



Tiny Lives Newsletter 2009

Tiny Lives supports the special care baby unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle and is part of the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Rugby Star Becomes Patron for Tiny Lives



Paul Sculthorpe, retired Great Britain and St Helens rugby star found out about Tiny Lives through David and Joanne Spencer, his close friends and business partners, after they had personal experience of the Special Care Baby Unit.

Paul wanted to visit the unit to see for himself the phenomenal work the doctors and nurses do and asked what he could do to help. When asked if he would like to become a patron to help raise the profile of Tiny Lives, Paul agreed without any hesitation. He also has connections with Gateshead

Thunder Rugby Club who have agreed to work alongside Tiny Lives.

Starting off as he means to go on both, Paul and David have agreed to run the Great North Run 2009 for Tiny Lives. With the dedication that both Paul and David have, Tiny Lives can not see the half marathon being a problem for either of them.....good luck!



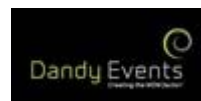
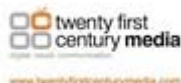
Another Successful Year for Tiny Lives Black and White Party 2009



For the seventh year Tiny Lives Patron, Peter Beardsley hosted the Black & White Party with help from Alan Harman, one of the Black and White Party Committee Members. The night is Tiny Lives largest annual fundraising event and our hopes of holding a successful event surpassed all expectations raising over £23,000 through various activities.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support. The money raised has funded the research into antibody responses in full term and premature babies (see this on page six) and is also going to help towards our breast feeding drive.

To see more photos and read the full story of the Black & White Party please visit our website at www.tinylives.org.uk



Thank you to the our sponsors for the event

Tiny Lives the Nominated Charity



Marks and Spencer - Silverlink nominated Tiny Lives as their charity in 2008. After a member of staff, Aimee Adamson, and her husband had first hand experience of the Special Care Baby Unit. Sadly Tilly May passed away after putting up such a strong fight (Tilly's brave story is on our website). In memory of Tilly, Aimee and staff at Marks and Spencer held a fundraising night and donated raffle prizes for our annual Christmas Reunion Party, which raised over £3,000. Thank you to Aimee and Peter Adamson, Marks and Spencer and their staff.

The Sun Newspaper chose Tiny Lives to be their nominated charity for 2008 - 2009 helping to raise over £13,000. They ran news stories with the proceeds going to the charity. The articles have also raised the profile of Tiny Lives, with their big hearted readers donating money and offering to volunteer. They also kindly donated auction prizes for the annual Black and White Party 2009, which contributed to the amazing amount raised. Thank you to Emma Morton who is the health reporter for The Sun Newspaper and has worked closely with Tiny Lives.



George Stephenson High School chose Tiny Lives to be their nominated charity in 2008. They set their targets high to raise £10,000 and with everyone pulling together they achieved their target in July 2009, by doing various fundraising activities throughout the school. You can see the full story on our website at www.tinylives.org.uk

Students from George Stephenson High School also volunteered at our Christmas Reunion Party in 2008, where they were a great help. The day would have not ran as smoothly as it did with out their help.

Thank you to Darrin Potts, all the staff and students for their time and the great effort they put in to raising this amazing amount.



Thank you to P&G, who kindly donated soap powder and nappies to the Special Care Baby Unit.

**We would also like to say a BIG thank you to all companies who help Tiny Lives, whether it be, helping store Tiny Lives equipment, donating prizes, attending our events or simply showing support.
Thank You**

Inside this months issue

Tiny Lives the Nominated Charity - page	2
Cheque Collections	- page 3-4
Grants	- page 5-6
Christmas Reunion	- page 6-7
How to get involved	- page 8
Roll of Honour	- page 8
Forthcoming Events	- page 8

Cheque Collections



George Stephenson High School went that step further and raised the amazing amount of £10,000, which has gone towards The SimBaby (you can see this on page 5).

A Northern Care member chooses Tiny Lives to be their nominated charity. This is where a member nominates a charity or charitable cause that is locally based, in the North East of England, to receive a donation from Northern Care. Thank you to the member of Northern Care and all the staff who work there for the wonderful donation of £250.00, which will go towards helping improve the environment on the unit.



