

YOUNG LIVES
vs CANCER



FUNDRAISING GUIDE

Everything you need to support us,
so we can support them



WELCOME TO TEAM YOUNG LIVES

We're so glad you're here

Thank you for deciding to fundraise for Young Lives vs Cancer. We want you to know how much it matters. Every pound you raise helps make sure a child or young person facing cancer isn't facing it alone.

Here's everything you need to get started. We're with you every step of the way.

Grab your phone, pen and get ready

This is an interactive digital guide. Follow the hyperlinks throughout to find out more, and use the spaces provided to make notes and capture your fundraising ideas.



WE LOVE TO CHAT

We hope this guide provides answers to any questions you might have, but if you need any extra support then please get in touch. We can provide additional resources to help with your fundraising such as banners, balloons, letters of authority and more. We're always on hand to help.

Contact us on **0300 330 0803**
fundraisingevents@younglivesvscancer.org.uk
younglivesvscancer.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us



Dallas, diagnosed with Metastatic Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma when she was 4 years old.

WHEN CANCER SHOWS UP, SO DO WE.

When cancer shows up for children and young people, life gets hard, fast.

It's not just the thunderbolt of diagnosis. Hard is mates who treat you differently. Missed school. 80-mile journeys to hospital. Parents lying awake worrying about money. Future dreams grinding to a halt.

And while everyone's 'hard' looks different, one thing is true: doing all of that without support? That's proper hard.

That's why when cancer shows up, so do we.

We're the only UK charity that makes sure families have specialist social workers by their side – in hospital, at home, at the end of the phone, wherever they're needed. From day one.

We help families navigate everything cancer throws at them – whether that's finding a wig after chemo, figuring out how to get to hospital without breaking the bank, or simply making sure no one has to have a terrible day alone. We champion. We problem-solve. And we speak up for better care for every family that comes after.

OUR SPECIALIST SOCIAL WORKERS

When cancer shows up, it affects far more than a child's health. Friends too scared to visit. Worries about wearing a wig. Fears about fertility and the future. Losing your sense of self while you're still trying to find out who you are.

That's why our specialist social workers show up in whatever way a family needs – whether that's helping a young person cope with anxiety, supporting parents through conversations they don't know how to start, or offering guidance on accessing the benefits they're entitled to.

Our Young Lives vs Cancer Specialist Social Workers, like Alex, help families during tough times. Alex describes a typical day:



"No two days are the same because families' needs are always changing. Between visits, we're usually calling or emailing families who aren't in hospital but still need support.

"Most families face similar challenges – balancing practical tasks with the emotional impact of a diagnosis. Many are overwhelmed, so we need to be available. A big part of our role is financial support, including grants and Disability Living Allowance/PIP applications.

"Sometimes the support is practical, like helping with benefits or housing, and sometimes it's simply being there to answer a question or offer a listening ear. Even small moments can have a big impact."

"The most satisfying part of my job is knowing I've done everything I can for a family during an incredibly difficult time."

Alex, specialist social worker

Click on the link below to find out more about our social workers

[younglivesvscancer.org.uk/
what-we-do/day-to-day-
support/social-workers](https://younglivesvscancer.org.uk/what-we-do/day-to-day-support/social-workers)

MONTANA'S STORY

Your support helps young people like Montana.

Montana was 21 and studying performing arts when she was diagnosed with a tumour in her lower spine. "It's a type of cancer that's not really curable," she says. "No matter what they do, it could still come back."

During her radiotherapy, her specialist social worker Mikela was "like a big sister to me. She was so caring. She was there for me every week. She'd bring a Starbucks, we'd have brunch, do face masks and pampering. She even got my eyebrows laminated, and got a TV and a PlayStation for my ward."

"She brightened it all up for me, and made it so life wasn't all about cancer."



Thanks to your support, specialist social workers like Mikela can show up for young people like Montana – so they can focus on celebrating life, not counting the cost. **Will you show up and make sure cancer doesn't break families financially?**



Montana, diagnosed with a malignant nerve Scheff tumour at 21.

The cancer has restricted her movement. "I can't dance like I used to. I spend a lot of time at home these days." And with extra costs, "I spend so much on Ubers." Mikela helped her secure Personal Independence Payment (PIP), giving her independence.

"The fact I have this payment means I can meet my friends and just focus on celebrating life," she says.

Now Montana has returned to university. "Meeting lots of new people has been so lovely and they're so accepting and supportive."

HOW YOUR MONEY HELPS

We don't receive any funding from the government, so we rely entirely on the generosity and kindness of people just like you.

£10

could re-stock the kitchen cupboards at a Home from Home so a family can enjoy a **home-cooked meal together** with their loved ones.

