

Charity Collection Submission – Shooting Star Chase

Dear friends at AFC Wimbledon,

I'm getting in touch today as we've seen the amazing work that you do within your community by supporting different charities, and we'd love to be considered for support throughout your next season. This fantastic initiative was brought to our attention by Irene Strank of the Paul Strank Charitable Trust, and they have been loyal supporters of ours for years.

I know that recently, your lovely players paid a visit to one of our Hospices and took part in an activity day with the children which helped them to create special memories. We were so very grateful for your club to reach out in this way. Therefore I know that you may already be aware of our Charity and what we do, but here is a little more information.

Shooting Star Chase is your local children's Hospice charity and we care for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families. Whether lives are measured in days, weeks, months or years, we are here to make every moment count. We support families from diagnosis to end of life and throughout bereavement with a range of nursing, practical, emotional and medical care. We currently support over 700 families, **with around 60 of those living within the Boroughs of Kingston and Merton alone**. Support from your football club would allow us to raise awareness and funds within the local community and enable us to continue caring for local families who find themselves in unimaginable circumstances.

Families like 16 year old Josh's – Josh passed away from cancer and his family *"Can't imagine what would have happened"* without the support of Shooting Star Chase in his last few weeks.

Or 4 year old Max's family – *"Shooting Star Chase accompany us on our journey, help us to make happy memories and be ready for when the time comes to say goodbye."*

Our bespoke support is free of charge to families and available 365 days a year. Our care service includes short breaks at our two hospices (Shooting Star House in Hampton and Christopher's in Guildford), Hospice at Home, day care, symptom management, end-of-life care, bereavement care and a comprehensive range of therapies and support groups for the whole family. It costs £10 million a year just to maintain our current level of care. Around 10% of that income comes from government funding, so we rely on our supporters' generosity to keep the service running. What's more, we know there are many more families desperate for our vital support, so it's crucial we raise more funds to provide more care.

Please feel free to have a look at our website to read a little more about us:

<https://www.shootingstarchase.org.uk/>

Registered Charity No: 1042495