

# What Can You Do?

# Contact Us

# Little Hearts Matter

LHM hopes to offer the glue that holds shattered lives together, empowering through knowledge and supporting through understanding.

But all of our services need funding.

What can YOU do to help? Lots of things...

Would you like to make a donation either as a single sum or as a smaller monthly donation?

Could you or your family organise a fundraiser for the children? There are lots of examples on our website.

Could you introduce us to organisations that make charitable donations? - *your work place, club, school*  
We would love to come and tell them our story.

Can you or your family and friends take part in one of our events?

Could your company help us avoid some costs? Like sponsoring information booklets or newsletters?

Please visit us at  
[www.lhm.org.uk](http://www.lhm.org.uk)



“ Throughout everything, Little Hearts Matter has been INVALUABLE to us as a family, supporting us at the time when we needed to make the best choices for Alex. ”

Kate Archibald



**Little Hearts Matter**

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... supporting children born with half a heart



Little Hearts Matter  
*Half a heart  
...not half a life*

# Who Are We?

# The Reason

Little Hearts Matter is a national charity working for families where a 'single ventricle heart condition' (half a working heart) has been diagnosed.

Around 600 babies are diagnosed as having half a working heart each year. In the past most of these children would have died, but thanks to the development of life-saving surgery many of them now survive, although their hearts will never be normal. The children have to learn to live within the restrictions that their condition creates. For many of them transplant will be needed before they reach adult life.

The charity offers support and information to anyone affected by these complex disorders from the time of diagnosis, through treatment and life at home.

Little Hearts Matter believes that half a heart should not mean half a life.

## Little Hearts Matter offers:

- Support, information and advice via helplines, websites and newsletters.
- Regional network support groups for families.
- Educational events for families to meet and learn from medical experts.
- Bereavement support.
- Building relations within the medical world to increase awareness of single ventricle disorders.
- Events for children to experience new activities in a safe, supported environment.
- Funding and promoting research into these conditions and their treatments, with the aim of improving quality of life and increasing life expectancy for affected children.

## Henry's Story

Henry was diagnosed with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome when his mother was half way through her pregnancy at 20 weeks.

He met his first challenge at only six days old undergoing a complex and life threatening heart operation! His life since has included further emergency surgery, naso-gastric feeding and a multitude of tests and medications.

Henry's mum Laura says "When you know you're going to



outlive your own child, there's no point 'waiting for tomorrow! We live every day as if it could be Henry's last. In his short life we've come close to losing him three times".

Henry is a joy to his family and friends and has a great love of people and a string of admirers. He is a little ray of sunshine and has come on in leaps and bounds. He has an infectious laugh and a wicked sense of humour.

However, he will need further surgery in coming years and it is impossible to say what the future may hold for him.



Little Hearts Matter currently receives no government or significant corporate funding. To support these children and their families with vital life-enhancing services we must together raise all our own funding.



“Thanks to the LHM youth events and the friendships made with her Zipper Club peers, Gabi has begun to grow in confidence at last showing the beginnings of a desire to be independent.”

Joy Thacker