Generous staff at the Metro Depot, Gosforth donate £150.00 to Tiny Lives, which will go towards training courses to ensure the nurses and doctors are kept fully up to date with the latest training courses.

The pupils from the ICT Department at St. Aidan's RC School rallied round to raise a fantastic amount of £400.00 and presented the cheque to Andrea Atkinson at the unit. While the pupils were at the unit they were shown around ward 35, to see how important their donation was. The donation has gone towards funding electric blankets and heated waterbeds for the unit.



Stagecoach in Newcastle kindly donated an amazing amount of £5,250.00. The money was raised by staff at Stagecoach and will go towards buying a new Babytherm.

Cheque Collections



Leading Fine Art Auctioneers in the North of England and the Scottish Borders Anderson and Garland held a preview evening with guests donating money to Tiny Lives. Everyone dug deep and were very generous raising a fabulous amount of £933.15. The money raised has helped make the environment at the unit a friendly and homely place for parents and siblings that are going through this terrible time.

Throckley and District Social Club alongside Harry's Hike raised the wonderful amount of £5,000, which has gone towards The SimBaby (you can see this on page 5). Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in the sponsored walk, sponsored the walkers and also everyone who attended the fundraising night held on Thursday 9th April 2009.



Joanne and David Thompson held a fundraising night at Pelaw Social Club on Saturday 28th February 2009. It was held in loving memory of their son David, who sadly lost his fight on the Special Care Baby Unit. Andrea who attended the fundraising night said "it was a great success, everyone came together to raise the great amount of £4,500". Joanne and David met Andrea at the unit to present the cheque, to buy a new sofa for the Halcyon Room on the delivery suite.

We would like to thank everyone who makes donations to Tiny Lives, because without you our work would not be possible

Great North Run 2009



We would like to thank everyone who is running this years Great North Run for Tiny Lives. We have had such a big response this year we have nearly filled the spaces for next year.

So if you would like to complete a personal challenge while raising money for such a great cause please contact us on 0191 222 0945 or

E-mail at tinylives@communityfoundation.org.uk.

Is it true or is it a joke?...

...Yes its true, Andrea Atkinson Tiny Lives Fundraising Manager, is running the Great North Run for Tiny Lives.

If you would like to read why Andrea is doing it and would like to sponsor her please visit our website at www.tinylives.org.uk or Andrea's Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/AndreaAtkinson



Grants

From all your kind donations, Tiny Lives are able to buy special equipment, send staff on important training courses, fund much needed research projects and make the environment on the Special Care Baby unit a more friendly and homely place for parents and siblings to come and see their little fighters.



Tiny Lives purchase equipment to enhance training of staff on ward 35.

The SimBaby is a "state-of-the-art" infant patient simulator for team training. The SimBaby is a manikin that has realistic anatomy and behaves like a newborn baby. It breathes, moves and you can insert drips and breathing tubes, just like a real baby. It is also connected to a computer that records heart beats and breathing. The trainer can then programme the computer to create realistic scenarios and a video camera can be used to record how the team reacts to a variety of 'emergency problems'. Afterwards the team can replay the scenario and see how well they performed. The equipment can be used over and over again, with changing scenarios that will allow the nursing and medical staff on ward 35 to improve their skills.

Thank you to George Stephenson High School and Throckley & District Social Club for enabling us to fund this essential piece of kit.



Through the Tiny Lives Fund we are able to send staff from the Special Care Baby Unit to attend study days such as breast feeding courses, newborn life support training courses and other useful training courses, which enables staff to pass on their skills and knowledge from the study days, to other clinical staff within the Unit ensuring staff are kept up to date with the latest advances.

Tiny Lives pays for developmental care items such as Frederick T. Frog, which is a versatile, frog-shaped beanbag positioning aid designed to help achieve goals for developmentally supportive positioning in premature babies.



Tiny Lives provides special romper suits for premature babies on ward 35. These romper suits make it easier for staff to attach monitors/drips to the babies as they have openings at the shoulders and legs, this also makes dressing the babies a lot easier.

