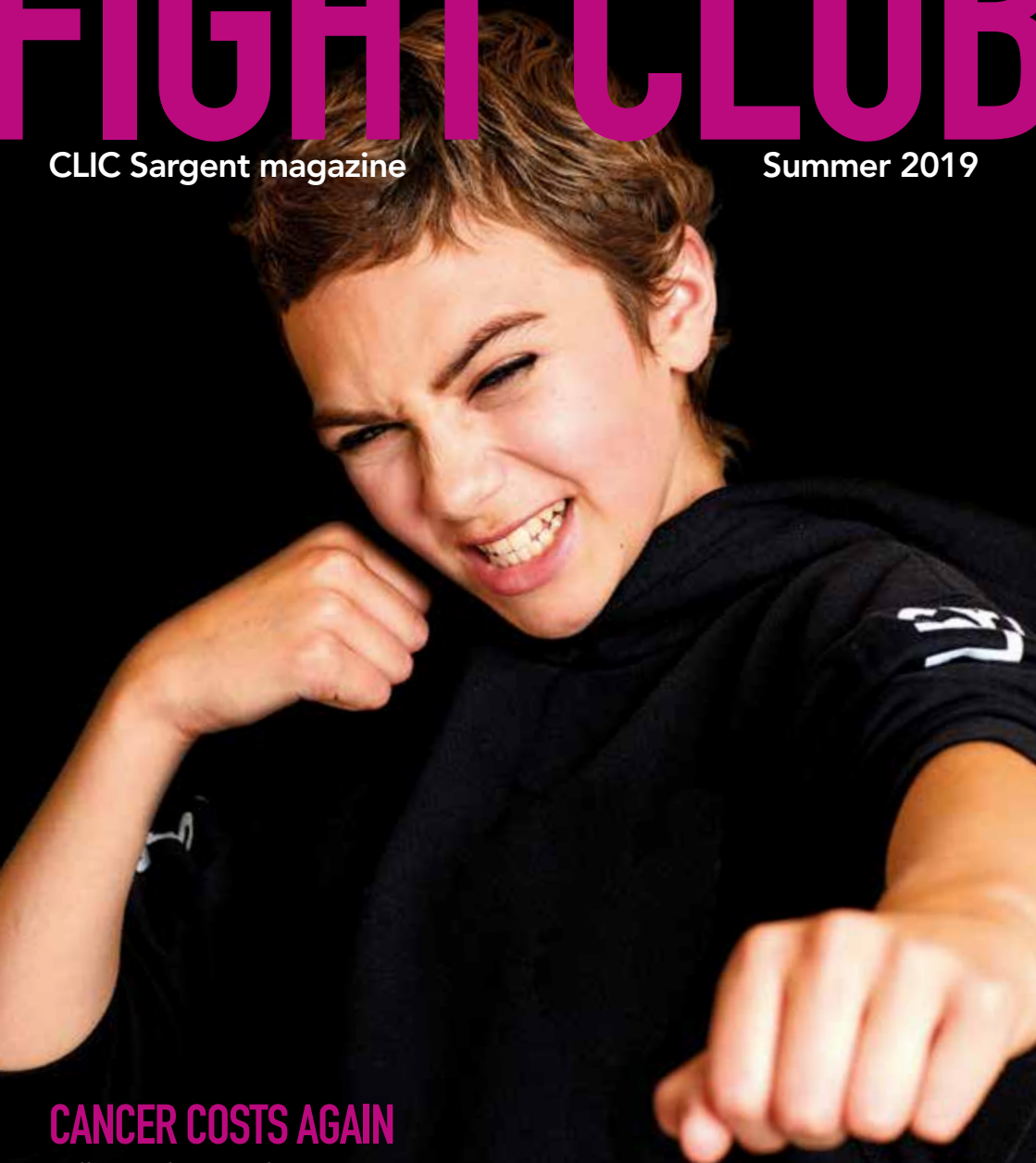


# FIGHT CLUB

CLIC Sargent magazine

Summer 2019



## CANCER COSTS AGAIN

Talking about relapse

## TURNING AMBITIONS INTO REALITY

A new grant helping young people find their futures

**YOUNG LIVES**  
**vs CANCER**  
**CLIC SARGENT**

# WITHOUT YOU, WE ARE NOTHING

Thanks to your generosity last year,  
this happened:



Homes from Home relocated to increase capacity, offering more families free accommodation close to hospital.

