

frenkel
topping

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT
support for you



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A close-up photograph of a woman with long, dark hair styled in a bun with a black hair clip. She is wearing a light blue t-shirt. Her right hand is gently holding the hand of a young girl with dark hair, who is partially visible on the left side of the frame. The background is plain white.

Our trust is committed to support vulnerable persons, carers and disadvantaged groups across the nation. Inspiring support and promoting collaboration.

Support for you

We aim, both as a company and as individuals, to support as many of the various charitable and voluntary organisations helping to provide care and support to vulnerable and disabled individuals, their families and carers. We do this through our registered charity, the Frenkel Topping Charitable Foundation.

Having worked with our clients for over 30 years, we have observed and actively supported the incredible work of charities and fundraising projects that provide our clients, their families and carers with life-changing support and helpful guidance.

We have now established our own Charitable Foundation Trust In order to consolidate our continued commitment to support vulnerable persons, carers and disadvantaged groups across England and Wales. Some of the foundation's key priorities are to support the promotion of individual wellbeing, to help people maintain a healthy, positive life after life changing events or in older age – as well as supporting 'hidden treasures': third sector projects that support vulnerable and disabled clients, their families and their carers.





We aim, both as a company and as individuals, to support as many of the various charitable and voluntary organisations helping to provide care and support to vulnerable and disabled individuals, their families and carers.





Our aim is to provide funding to projects that promote and support the needs of carers and families.

What we will do

We work to enhance independence for persons with a physical or learning difficulty, a sensory impairment, acquired brain injury, mental health problems or who has a long-term illness.

In particular, the Frenkel Topping Charitable Foundation will aim to provide funding to projects that:

- Provide emotional & practical support, information and advice;
- Provide services and funding to enable more independent living;
- The advancement of medical research for the public benefit; and
- The advancement of education for public benefit and skills.

Encouraging Collaborative Partnerships

The Charitable Foundation looks to inspire support and potential collaboration in its charitable activities. Our aim is to become more than just a financial organisation. We will work in partnership with key stakeholders from health, education, social care, the legal and voluntary sectors to identify, improve, and actively promote the profile of those projects funded by us to support carers. This partnership approach will help us all to communicate and share best practice to optimise the future wellbeing of individuals, carers and families from disadvantaged circumstances.

The Frenkel Topping Charitable Foundation match funded a rowing machine to help Megan on her journey and she has kindly shared her story with us.

Case Study: Megan's Story

Unlike many of our clients, 15-year old Megan has no financial settlement awarded as a result of her illness. Her life transformed after a routine eye appointment highlighted a devastating tumour that led to a series of life-changing events for Megan and her family. Megan's rehabilitation is a long but rewarding process, achieving those small steps forward that every parent of a disabled child cherishes.

Megan (15) owes her life to a routine eye appointment at Specsavers Opticians, Wellingborough. In September 2011 she was found to have pressure behind one of her eyes. Unfortunately the GP was not as concerned and it was a further five weeks before Megan was seen for a routine ophthalmology appointment at Kettering General hospital. By noon, it was clear that the pressure build up, now behind both eyes, was being caused by a tumour the size of a tennis ball.

Less than 24 hours later, Megan endured an eight-hour operation at The Children's Hospital at John Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust to remove as much of the tumour as possible. Neurosurgeon, Mr Jay Jayamohan operated on Megan; the pressure in her head was so severe that the doctors believed that she would have been dead by the end of the week without immediate surgery.

Unfortunately, the tumour, a thankfully benign posterior fossa astrocytoma, originated in her

cerebellum and this caused unforeseen complications. Imagine the cerebellum is the circuit board that controls you – the surgery resulted in all her fuses being blown. This left her 'locked in' which means that when the anaesthesia wore off she didn't wake up, she didn't move, she didn't speak, she had no reflexes and she couldn't breathe. But she wasn't unconscious – she could hear and respond with tiny movements in her toes. Locked into her head at 11 and the doctors did not have high hopes. Her mum and family sat by her bed, day in day out, willing her to wake up!

Megan endured two further surgeries to assist her breathing and the drainage of fluids from her brain before finally cracking her right eye partially open three weeks after surgery. It was another six weeks before her eyes were fully open although this celebration was marred when it became clear she now suffered from double vision. From there she started to regain control of her body starting with her little toes and fingers. Her movement slowly reached her trunk and her reflexes kicked back in.

