



ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

A new chapter in *Miracles*' history is opening up before us and while nobody likes change, we realise that we must move on to keep abreast of the enormous—and growing—need for *Miracles* service. With the sad death of Marc Pereire in 2015, our beloved Chair, Marie-Antoinette, is now living in Switzerland with her daughter, Aude and adored grandson, Stuart. (*Pictured right at Francois and Emma's wedding in September*). While still co-Chairing *Miracles* in the UK, Marie-Antoinette is focussing her time and efforts on her role as President of La Fondation *Miracles* Suisse which goes from strength to strength in its work to raise funds for the *Miracles*' Centre in Bosnia, under the guidance of Matthew Procter, MBE.



***Miracles*' Mission in Bosnia:** With its prime focus being the *Miracles* Centre, *Miracles* in Bosnia will continue its welfare work – including the support of Los Rosales Kindergarten with the continuing backing of The Olga Trust.



The Miracles Roma Housing and Education Ten Year Project (*See montage right*) has now reached its successful conclusion. The *Miracles* Community Centre building along with the allotments, storage container workshop and greenhouses, have been gifted to the community and the project will now pass into the hands of the Zenica Municipality working in conjunction with Austrian NGO Hilfwerk to build more houses and to ensure our families' future wellbeing.



Looking to the future of **The Miracles Centre** and the increase in its work supported by The International Trust Fund, The Children of the World Charity, St. Joseph and The Helpers Charity and The Jericho Foundation, the Centre will continue to be overseen by Matthew Procter, run by Elvira Dugalic and Nihad Subicic (*pictured right with a young patient*) and managed by *Miracles*' trained

Prosthetics Assistant, Amel Mrkonjic. With such a first class team, we are confident that many more patients will be helped and skills taught to train local people in the art of Prosthetics. .



We are delighted to welcome amongst our Patrons, The Right Reverend John Gladwin and his wife Lydia. John is the retired Bishop of Chelmsford and National Chair of Citizens Advice Bureaux and Lydia is well known for her eminent prison work . She has been working closely for several years with Theo Ellert as constant visitors to Send Prison in Surrey where strong ties have been made with its Visitor's Centre from which several new cases have been referred for our help. The families of women serving prison sentences can be among the most tragic needing our help and our Caravans—now two—one specially designed for wheelchair users—have proved invaluable in giving a much needed break to so many..



It is amazing what 'miracles' can be created with a breath of fresh air, a break from hospital routine, and time to strengthen family ties after the traumas they have suffered.



Another aspect of our prison work is our Music in Prisons project under the auspices of Project Director, James Burton.

Writing, playing and performing music in prison provides a positive learning experience for prisoners. It can act as a catalyst in the process of rehabilitation, help to unravel complex and sometimes frightening emotions and express those feelings in a non-confrontational way.

Miracles wishes to express grateful thanks to The Big Lottery for supporting both our Music in Prison project and our Respite Break Caravans.



Miracles—A Rapid Response Service for Families in Crisis

Many of the families referred to us for Respite Breaks come from CLIC-Sargent Social Workers in the major children's hospitals throughout the country. In recent months referrals are also greatly increasing for urgent crisis grants for parents of children with life threatening conditions. Grants range from travel costs to and from the various hospitals, to food, clothing and other essentials pending receipt of benefits and debt relief.

Recent referrals from Great Ormond Street Hospital, The Royal Marsden and University College London have stretched our resources significantly and a major fundraising drive is being urged by all our supporters to ensure that the **Miracles'** Rapid Response is maintained.

The following are just a few of the cases dealt with at the end of last year.

'A real miracle!' - A case referred by The CLIC-Sargent Social Worker at St. George's Hospital, Tooting.

This is the case of a little boy with a highly complicated form of cancer, referred to us for help by The CLIC-Sargent Social Worker at St. George's Hospital, Tooting. His father first came to the UK on a visitor's permit and later brought his wife over on the same visa. Their child was born and very soon diagnosed with this life threatening condition when the visa expired leaving them with no benefits and no money to pay for treatment. He went from bad to worse and the bills for his care mounted at a rate of £5,000 per day. His parents lacked for everything—for food and for the cost of visiting him in hospital. **Miracles** provided them with an Oyster card to help with their travel and a certain amount of cash for daily needs but the situation was so dire that it was felt there was little more we could do. Then, just before Christmas, his Social Worker asked if we could buy him an interactive toy – just something to play with in the long hours in Intensive Care. We bought him the Tiger toy suggested and almost as soon as he received it he rallied to treatment. He is still in Intensive Care but the tiger has worked a real miracle for him, giving him so much joy and being used by the medical professionals to engage with him in a way they were not able to do before.