5,687

grants (totalling £1,154,622) given to young cancer patients and their families, helping them cope with cancer costs.

30,000

people signed our petition to reduce travel costs for families during treatment, resulting in the government committing to creating a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund.

6,741



children and young people with cancer, and their families, got CLIC Sargent support when they needed it most.

My name is Katherine, I'm 23 and I live in London. In August 2017, I was diagnosed with cancer. But this wasn't just any cancer, I was told it was incurable. My diagnosis made me feel completely isolated, I felt like I didn't know who I was or where I stood in the world.

Shortly after my diagnosis, I met my CLIC Sargent Social Worker, Charlotte. Thanks to Charlotte, I've found a new direction in life: I'm passionate about advocacy and charity work. I've been involved with the Young People's Reference Group through which I've made brilliant friends and experienced great opportunities, such as displaying my poetry at one of CLIC Sargent's World Cancer Day exhibitions.

The work of everyone at CLIC Sargent is so important, and it's thanks to generous supporters like you that they are able to help people like me. I'm humbled by and grateful for the kindness shown by everyone who supports this charity. So on behalf of everyone at CLIC Sargent, and everyone supported or helped by CLIC Sargent, thank you!

WOMEN ARE  
MORE THAN  
MUSES

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

Cancer shatters young people's dreams and ambitions. Over two thirds of young people we work with worry about the impact cancer will have on their education. So to make sure they can get back to their futures, last year we launched a new 'Thrive Not Just Survive' grant to help young cancer patients get their education and work ambitions back on track.

**Since then, 43 grants have already been given to young people, totalling a whopping £72,000.**

One of the successful applicants was performing arts student Crystal, who was diagnosed with bone cancer in her jaw at 18. Crystal applied to pursue her dream of becoming a stage manager:

"It broke my heart when the tumour made it seem like I couldn't act anymore, but working at Greenwood Academy opened me up to a new passion. The grant money means I can go to the best stage management course and work with people who can help me reach my dream.

"Finding out I got the grant felt like I had finally got a break and could look forward to something outside of hospital. It has given me a more positive outlook and faith that I can achieve my goal."

The grant has been made possible for the first three years thanks to our partnership with investment bank Societe Generale. But we don't want it to stop there – you can help us offer this fantastic grant to young people with cancer for many years, because cancer isn't stopping. We can't do it without you.



## BANDING TOGETHER

You know cancer costs. But did you know that for many young people and their families, it costs more than once? **A quarter of our social care staff's workload is working with young cancer patients when their cancer returns, helping them cope with having to put their lives on hold again.** The emotional and financial impact hits twice as hard. Often, families are still recovering from having to make ends meet from the first diagnosis – 61% of parents will have built up debt during that time.

On World Cancer Day this February, amazing supporters like you came together to raise awareness of when cancer comes back, and the impact this has. Thousands of you proudly wore our Bands Against Cancer or donated online, and 460 volunteers banded together to support our charity partner Morrisons with 250 bucket collections at local stores.

**Together we smashed it, raising an incredible £690,000!**

This could pay for CLIC Sargent cancer care experts at two treatment centres for a whole year, helping young cancer patients, and their families, cope when cancer comes back.



# SOFYAN'S STORY



When Sofyan was nine years old, his mum spotted a lump on his leg. As a keen footballer, they assumed it could be a growing muscle, but went to hospital as a precaution. Eight hours and several tests later, they were told he had bone cancer.

"When we got the news, my partner and I just looked at each other in shock. It was completely heart-breaking; he was always such a well child.

**"Our world crashed down around us and suddenly we were thrown into this world of hospital wards and appointments."**

"His cancer is extremely rare, so there wasn't a lot of information around. We were told there were no guarantees chemo would work, and by the second round it was clear it hadn't. That left us with only one other option – amputating Sofyan's leg to stop the cancer from spreading.

"It's the most difficult choice we've ever had to make, but ultimately it was his life over his limb. Sofyan was part of every

decision and kept informed throughout. Before making the decision he said, 'After listening to everything, the best thing is to amputate.' Everyone had a tear in their eye. Sofyan was so brave. After the operation, his first question was, 'Will I ever play football again?'

