

SCOTTY'S LITTLE SOLDIERS

The charity for bereaved British Forces children



Annual Report 2017



Beneficiaries enjoy a Supermarket Sweep themed activity at a Scotty's event in 201



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SCOTTY'S LITTLE SOLDIERS

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A MESSAGE FROM NIKKI

Hi everyone!

I want to take this opportunity to thank every single person who has helped contribute to Scotty's Little Soldiers during the past 12 months. I've said it before and I know I will say it many times more but we really can't do any of this much needed work without your support.

When I first looked back at the year I was a little dissapointed to be honest. I didn't feel as if we had moved forward with our plans in the way we had wanted to and our income had dipped compared to previous years which has held up some of the new activites our families so dearly need.

Then I was reminded that even though we hadn't been able to launch some of these new ideas yet, we were still having a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of bereaved Forces children across the UK.

I think it's just in our nature here at Scotty's to always be pushing forward and I find it heartbreaking when we aren't able to help a bereaved child in the ways we would want to. To provide a complete package of care to these brave young individuals and their families.

There is still so much to be done and so little support available to our beneficiaries. It only makes me more determined to fill these gaps.

I know we will get there, with your help, and that I need to take a step back and look at everything our supporters have achieved so far. But I will not stop until every bereaved British Forces child and young person has the full support they deserve.

If you are reading this you are hopefully already a supporter of Scotty's or you're considering helping us in some way. My pledge to you is that we will continue to work as hard as possible to deliver relevant support to

our beneficiaries and to make Scotty's a sustainable and secure charity for the long-term.

I hope that you will pledge your support to the children of our heroes and join us on our mission to #HelpTheirChildrenSmile

Nikki
Founder





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

As is always the way with the reporting process, as I write this note we are already deep into 2018. I'm pleased to write that much of the hard work put into 2017 is now paying off and both our levels of awareness and income are slowly beginning to increase, bringing us back to the level previously required in order to fulfil our core activities.

Our next goal is to push forward so we can begin implementing some of the much needed additional activities we have mapped out.

Research and family feedback tells us that mental health support for bereaved families is severely lacking and as Scotty's has become the first point of contact for many of these families we have a responsibility to ensure they get the support they need. At the same time we are aware of the need to ensure the charity has adequate funding before launching any new activities or programmes and will only do so when we believe these are something we can sustain long term.

Feedback from our beneficiaries also highlighted the need for more social events as well as therapeutic camps, similar to those provided in the U.S. by our friends at the charity T.A.P.S. Again, plans are well developed and funding these new activities will be a focus of 2018 and 2019.

We are also keen to offer support to young adults aged 19-25 who currently no longer qualify for the charity's assistance. A detailed plan of a new programme dedicated to these individuals has been developed and sourcing funding to get this initiative underway will be a core goal of 2018.

Funding these new initiatives will be tough, particularly on the back of 2017 which saw a drop in our fundraising income. With such a small team (4 full time members of staff) focusing on one particular area of the charity often means a lack of focus on others. It's inevitable that the team will need to grow in the coming years in order to provide a high level of service to beneficiaries and

supporters alike but keeping costs in check is always at the forefront of our minds at Scotty's.

For 2018 we will begin to develop Trusts and Grants as a revenue stream, an area to date we have only made small use of. Corporate Fundraising will also become more important to Scotty's moving forward and as awareness of the charity increases, so will the number of participants in fundraising challenges and activities.

We've kept this year's report simple and to the point. You'll find the key charitable activities undertaken and of course all the required financial information. Having had a disappointing 2017 we've already turned our focus toward making 2018 our best year yet and we're already beginning to see the fruits of these efforts. The journey is only just beginning though and there will be some major steps to take in the coming years if we are to achieve our goals and to provide level of support needed by our beneficiaries going forward.

We are committed to running Scotty's the right way and remembering with every decision we make, exactly why the charity exists in the first place. There are no egos here, only passionate people committed to support the children our heroes leave behind.





**SCOTTY'S
LITTLE
SOLDIERS**
The Charity for Bereaved British Forces Children

Our Impact



2017 SMILES PROGRAMME



334 MEMBERS
enjoyed a respite
Scotty Break

332 family meal vouchers sent out
for Remembrance Day



335 personalised Christmas
boxes dispatched



151 beneficiaries entertained
at our magical Christmas event

61 guests enjoyed our
summer family social



311
birthday
gifts



290 'Thinking of you' vouchers
on the anniversary of their
parents' death

£15,349.74

provided to families to cover travel
expenses to activities & events



The SMILES Programme from Scotty's Little Soldiers is just one way the charity provides support to bereaved British Forces children. For more information please visit www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk

Our Impact



2017 SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Access to professional bereavement counselling in partnership with Winston's Wish for all families.

169 MEMBERS 
of our private Facebook support group for guardians.

The MEMBER ZONE

Exclusive online portal for families to access all Scotty's activities, book holidays & find links to other support.



London support weekend with bereaved U.S. Forces families.
Including visit to the US Embassy & NFL game

Advice & Signposting
Education, finance, bereavement & more.

The future...

We have identified a number of gaps in the support available to bereaved Forces families & finding funding to fill these gaps will be our core focus for 2018. Projects include:

> Family Support Worker > Good Grief Camps > Support Programme for 19-25 year olds

The SUPPORT Programme from Scotty's Little Soldiers is just one way the charity provides support to bereaved British Forces children. For more information please visit www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk

Our Impact



2017 STRIDES PROGRAMME

GRANTS **13** DRIVING LESSON
7 HIGHER EDUCATION
5 SUPER GRANT

£23,100 in small grants awarded to bereaved British Forces families.