The following is a letter just received from his CLIC-Sargent Social Worker:

This is just to let you know that the little boy you are helping has really turned a corner since he received the tiger toy from Miracles at Christmas. He has now had a tracheostomy and gastrostomy and is much more interactive so that plans can now be made for him to step down from intensive care with a possible discharge in the next 6 months. His parents are being supported by a new team of solicitors who are confident they will be able to help them with their immigration issues, benefits entitlement and NHS eligibility. He continues to love his tiger which is now part of his day to day routine. Thank you from us all for the miracles you create.



Referral from Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital

Mother of two, the youngest suffering from Leukaemia and undergoing extensive chemotherapy. Now expecting another baby. Forced to give up work and now struggling with mounting debts and court orders. Council finally issued eviction order unless immediate payment was made. Pending various agencies working on debt management, **Miracles** Rapid Response negotiated an acceptable settlement of £600 paid direct to the Council.

A Thank You from their CLIC-Sargent Social Worker: 'The help provided by Miracles for this family with such a generous grant and so promptly at this point has been truly amazing and enabled them to avoid facing eviction from their home. On behalf of ourselves and the family, thank you so much!'

From Royal Marsden Hospital

12-year-old boy with Ewings Sarcoma in sustained treatment with chemo and radiotherapy and surgery. Eager to go to school and see his friends during his 'Well Week' breaks but transport to/from home too costly. Family of four children on very low income. Mother is the main carer with no help from father. She, too, needs frequent hospital in-patient treatment. The situation further compounded by father awaiting possible custodial prison sentence. Recently received a demand for £1,500 rent arrears and £3,000 council tax. Working with CAB to help with debt management and applying for possible benefits. **Miracles**' Rapid Response granted £1,000 to help with negotiating a payment plan and immediate transport/subsistence costs.

From Leeds General Hospital

1. Single mother with two children, the daughter with relapsed Ewings cancer of the pelvis with poor prognosis. Given essential alternative Council accommodation with ground floor access but need back arrears of £180 cleared before they can take it up.

Social Worker expressed deep gratitude to Miracles for paying it off so generously and promptly.

2. Mother of two, the youngest in three year treatment for Leukaemia. Now, due to care levels needed, she is unable to work and separated from violent father who does not pay maintenance hence she is struggling to pay rent. **Miracles** Rapid Response grant covered month's rent while alternative assistance is sought.

From University College Hospital London

Nineteen year old girl studying to be a nurse recently diagnosed with post transplant lymphoma now spreading to central nervous system. Mother now jobless, seeking benefits and incurring costs of £320 per week pending free parent accommodation being available at UCHL. **Miracles** Rapid Response granted £500 for accommodation until an in-hospital place is found.

A word of thanks to Miracles from the CLIC Sargent Team

We are writing to thank you for all your support which enables us to reach out to families affected by any form of childhood cancer. We couldn't do what we do without your help and we want you to know it's appreciated. With our thanks and good wishes from all in the CLIC Sargent Team at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

MIRACLES CARAVAN BREAKS

The **Miracles'** Respite Break Caravan, opened in August 2015, proved such a success that it also highlighted the need for another unit, purpose-built to accommodate the disabled. This need came to our attention when little Harmonie came for a holiday last Summer. Harmonie is a victim of Meningitis and has lost all her lower limbs—as has another of our children, Taylor, and 8-year-old Kye, a quadruple amputee again as a result of Meningitis.

With the growing number of wheelchair cases coming to **Miracles** for help, at the beginning of 2017 we acquired our second unit: with wide doors, lowered work surfaces and a fully fitted wet room. Both caravans are adjacent to each other, close to the Leisure Centre and all amenities. Both centrally heated and double glazed with their own parking space on the West Sands site of the Bunn Leisure Holiday Complex in Selsey, West Sussex.

They are available free of charge for ten months of the year—excluding January and February. Bookings for school holidays are always very much in demand but we also welcome term-time breaks and short stays for families coping with poverty, sickness and crisis situations.



Richard and Anita Coe from Dorset with their daughter Elizabeth and 5-year-old son, Daniel, had a truly magical Christmas in the **Miracles** Caravan. They'd had a very bad year with Daniel under critical treatment for Leukaemia and when they were first referred to us he was far too unwell to come. But he rallied to treatment and by the end of the year was just fit enough to make the journey.