£26

funds an **hour of support** from a Young Lives vs Cancer **Specialist Social Worker** ensuring children, young people and families always have someone by their side throughout their cancer journey.

£490

keeps a family together for a week at a **Home from Home**. This would allow a family to stay close to their child during treatment and offer them a safe haven where they can enjoy a moment of peace when their life has been turned upside down.

£896

would fund a **Specialist Social Worker** for a week ensuring families can navigate the emotional and practical challenges of cancer and never have to face it alone.

£1,000

provides **hardship grants** to support four families who are struggling financially and faced with sudden and unexpected costs, such as travel, parking and increased bills. Your support provides a lifeline for families, helping them ease their financial worries so they can focus on being there for their child.

£3,881

could fund a **Specialist Social Worker** for a month, providing families with vital guidance, support, and a steady hand through the most uncertain times of their lives.



ORLA'S STORY

Children and young people's cancer is often treated in specialist hospitals that may be a long way from home. We have 10 Homes from Home across the UK, close to the specialist treatment centres. They're a free place for families to stay when their child is going through treatment.

Orla was diagnosed with a brain tumour in September 2022, at just one year old. Her two sisters would come to visit while she was in hospital and stayed at Paul's House with one of their parents, while the other was by Orla's bedside.



Orla's parents and older sisters.

Click on the link below to read more about Orla's story

younglivesvscancer.org.uk/blog/orlas-story

Orla finished treatment and went home in April 2023, and her family celebrated at Center Parcs. A few weeks later, she was readmitted and they were told the tumour had returned.

Sadly, Orla passed away within three weeks. Throughout her treatment, the Young Lives vs Cancer social care team supported her family, helping them access benefits like Disability Living Allowance and a Blue Badge for parking in central London.

"It's really hard to explain but when you're going through something as devastating as we were going through, there's a lot of things that get broken instantly and one of those things is being together as a family but having access to Paul's House fixed that. It takes so much pressure off the parent being isolated in a hospital room with a very sick child and it helps the siblings feel like they're part of everything" – Orla's dad

Thanks to your kindness, Orla and her family experienced the care and support of Young Lives vs Cancer, who stood by them through every moment of their journey.

LET'S GET STARTED

We hope the stories on the previous pages show you what a difference you'll be making when you fundraise for Young Lives vs Cancer. The best way to get started on your fundraising is to make a list.



Think about how you'd like to fundraise, when, where and any other brilliant ideas you have!

PLAN IT REAL GOOD



Your checklist to be a fabulous fundraiser



Budget: Make sure you know how much you can spend and how much you're looking to raise and keep track.



Confirm the basics: Date, time, location and venue. Let us know when you have decided on these details.



Volunteers: Do you need them? If so, figure how many you need and start recruiting. Get a little help from your friends!



Making the money: You've got your event, but how will it raise money? The most successful fundraising events have multiple ways to donate.



Spread the word: Invite guests and promote your event far and wide on social media.



Is it legal: Boring but so important! We're here to support you to put on the safest events possible. There are rules around holding raffles, events that need insurance and doing risk assessments. Plus, you may need licences for music or collecting money. You can read more about some of the ways to keep your event safe and legal by scanning the QR code, or reach out to our team on the details below.

Click on the link below to read more about raffles

**[younglivesvscancer.org.uk/
support-us/fundraise-for-us/
legal-and-safe](https://younglivesvscancer.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us/legal-and-safe)**



Get in touch: Our fundraising team is on hand to answer any questions you may have. Call the team on **0300 330 0803** or email **fundraisingevents@younglivesvscancer.org.uk**



FUNDRAISE FAR AND WIDE

From your workplace to your school or social circle, there are plenty of ways to fundraise. Never be afraid to reach out to your nearest and dearest – their skills, ideas, and support can help you make an even bigger difference. Here are some ideas to help inspire you:

FUNDRAISING AT WORK

Office raffle

Gather prizes from local businesses or generous coworkers and sell raffle tickets. Winners get fun rewards, and everyone enjoys the suspense!

Dress-up or themed day

Pick a colour, theme, or character (like superheroes or crazy hats) and invite colleagues to dress up. Ask for a small donation to join in the fun.

Auction of talents

Encourage colleagues to offer services or skills – like homemade crafts, photography sessions, or music lessons – that others can bid on. It's a fun way to discover hidden talents while raising funds.



FUNDRAISING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Sweepstake

Pick a popular event, like a sports match or award show, and sell sweepstake tickets. Participants predict the outcome and a portion of proceeds goes to your cause.

Quiz night

Host a trivia evening at home or online. Charge a participation fee and reward the winning team with a fun prize.

Fundraising trek or walk

Organise a walk, hike, or mini-adventure. Participants raise sponsorships from friends and family for each mile or challenge completed.