ADVENTURE WEEKS

run by the Outward Bound Trust & sponsored by The Annington Trust.

107 SCOTTY ALLOWANCES

For activities like music lessons, school trips, sports clubs, after school activities & extra tuition.



FAST ONLINE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCESSING VIA THE MEMBER ZONE WEB PORTAL.

**The
MEMBER
ZONE**

FOR THE FUTURE...

> Mentoring > Work Experience > Life Skills > Spartan Obstacle Courses

The STRIDES Programme from Scotty's Little Soldiers is just one way the charity provides support to bereaved British Forces children. For more information please visit www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As with any annual report you can find all the numbers and detail you need in the pages that follow, but to make life easier for you we've pulled out the key points you're probably looking for and listed them below.

Q. How much money does the charity make?

A. £530,168. Our income dropped in 2017 (£661,915 in 2016). Partly because fundraising in general has become more difficult in the current economic climate but also because we took our eye off the ball a little in this area. With such a small team focusing our attentions on one area of the charity can have a big effect on another. In 2017 we spent a fair bit of time looking at what support was available to bereaved Forces families and what was missing. We started developing a plan for the future and this included recruiting some fundraising resource which we will begin to see the benefit of in 2018 and 2019.

Q. How much did you spend?

A. £687,513. That's what we spent in total. Of that we spent £576,707 on what is classed as Charitable Activities. The balance, £110,806 is what we spent on raising funds which is a little more than the previous year (£87,332) and includes the recruitment of fundraising personnel which we'll start to see the benefit of in 2018. You can see that we dipped into our reserves during 2017 to allow this to happen.

Q. How much cash do you have?

A. £201,760. So that's about 4 months of reserves. Our plan is to increase this during 2018 so we have at least 6 months of cash reserves. We dipped into our reserves during 2017 to allow us to invest in fundraising activity for 2018 and so that we didn't reduce the level of service to our beneficiaries despite not raising as many funds. If you check the Statement of Financial Activities you'll notice it says Fund Balances at the end of 2017 were £834,529. This includes the value of all the assets we own as well, so things like our holiday lodges.

Q. How many people work at the charity?

A. At the close of 2017 we had six full time employees and one part time, however this reduced in early 2018 to 5 full time and 1 part time. We aim to run the charity as efficiently as possible although it's essential to have paid members of staff in order to build a sustainable charity and already the existing team deliver so much considering the level of resource available.

Q. How many children did you support during 2017?

3?? Despite our military having returned home from Afghanistan, as awareness of the charity continues to grow more families are coming to us for support. We have also sadly seen increases in the number of children who have lost a parent due to suicide. We estimate that there are over 1,000 bereaved British Forces children and young people between the age of 0 and 18 in the UK. Our future plans include opening the charity's support to the children of deceased Veterans (currently we support children who have lost a serving parent, a parent who was discharged due to a condition which eventually lead to their death, or a parent who died due to a condition directly linked with their service) and also to young people aged 19-25.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Continued).

Q. Can't you just get a list of all the children from the MOD?

A. Unfortunately no. Firstly there are confidentiality and data protection issues here but also the Ministry of Defence won't have all the details of these dependants. Many of our existing beneficiaries' parents were divorced, separated or perhaps never married. Some members of our Armed Forces don't always keep records up to date and hence the MOD is often unaware of some dependants. Families also move on and the details the MOD may hold can be out of date. We work closely with the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Welfare teams now and we're confident that in the unfortunate case of any new fatalities, the families will be informed of our services. Our best chance to reaching all those other bereaved children is actually through you, our amazing supporters. By spreading the word you can help us reach them and offer the support they deserve and often very much need.

Q. Why should I choose to fundraise or donate to Scotty's Little Soldiers?

A. We do not receive any government funding for our work. In fact we have been incredibly fortunate to have developed the charity to this stage largely with only the help and support of the Great British public.

We need around £650,000 a year just to keep providing the existing level of support to the current number of beneficiaries we have. As the number of bereaved Forces reaching out for help increases, so too will the cost of providing this support. We have also highlighted significant gaps in the support available to bereaved Forces families in the UK and having some amazing plans to fill some of them. Before we can do this we will need to significantly increase our fundraising activity in order to cover the additional costs involved. We want to be able to offer our support to the children of veterans and to launch a Programme for 19-25 years. Our aim over the next 2-3 years is to deliver all of this support and to raise in the region of £1.5m per year to allow this to happen. We can't do it without your help.

Together, we will remember.

Together, we will #HelpTheirChildrenSmile.





IN
LOVING
MEMORY OF
OUR HERO
Cpl. MATTHEW
CORNISH

LOVING HUSBAND, FATHER & SON
20th JULY 1977 - 1st AUGUST 2006

THERE'S A PLACE IN OUR HEARTS
THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS LIGHT,
WE'LL MISS YOU MATTHEW
SLEEP WELL, SHINE BRIGHT



PEACE

DOUGLAS J.
BROWN

20th March 1941
19th Dec. 2004

To celebrate
the life
of

TR
TENDER
MY DEAR
AND OUR
JEAN

2.5.1927 -
WHO WAS CA
AFTER 58 YRS OF
WHO WILL BE
BY ALL TH
NOW JOIN
HER HUS
JOSEPH MUR
NORMANDY V
TOGETHER A
7.11.1910 - 17.4.

I love my
hero