As Richard writes: *Thank you all so much for our wonderful Christmas. It was windy, and rainy but that did not stop us having a whale of a time! The facilities on site and entertainment were fabulous and we had such fun at the panto, bowling, swimming....the list goes on! Our Christmas lunch was great and it was a wonderful bonus that you gave us this too. It was so much appreciated after such a tough year for our family. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work for families in crisis - it makes a massive difference.*

More words of thanks from Mums and Dads

Ref: Four year old son who has recently undergone bone marrow transplantation.

"... it's been a tough year and the caravan break away was amazing for our family to enjoy time together away from hospital. You are an amazing charity giving so much to others."

Ref: Sons 4 and 5 – the younger with gastro problems needing tube feeding, the older with severe ASD and related disorders.
"We had an amazing time. The first two days were a bit ropey as it was a complete change so lots of meltdowns but they loved every second at the same time. They cried when we left and want to live there forever! The Kids Club was fantastic. The Teamsters shouted their names whenever they saw them. The caravan was superb. It was an amazing experience. The boys were so happy, they were like different children ..."

Ref: Son with severe autism.

"... being a single mum it made such a difference to get away ... for my son who is autistic, it brought him out of his comfort zone ... and for my daughter who gets the brunt of her brother's outbursts. The caravan was lovely ... the beach was so private. The kids massively enjoyed the swimming pools – such excellent therapy, too. A massive Thank You for fond memories of family time."

Ref: 10-year-old son with Autism and profound anxiety problems.

"... My son suffers from severe anxiety and struggles to stay away from home. But your caravan is set up in such a welcoming way and the site is so relaxing that he did not want to come home! I am a single parent and could not afford any sort of break suitable for my son's needs without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this wonderful break where we could feel like a 'normal' family for the week. It made our year."

MIRACLES'

MUSIC IN PRISONS

Miracles' Music in Prison project was devised and launched to provide support to prisoners who are trying to live life drug free and/or are experiencing difficulties adjusting to prison life. The projects takes place in drug rehabilitation wings and the aim is to contribute to the long term rehabilitation of prisoners – helping them return to and to take a positive role in their respective communities – inside and out.

The original pilot project ran for six months in Brixton prison drug wing and then, with a grant from the Big Lottery, ran for four months in Downview women's prison. Now with a grant from Santander ,the project will revisit Brixton and, working in conjunction with the RAPt drug team, run the project in its current format for 14 weeks from January 2018.

Word has got out on just how effective the course is (we have worked with over 60 prisoners since the launch) and we have been inundated with requests to run the project at other prisons including Pentonville, Wormwood Scrubs, Send, The Mount, Downview ... to name a few.

Prisons in England and Wales are straining under the disruption and violence drugs cause. Drug-using prisoners are suffering from physical and mental health conditions and their chances of rehabilitation are poor. Society is suffering through addicted prisoners not being able to take active, positive roles in their local community upon release.

Almost half of the prison population has an addiction to drugs. The majority of addicts in prison will be there because of crimes relating to their addiction. The problem is not confined to illegal and prescription drugs. Use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – previously known as “legal highs” – has skyrocketed. In particular, there has been a dramatic increase in the use of the formally legal NPS known as “Spice”.

Addiction undermines prisoner rehabilitation. It makes prisoners less likely to engage constructively with activities that will contribute towards their rehabilitation

Prisoners attempting to come off drugs and to stay clean need drug free rehabilitation wings in prisons. They need structured support and encouragement to help them through the withdrawal stages – both physical and mental. Without additional external stimulus and support they can quickly spiral into depression and apathy and back into drug use.

However, it costs approximately £6,000 to run a 14 week project, funds that are difficult to find for this kind of work. If you would like to support the **Miracles** prison project and help make a positive change in prisoners lives then please get in touch with our project director at james@miraclesthecharity.org

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The renowned Canadian singer songwriter Daniel Romano (*pictured right*) was at the recent Upstart Crow Festival, in Spitalfields, London, in October 2017 - helping to raise funds and awareness for **Miracles** prison work.