Megan's progress was halted in late November with a bout of pneumonia which is where her mum discovered her temperature control was 'out of whack' with no sweating until her temperature was above 38 degrees!

Her physical recovering slowly progressed very much like a baby progresses – her first step was learning to control her neck and hold her head up before moving on to rolling her body, to holding items in her hand. Megan and her family worked out hand signals to help her communicate her needs especially the all-important 'I'm about to throw up' sign! She started 'eating' just before Christmas and spoke her first word at New Year. Unfortunately, she suffered another setback when she contracted bacterial meningitis and had to have a lumbar drain fitted. However, her natural determination showed through as she fought back and continued to relearn to eat, speak and move!

In March 2012, Megan was transferred to a specialist rehabilitation centre where she spent seven months receiving intensive physiotherapy to help her progress from sitting to crawling. Megan and her mum were finally able to return home in November 2012 over a year after they left the house. Megan now attends a specialist school and her home has been adapted to meet her needs.

Megan desperately wants to walk but unfortunately the local NHS services are poor and Megan doesn't get the support she needs to meet this goal. Megan's Mum tells us she was able to access an 'amazing' private physio team from Physiofunction (specialist Neuro physios). Kirsten, her physiotherapist, has helped Megan to make massive improvements towards her goal. She can now 'walk' with the aid of an, as she calls it, old person's walker as long as someone follows behind her. The physio is expensive but worth every penny. Megan has been fortunate to receive some charitable donations towards her therapy.

Megan has faced many challenges since acquiring her brain injury not least coming to terms with being a regular kid just starting Year 7 to 'waking up' unable to do anything for herself. This understandably leads to anger and frustration. Megan's injury makes it difficult for her to negotiate or compromise on things that she wants. It also means that sometimes in desperation and frustration she shouts and gets angry. Looking in from the outside you wouldn't really know there was anything wrong which makes it even harder when people are staring at her when she is having a 'blip'.

From the moment Megan was in hospital she received lots of support from family and friends as well as from a very special charity, the child brain injury trust. Caroline Molloy, a trust representative, visited Megan and her mum as often as she could in hospital and rehabilitation. Her help has been invaluable as it was Caroline that put Megan's mum in contact with Physiofunction as well as more recently attending school SEN reviews.

Caroline also helped Megan receive funding for a rowing machine, part of these funding came from the Frenkel Topping Charitable Foundation. The rowing machine means that Megan can exercise and build up her strength daily instead of only once a week at physio sessions. It allows her to be in control of her own exercise regime and a rowing machine means that Megan gets all over benefits, strengthening her muscles and helping with her core strength.

The rowing machine means that Megan can get fitter and stronger quicker and hopefully achieve her dream of walking independently again.

We are incredibly proud to support the Lancashire Football Association Ability Counts league to provide regular football opportunities for people with disabilities/impairments.

Case Study: Frenkel Topping Lancashire FA Ability Counts League

It also helps to produce a clear pathway from grassroots disability football to elite disability football programmes.

This exceptional partnership has resulted in the Frenkel Topping Lancashire FA Ability Counts League for 2014/2015 and again in 2015/2016 and allows vulnerable individuals to take control of their own physical and emotional wellbeing for free, thanks to the support of the Foundation. The 'ability' focused league for individuals in Lancashire with a variety of disabilities and special needs. Our support has allowed more people to play, for free, to enhance their social and physical wellbeing. The league has grown from 7 teams to 57 in the past 12 months.



David Burgess, Chief Executive, Lancashire FA. said:

“ Working with Frenkel Topping will be a great opportunity for the league and Frenkel Topping to build on each other’s strengths and reputations and establish better opportunities for more disabled people to take part in football. ”

Disability football is one of the fastest growing football formats within Lancashire FA. The League achieved The FA’s reputable Charter Standard League Status in January 2013. The Frenkel Topping Lancashire FA Ability Counts League promotes fun and participation, with its ultimate goal to eliminate all barriers of participation that disabled people sometimes face. This is a huge achievement and a credit to the players, managers, volunteers and match officials that are dedicated to maintaining an excellent environment to play football.

There is a video on www.frenkeltopping.co.uk commissioned by the Frenkel Topping Lancashire FA Ability Counts league for the launch of the Foundation at the House of Commons in March 2015.

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support for you

For further information and case studies, alongside grant application forms,
please visit: frenkeltopping.co.uk/charity