful example of how a little friendly rivalry can bring people together and make a positive impact.



Handmade octopuses bring comfort to patients

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Holy Cross RotaKids, Rotary St Helens, and the fantastic volunteers at UnTangled Craft & Wellbeing Hub for their generosity and community spirit.

Thanks to their support, 110 handmade sensory octopuses have been donated to patients receiving care across our A&E Department, Bevan Court and Specialist Palliative Care Team.

These thoughtfully crocheted companions provide comfort, reassurance and sensory stimulation, particularly for people living with dementia, helping to reduce anxiety and provide a calming focus during their hospital stay.

The project was made possible through the fundraising efforts of the Holy Cross RotaKids, who raised £50 to commission the octopuses. The talented volunteers at UnTangled then lovingly crocheted each one by hand.



Supporting families through life's most difficult moments

We are proud to support the Butterfly Volunteer Service at Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The service provides compassionate support to people at the end of their lives, as well as comfort and reassurance to their loved ones during incredibly difficult times.



The team of dedicated Butterfly Volunteers give their time generously to ensure that no patient feels alone. Through companionship, kindness and dignity, they provide a reassuring presence when family and friends cannot always be there, bringing comfort and peace of mind to both patients and those who care about them.



Often, it is the smallest acts of kindness that have the greatest impact. Whether it's sharing a cup of tea, offering a listening ear, helping create a calmer and less clinical environment, or providing memory boxes for loved ones to treasure, these thoughtful gestures bring comfort, connection and care at a time when they matter the most.

"We feel mum had a 'good death' and the little things meant so much, sitting and reading to her when we could not be there, knitted hearts and the sensory lights which created a tranquil environment which made a real difference. We are so grateful"

"To give time to people is the greatest gift you can give. Very few do this and to know that the volunteers do so with such kindness, and for those like me who are so poorly, helps to make a difference and is so important and so very special."

Memory boxes are provided free of charge across the Trust to serve as a safe place to keep treasured keepsakes and personal mementos, helping families preserve precious memories and maintain lasting connections with those they have lost.

Each memory box contains thoughtful items designed to support families through their grief, such as memory tree tags, materials to take handprints, wildflower seeds, tea lights and organza bags.



Activity books can also be given to children and young people to help them understand and cope with grief.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to grant £10,000 of funding to support the provision of these bereavement memory boxes to be offered to families following the loss of a loved one.

With your help, we can continue to enhance the MWL Butterfly Volunteer Service and support more patients and families with compassion and kindness. Your donation can help fund the resources our volunteers need to provide comfort, dignity and companionship at the most challenging of times.



If you would like to support the work of the Butterfly Volunteer Service, you can fundraise or make a donation online by scanning the code or visiting the web page below.

mwlnhscharity.enthuse.com/cf/butterfly-volunteer-service

Fundraiser Focus



Every fundraiser has a story. Meet some of the amazing supporters who have raised money for us in recent months



Total raised: £2,386

Aideen Cronin completed the Liverpool Half Marathon to fundraise for the Breast Care Fund, to give something back to the Burney Breast Unit after receiving treatment there.



Total raised: £1,194

Pip Nightingale ran the Cheshire Spring Half Marathon in support of the Spinal Appeal after her mum spent months in recovery at the Spinal Unit due to a serious spinal injury.



Total raised: £1,296

John O'Brien cycled 56 laps of Carr Mill Dam in seven days to fundraise for the Lilac Centre, who had cared for his good friend Ian throughout his recent cancer treatment.



Total raised: £6,676

MJS Joinery organised a hugely successful charity golf day at West Derby Golf Club with the help of a number of generous local businesses to support our Children's Fund.



Total raised: £1,188

The Museum of Rural Lancashire Life kindly chose to donate the proceeds from their annual Vintage and Classic Car Fair and Fun Day in Southport to our Children's Fund.



Total raised: £819

Stephen and Joan requested donations to our Elderly Care & Dementia and Cancer Funds instead of wedding gifts in honour of their late partners, Elizabeth and Bert.