Craft night

Gather friends to create handmade items like cards, decorations, or jewellery. Sell the creations or ask for a donation to participate.

Ticketed party or ball

Throw a themed party or formal event, sell tickets, and include extra fundraising opportunities like raffles or games during the night.



FUNDRAISING AT SCHOOL

Bake sale

Students, parents, and teachers contribute homemade treats to sell. It's a simple way to raise funds and bring the school community together.

Non-uniform day

Students pay a small donation to wear casual or themed clothes instead of school uniforms for the day.

Fetes or fairs (winter/summer)

Organise a festive event with games, stalls, and activities. Charge entry or sell items to raise funds.

Parents' curry night (or potluck dinner)

Host a meal where participants contribute dishes or pay to attend. It's a delicious way to fundraise!

24-hour challenge (e.g., danceathon)

Students or staff commit to a continuous activity for 24 hours. Friends, family, and community members sponsor their efforts to raise money.

TOP TIPS TO HELP YOU SMASH YOUR TARGET!

1 Set up a fundraising page and add a photo

Fundraisers with pictures or videos raise **13% more** per photo. Visit www.justgiving.com/younglivesvscancer to set up your page.

2 Tell your story

Who or what has inspired you to fundraise for us? Sharing your reasons why could **increase donations by 65%**. You could even use the stories in this guide.

3 Set a fundraising target

Fundraising pages and events with a target raise **17% more**.

4 Post updates to your page and social media and you could raise up to 8% more

Use your page as a diary, sharing training, planning and fundraising updates so people can see what you've been up to. The top fundraising pages share their page on average **12 times**.

*figures provided by JustGiving

5 Self-donate

People who donate to their own page to get it started raise a massive **42% more**.

6 Post lots of updates

Make sure either you, or someone close to you, posts lots of updates on the day of your event. People will donate more when they see the event happening and how hard you have worked.

7 Update and thank everyone after your event

20% of donations come in after an event has ended. Use JustGiving to personalise your thank you message.

8 And finally, HAVE FUN!

Margot, diagnosed with
Leukaemia aged 4.



DIGITAL FUNDRAISING

Fundraising online or looking for ways to take digital donations at your event? Here are some ideas to really help maximise your fundraising:

QR codes

We can help you set up a QR code for your event so people can easily visit your fundraising page and donate from their phones or donate at your event without needing cash.



Did you know?

You can now add your JustGiving Fundraising Page QR code to your Mobile Wallet for easy sharing. Find out more on the JustGiving website

Text-to-donate codes

We can help set up a text-to-donate code for your event which you can share on all your advertising. For example: Text "CHLOESCAKES to 12345 to give £2."

Facebook fundraising

It's easy to set up a fundraiser on Facebook, just visit **facebook.com/fundraisers**. You could set up a birthday fundraiser and ask for donations instead of birthday wishes. Instagram more your thing? Head to our page and click 'support' and 'create fundraiser'.



Online raffles

There are lots of ways to hold raffles, auctions and ticketed events online. Please get in touch and we can recommend the best platform.

Gaming and livestreaming

Play and stream your favourite game all while raising money for Young Lives vs Cancer by using Tiltify.

IN THEIR NAME

Many people fundraise for us because they know a child or young person with cancer. Often, whole families, friendship groups, or local communities create separate fundraising pages for the same young person.

Our **In Their Name** funds provide a personalised online platform where all fundraising for a child or young person can be brought together in one place. It's also a space for messages of support, celebration, or remembrance, so families can see the love and encouragement from everyone who cares during an incredibly difficult time.

"The charity supported us immensely when my daughter Neepy was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma. They helped us with accommodation at Paul's House and Colton Rooms, which were right by the hospital. This made such a difference in allowing Neepy's treatment to be carried out more easily and with less stress."



Setting up an **In Their Name** fund is easy to do, for more details on how to start one please contact: **fundraisingevents@younglivesvscancer.org.uk**



Neepy and her Mum

"We are also deeply grateful that the charity helped us set up a fund in Neepy's name. Thanks to this, she continues to be remembered even now, five years after her passing."

Neepy's Mum



Click on the link below to visit Neepy's fund and find out more about **In Their Name** funds
funds.younglivesvscancer.org.uk

PAYING IN YOUR MONEY



Pay online

Go to our donate page, select 'one off' donation, fill in or select the amount you want to pay in and click 'donate'. On the next page select the option 'pay in fundraising', and you are good to go! Remember to tell us your reason for fundraising and your supporter number if you have it to hand.

Pay by bank transfer

To transfer us the funds you have raised, you can use the details below and please remember to use your supporter number as the reference.