LOTTERY FUNDED



WHO'S WHO IN THE *MIRACLES* CHARITY

***Miracles* Board of Trustees:** Robert Bean * Petra Byatt * Theo Ellert (Founder)
Silvia Gil-Alberdi * Dominic Lynch * Marie-Antoinette (Chair)
Rodrigo Rodriguez * Ben Williams

***Miracles* UK Executive:** Robert Linley-Munro (Chief Executive)
James Burton (Project Director) * Deborah Aldridge (Casework Co-ordinator)—*sponsored by
The Sobell Foundation*

***Miracles* Mission in Bosnia:** Matthew Procter MBE—Head of Mission
Elvira Dugalic—Trustee Divita-*Miracles* * Nihad Subasic—Prosthetist
Aida Saric—Trustee Cudo-Cuda-*Miracles*

***Miracles*' Patrons:** Christopher Biggins * The Earl of Bradford
Joseph Caruso * The Right Reverend John Gladwyn * Lydia Gladwyn
Father Michael O'Malley * Terry Waite CBE

La Fondation *Miracles* Suisse:

Board of Trustees: Pierre-Laurent Bel * Patrick Fauchier * Celine Boudry
Francois Pereire * Marie-Antoinette Pereire * Ingrid Tissot * Nicolas Tissot
Patron: Lady Vernon
Director: Ingrid Tissot
Website: www.lafondationmiracles.org

Financial Summary taken from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st October 2017

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

<u>Incoming resources:</u>	Voluntary income:	£466,687
	Fundraising:	£ 98,270
	Other:	£ 4,014
		£568,971
<u>Expenditure:</u>	Fundraising:	£ 42,957
	Charitable Activities:	£380,451
	Other:	£ 7,050
		£430,458
<u>Net Incoming resources:</u>		£138,513

BALANCE SHEET

Tangible Fixed Assets	£618,313
Net current assets	£307,413
	£925,726
Represented by the following funds:	
Designated funds	£589,435
Other charitable funds	£336,291
	£925,726

MIRACLES CASEWORK AND RAPID RESPONSE SERVICE FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Overseen by HQ based Casework Co-ordinator, Deborah Aldridge, **Miracles** is proud and grateful to have a team of voluntary caseworkers spreading the word of our services and providing a helping hand and listening ear to other families facing the type of crisis situations that they themselves have experienced—with **Miracles'** help.

To date we have six such volunteer Caseworkers: (*See photographs left to right below*)

Freya Hall from Bath, Somerset, mother of 4-year-old Harmonie, a quadruple amputee due to early onslaught of Meningitis. Freya and partner Ross are now expecting their second child.

Danielle Taroni from Birmingham has two children, Kyle aged 3 who has severe Autism and Jorja-Leigh aged 5. The family recently had half their house destroyed by fire.

Kellie Robbie from Dorset: Single mum of 4—Kyla (21) - now also part of the Caseworker team); Lily (9), Daisy (5) and Charlie (4) who has CHD and non verbal Autism. When Charlie was five months old and undergoing intense hospital treatment, Kelly was told that her husband had been killed in a motorbike accident.

Jemima Gidley from West Yorkshire—with husband Phil - parents of three children: Rebekah, Taylor and Nathan. Previously lost a fourth child to CHD before she was a year old and then lost a second baby just months into pregnancy.

Sharon Hansell from Northamptonshire: One of **Miracles'** first beneficiaries. Sharon has three sons, the eldest who developed Leukaemia at an early age—now recovered - and the third, Kier, diagnosed with the almost unknown disease of Chediak Higashi Syndrome from which he has suffered all his life with countless in-hospital treatment sessions including a Bone Marrow Transplant.

Michelle Leonard from Surrey—mother of four boys, the eldest, Louis, diagnosed with Leukaemia at two years old. Michelle's family were early visitors to the holiday home **Miracles'** ran for Children with Cancer. Louis, now at University, is a stalwart fundraiser for **Miracles'** work.



Miracles' deals with families in crisis throughout the UK and with individual cases needing Rapid Response with no delays or form filling.. Referrals of such cases are welcomed from CABs, Hospitals, Social Workers and **Miracles'** own voluntary Caseworkers. Requests from individuals are not considered unless endorsed by one of the above.

Miracles' Respite Breaks are available for eligible families in the two **Miracles'** Caravans and in specially needy cases where no caravan bookings are available.. Occasional cash grants can be made to assist with food and essentials for families in dire circumstances with no recourse to public funds.

Interim one-off grants may also be considered for Crisis Funding pending Benefits being sought, debt control plans implemented or one-off payments to prevent disconnection of telephone/household services/ eviction.

Here's how else you can help us to make more miracles happen

Join the **Friends of Miracles** Support Group with a monthly donation direct from your bank

Include **Miracles** as a Beneficiary in your Will.