Grants

Antibody responses in full term and premature babies **– A study update**

The aim of this study is to look in detail at how vaccinations work in both full term and premature babies. Previous studies have shown that babies born prematurely may respond differently and therefore the aim of this study is to gain further understanding of the level of protection for all babies, including those born prematurely. The study will test the response to immunisations using a number of laboratory techniques which will measure both the amount and the quality of protective antibodies to several of the infant immunisations given routinely to infants in the UK.

This research grant has been funded from money raised at our Black and White Party 2009.

To read more on this grant please visit www.tinylives.org.uk

These grants are only a few things that Tiny Lives have funded from 2008 - 2009

Christmas Reunion Party

**For the 5th year running the children of Tiny Lives
had a great Christmas Party, while raising over £3000.**

Last year was Tiny Lives 5th Christmas Reunion Party, where parents get to meet other parents who have had similar experiences and also re-unite with parents who they had become friendly with whilst on the unit. It is also an opportunity to meet some of the nurses and doctors who took care of their special ones.

But most importantly with over 180 children attending they had fun meeting Santa Claus while receiving a Christmas goody bag. Mr Merlin was also there showing the children his magic tricks. The children had great fun on the bouncy castle and soft play area and after lunch the children took part in a Christmas quiz.

**To read more about the Christmas Reunion Party and see photos please visit
www.tinylives.org.uk**



CHRISTMAS REUNION PARTY 2009

This years Christmas Reunion Party is on
Saturday 21st November 2009

At St James Park, 11:00am - 2:00pm



So if you have had a child on the Special Care Baby Unit at the R.V.I and would like to come and meet other children and parents who have been through similar experiences, we invite you to attend our Christmas Reunion Party.

Lots of Christmas Fun including: Disco, Soft Play, Bouncy Castles,
A Magician and even a chance to meet Santa Claus.

To register please fill in the form on the next page, detach it and send it to the address on the back page.



CHRISTMAS REUNION PARTY REGISTRATION FORM 2009



Your Surname.....Title.....Initial.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Daytime Telephone..... Mobile.....

Email.....

Adults

Attending.....

Children

Attending.....

(Please include name and age)

How many tickets required.....

(Direct family only)

I enclose a voluntary contribution of £10.00

Signed..... Date.....

Return to: The Tiny Lives Fund, Community Foundation, Cale Cross 9th Floor, 156 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 -6SU

Tel: 0191 2220945 Fax: 0191 2300689, Registered charity No. 700510

Email: tinylives@communityfoundation.org.uk or visit our website www.tinylives.org.uk

Tiny Lives Volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers who helped out at the Christmas Reunion Party last year and the volunteers who helped out at this years Black and White Party, without them both events would have not been possible.



If you would like to volunteer for Tiny Lives or even run your own event, you could ask your family, friends, colleagues or even your neighbours to join in and help you.

Please contact us.

Roll of Honour

Thank you to everyone who has....

Donated money, time and effort

Volunteered or attended our events

& Supported the Tiny Lives Fund because with out people like you we would not be able to continue supporting the children of our future.

Contact Us

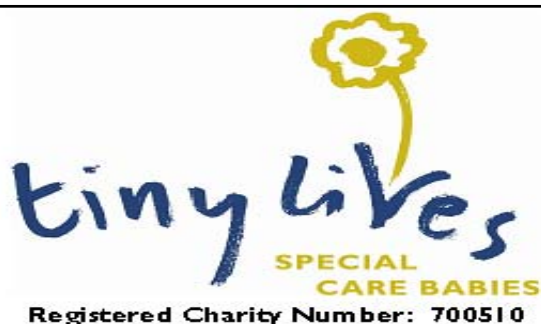
The Tiny Lives Fund
Community Foundation
9th Floor, Cale Cross
156, Pilgrim Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 6SU

Tel: 0191 222 0945

Tinylives@communityfoundation.org.uk

To see what's going on in the world of Tiny Lives.....

.....Visit our website at
www.tinylives.org.uk



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Reunion Party 2009
Saturday 21st November 2009 at Bamburgh Suite,
St James Park, Newcastle
11:00am – 2:00pm

Toddler Week 2010
8 March 2010 - 12 March 2010

Ladies Day Event 2010
24th March 2010

Black and White Party 2010

Comedy Night 2010

Great North Run 2010

Christmas Reunion Party 2010

Please keep check on our website for dates for the above events