Payee Name: **Young Lives vs Cancer**

Bank: **Barclays**

Sort code: **20-36-08**

Account Number: **33894193**

Pay by phone

Call our supporter engagement team on **0300 330 0803**.

They will be happy to help you make a payment by phone.

Pay by post

Please make cheques payable to Young Lives vs Cancer and send them to: Operations Team, Young Lives vs Cancer, 4th Floor, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NT.

Pay in at a bank

You can pay in any cash or cheques to your local branch of Barclays or Royal Bank of Scotland. Request a paying in slip from our team by emailing **fundraisingevents@younglivesvscancer.org.uk**.

There are lots of different online pages you can set up to raise money for us. If you create a page on JustGiving, the money raised will go directly to Young Lives vs Cancer, so you don't need to worry. Other platforms may operate differently, so we recommend checking their terms and conditions. Our fundraising team is also happy to answer any questions you have.

Once your fundraising is complete, we'd really appreciate you sending in the funds as soon as you can, ideally within a month of your fundraising. This helps us put your incredible efforts to work right away, supporting children and young people with cancer and their families.

Click on the link below to visit our paying-in page

**[younglivesvscancer.org.uk/
support-us/fundraise-for-us/
pay-in-your-fundraising](https://younglivesvscancer.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us/pay-in-your-fundraising)**



OUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS: CERYS



When Cerys' fiancée Stuart was diagnosed with cancer, their world was turned upside down. A mole on Stuart's head, which had always looked normal, suddenly changed in size. He went back to the GP twice before being referred for further tests. "He couldn't settle and knew something wasn't right. I'm so glad he persisted – the correct treatment could then be started," Cerys said.

Six months later, another cancerous lump was found behind his shoulder blade, and Stuart began further treatment. Thankfully, there was an instant support network. Young Lives vs Cancer was there every step of the way. Stuart's social worker, Jude, "was checking in and close by through all the difficult conversations and treatment plans being made. As his partner, I couldn't imagine what he was going through, but Young Lives vs Cancer knew and have not left his side," Cerys explained.

Support came in many forms – from help with work pressures and wound healing, to financial grants that eased the stress of not being able to earn a wage.

"Stuart was worried, scared, and didn't know how we were going to cope. But thanks to Young Lives vs Cancer, we could pay our bills and focus on what really mattered – his treatment and recovery."

Cerys

Motivated by the support they had received, Cerys took on a massive challenge for Young Lives vs Cancer – jumping out of a plane. Friends and family from Newport, Maesteg, and even Northern Ireland donated generously, helping her raise an incredible £4,500. "I was nervous and excited, but mostly emotional. Stuart's social worker



Cerys, her partner Stuart (right) and his social worker, Jude (left).

Jude was there to meet me as I landed, with a big smile and a warm hug. It really made the day so special," Cerys recalled.

Stuart continues his treatment journey, facing it with his family by his side. Their story is a reminder that cancer does not discriminate and that support is always available. "Without Young Lives vs Cancer, we simply would not have coped," Cerys said.

By choosing to fundraise for Young Lives vs Cancer, you will be following in Cerys and Stuart's footsteps, because together, when cancer shows up, so do we.



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT US

Your fundraising event is just one way to help – here are more ways you can make a difference for children and young people with cancer:

Play our lottery

For just £1 a week, you could win up to £25,000 and help fund vital support services for families facing cancer. Choose 6 numbers and sign up today.

Leave a gift in your Will

A gift in your Will is a lasting way to support young cancer patients. Your gift could fund specialist social workers who provide essential care during overwhelming times. Currently, 1 in 7 children we help are supported thanks to gifts in Wills.

Orla's older sisters,
with Specialist Social
Worker Becca



Eleanor and Eric
at Paul's House



Volunteer for us

Join our team as a volunteer and help provide vital services to children and young people with cancer. Whatever you choose to do, you'll be making a real difference.

Help us find corporate partnerships

From Charity of the Year to payroll giving and sponsorship, businesses can support children and families while boosting staff morale and engagement. We'll provide ideas, resources, and stories to show the impact you're making. Email: corporate@younglivesvscancer.org.uk



Thank you for your support

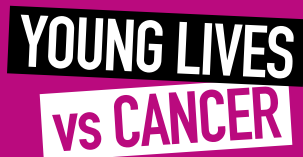


Click on the link below to find out more about these ways of supporting us, plus many others
[younglivesvscancer.org.uk/support-us](https://www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk/support-us)

STAY UP TO DATE

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and follow us on social media:

    @younglivesvscancer



Young Lives vs Cancer is an operating name of CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children. A registered charity in England and Wales (1107328) and in Scotland (SC039857). Also operating in Northern Ireland. Registered office: 4th Floor, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NT.

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