"We met Barbara, our CLIC Sargent Social Worker, in hospital before Sofyan's chemo. That was the scariest time for us as a family, so to have her with us was so important. She helped us cope emotionally, but also gave us practical support, such as filling out forms to help us access benefits and grants. It sounds like a small thing, but filling out complicated forms was the last thing I needed at that point, and she lifted that burden.

"Without Barbara I would have been really lost. There were so many times when I didn't know where to go for help but she was always there with a phone call or a message. Barbara had such a good bond with Sofyan, too. She was able to put him at ease about the scary things he was going through, but they also had lots of fun. Whenever we go back to hospital we try to see her because she played such a vital role for my family during a horrible time."

# DON'T STARE, IT'S ONLY HAIR!

When seven-year-old Maddy was diagnosed with leukaemia, she could no longer ride her pony Coco, and her parents made the tough decision to sell it. It was bought by the family of nine-year-old Holly, and Holly and Maddy soon became friends. When Holly found out about Maddy's cancer, she was inspired to do something for her new friend, and to raise money for CLIC Sargent: she shaved her head.



"CLIC Sargent helped Maddy and I wanted to raise some money to help other children with cancer," says Holly.

Holly set up a JustGiving page to collect donations from family and friends far and wide, and also collected money at school on the day of her head shave. So far she's raised over £4,300!

Are you inspired by Holly and want to help more children with cancer like Maddy?

There are lots of ways you can join our fight to stop cancer destroying young lives: you could organise an event, do a challenge or shop with us (to name just a few).

Find out more on our website. Search 'Join our fight'.



# CHARITY SEEKS AWESOME VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers. They're an essential part of our team, and do everything from collecting cash, joining cheering squads or helping out in our shops. And we're always looking for new recruits. Interested? Check out our latest roles below:

## Fundraising engagement volunteer

Help us spread the CLIC Sargent word in your local community! As a fundraising engagement volunteer, you'll be raising awareness (and money) for us by supporting our local fundraising team. You'll organise bucket collections, represent us at events and cheque presentations and much more. It's a varied, flexible role, and really important in making sure CLIC Sargent's presence is felt far and wide.

## Home from Home digital support volunteer

To make our Homes from Home as home-like as possible, we have lots of games consoles and TVs which need to be kept updated and in working order. That's where you come in! We're looking for volunteers who are comfortable with all things digital and technological to join us for a few hours each month to keep our digital devices in top working order, so families can enjoy them while having some down time.

To apply or to discover other ways to get involved, visit our website and search 'get volunteering'.



# INTRODUCING CLIC SARGENT SOCIAL WORKERS

(AKA all-round legends)

Thanks to your support, CLIC Sargent employs 120 social workers across the UK. They help families handle the challenges that come with a child's cancer diagnosis. In other words, they are the expert friend when cancer threatens to destroy young lives. Meet Orlando, a social worker in Birmingham:



"As trained social workers, we introduce CLIC Sargent and support families with all the important admin they really don't need when their child is going through cancer. We also visit young people in the community, helping them stay on top of their education and employment, and cope with low self-esteem, self-image and isolation, which many young cancer patients struggle with during and after treatment.

"One of the young cancer patients I worked with refused to go out

after her treatment finished. Her cancer had disfigured her face, and she'd completely lost her confidence. My job was to help her get it back. We started by talking about how things were going, what her plans were for the future, how she was going to get there. I made sure she had everything she needed to achieve her goal. Then we started going out, getting her used to being out again, even if people stared. Recently she went out by herself to meet friends and some other people she didn't know. She would never have done

that a few months ago. It was a huge step forward.

"I started with CLIC Sargent at a children's hospital, meeting families facing the unthinkable and helping them to have a future beyond cancer. At first I felt I had to be very serious all the time, which isn't really me. I mentioned it to my wife, and she said, 'Look, the young people and families are already going through really tough times, they don't need to see a miserable person. Just be you.' I've not looked back since."

We want all young cancer patients to get the right level of support. But issues like housing shortages and the economy slowdown means demand is greater than ever and our social workers can't help everyone how they would like. To make sure they can focus on the children and young people with cancer with the most need, we want to create more online resources for young people that don't need as much direct support. You can help us get there by making a donation today. Thank you.

# YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER

CLIC SARGENT



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