Total raised: £788

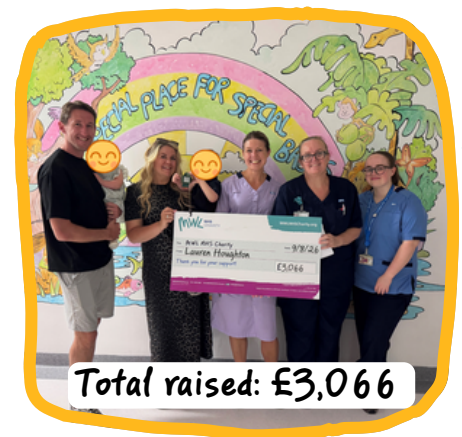
Sophie Jackson took on the Brockholes Bimble 10k for the Neonatal Fund after her twins, Jude and Amber, received 12 days of exceptional care from Ormskirk Hospital Neonatal Unit.



Andrew Woodside conquered a gruelling 70.3 mile Ironman triathlon for our Neonatal Fund to give back to the Whiston Neonatal Unit for their care of his son, William.



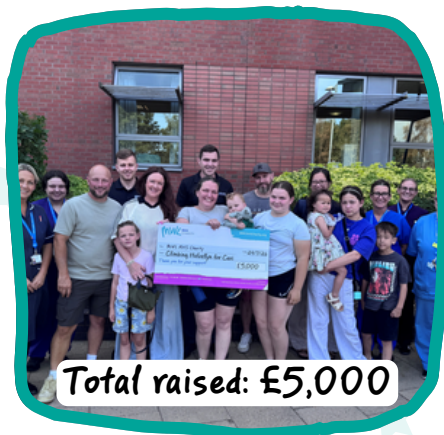
Dennis and Lynne asked for donations to our Cancer Fund instead of gifts for their 50th wedding anniversary in recognition of the care Lynne has received at Whiston Hospital.



Lauren Houghton completed the St Helens 10k and SheUltra 50km ultramarathon in support of our Neonatal Fund to thank the Whiston Team for the 8 weeks of care her daughter Lyla received.



For the third year, an incredible team completed the **March for Maddie** challenge, taking on a 35-mile walk from Oldham Athletic to Whiston Hospital in the middle of the heatwave to support our Baby Bereavement Fund.



Francesca Thornton and a fantastic team of family and friends climbed Helvellyn in the Lake District in support of their friend, Ceri, who received treatment at the Lilac Centre.



Gareth Moss completed a tough 29km trail run for the Neonatal Fund to give back to the team at Whiston Hospital for their care and support when his daughter was born 9 weeks early.



Layla and Paul ran the AJ Bell Manchester Half Marathon in aid of our Spinal Appeal after seeing first hand the care Layla's aunt received at the Spinal Injuries Unit in our Southport Hospital.

Upcoming Events



The Charity Team will be setting up shop in the Spinal Unit entrance at Southport Hospital from 10am and will have lots of lovely cakes and biscuits to tempt you with.

All profits from the sale will go directly towards our Spinal Appeal, which will see the patient day room in the unit transformed into a more modern, functional and welcoming space for patients undergoing long-term rehabilitation in hospital.



Join us for an evening of good food, music, and entertainment to raise funds for the Burney Breast Unit.

Taking place in the PSD 1873 Lounge at the home of Saints Rugby League Club, Brewdog Stadium, in the heart of the town, the evening will include a delicious 2-course meal, live music, raffle and auction. Tickets are £40 per person and available to purchase [here](#).

The Events page on our website is regularly updated with all the latest activities:
www.mwlnhscharity.org/events

Volunteer with
MWL
NHS CHARITY



There are lots of opportunities for volunteers to lend a helping hand:

- Fundraising
- Public collections
- Events
- Awareness stalls
- Raffles & tombolas
- Christmas campaign

We are always looking for people to get involved, so if you would like to find out more, visit our website or get in touch.

www.mwlnhscharity.org/volunteer
hello@mwlnhscharity.org
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