Support **Miracles'** Gala Events and Sponsorship Projects.

www.miraclesthecharity.org

Registered Charity Number 1041449



Miracles
Fundraising Dinner
Aqua Nueva
6th May 2017

The 2017 major fundraising event was held at 'Aqua Neuva' - the superb venue in the heart of the West End with its terraced balcony overlooking London's iconic skyline.

Silvia Gil-Alberdi's amazing committee was supplemented this year by **Miracles'** new Trustees, Rodrigo Rodriguez and Ben Williams whose inspiring commitment and input to the evening brought an extra dimension of mystique and glamour to another of **Miracles'** now famous gala dinners.

With its exciting live and electronic auctions, sumptuous food and wines, dancing and romancing, the star of the show was the video presence of our enchanting Harmonie who brought tears of joy to everyone present, all of whom dug deep into their pockets to enable **Miracles'** work for similar children to continue for another year.



Rodrigo Rodrigues and his beautiful wife, Nayke, photographed under the famous Aqua Bull at the



And Superhero, Rod, all geared up for the Live Auction with the use of his son's Iron Man mask, Captain America's glasses and Thor's hammer!!



Ben Williams and his wife, Emily, hosted a beautifully masked party of friends and colleagues from Ben's company, Adgenda, to whom, our thanks are due for all the work they are doing for **Miracles**. Also pictured above are the two main stars of the show: Harmonie and the Chairman of the Gala Committee, Silvia Gil-Alberdi.

WHO'S DOING WHAT FOR MIRACLES



Following in Maria-Antoinette's footsteps, the charity's Founder, Theo Ellert will take on the role of Chair until a new Chairman is appointed. The Pereire's Kensington home remains open for some of our meetings but a gradual shift is taking place towards the spacious new Clerkenwell offices of Adgenda, Trustee Ben Williams' company, where the *Miracles* 'package' is being re-shaped to attract wider interest and support.



(Above right: Ben with the Adgenda Miracles' Challenge Team)

Helping with this re-branding is our new Trustee, Petra Byatt, (above left) whose presence on *Miracles*' Board is of immense value.

Braving the Tough Mudder again this year was Trustee Ben Williams' Adgenda Team—and a great looking bunch they were, too, looking all neat and tidy before the Challenge ...And (*below*) after!!! Well done again guys 'Doing it for *Miracles*' and raising over £1,500 for our charity..

Another initiative of Trustee Ben was *Miracles*' first five-a-side football tournament which took place on Friday 26th May at the Shoreditch Powerleague Pitch in London. Six teams took part - Citi Bank, Adgenda, Metro, News UK, the Nomads and Grunbergs who, between them, helped to raise over £5,000 for *Miracles*. It was a hot and humid night - kick off was at 18:30 and all the teams battled long and hard in a classic knockout tournament. From early on it looked as though Citi Bank were the firm favourites—at least until they faced the Nomads (*pictured right*): a disparate team thrown together for the evening but they proved to be the strongest and went on to beat Citi Bank 5 goals to 4. A wonderful evening and the first of many. Our next tournament will take place on Friday 29 April 2018. If you think you have what it takes to be a *Miracles* champion then why don't you submit a team - contact james@miraclesthecharity.org



And still running! Louis Williams running last year's London Marathon alongside all his other fundraising achievements for *Miracles*. This year Louis is concentrating in his final year at University so has enthused his friend to run in his place. Good Luck with your studies, Louis and keep up the wonderful work for *Miracles*.



Good old James Barclay and Nick Harris were at it again too! This year James gathered together a 17-strong team of fellow physiotherapists for the Sussex Barns Green Half Marathon. His Just Giving Appeal raised over £1,500 and he has been nominated among the top 5% fundraisers for September 2017



Miracles is deeply grateful to all our supporters and Challengers for the time and effort they put in to the all important task of fundraising for *Miracles*' work and particularly *Miracles*' Respite Breaks and Rapid Response Service for families in Crisis.

This is perhaps our most vital role here in the UK. Working with Referral Partners such as CLIC-Sargent (ChildrenVCancer) in childrens' hospitals throughout the country, Citizens' Advice Bureaux and Youth Support Agencies from Tower Hamlets to Tyneside, the incidence of cases needing immediate assistance is over-stretching our Crisis Fund reserves and all efforts must now be on a major appeal to keep *Miracles* coming for those who need them so tragically and so urgently.

A special word of thanks: The Board of Trustees wish to express heartfelt thanks to all our donors and in particular to The Sobell Foundation for their annual funding for our Casework Co-ordinator, the pivot on which the smooth running of our Respite Break Caravans and Rapid Response Service depends.