Sick Kids Ultimate Sports Quiz

The Sick Kids Friends Foundation is calling on sports fans to pit their knowledge against rival teams at an Ultimate Sports Quiz to help the charity raise funds for the vital Drop in Centre at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) in Edinburgh.

The charity hopes to raise more than £18,000 for the centre which benefits thousands of families each year including the Harnwells who are photographed here.

These two young children visit the hospital regularly.

7-year-old Olivia receives treatment and her 9-year-old brother Ben visits the hospital for chemotherapy to treat leukaemia.

The Foundation is looking for supporters to enter teams of five or ten to battle it out at The Ghillie Dhu on Thursday, 23 April, after last year's event raised £10,700 for the hospital's Wayfinding signpost system.

This year the charity will aim to raise £18,500 for the SKFF Drop in Centre, which provides a non-clinical atmosphere where patients, siblings, families and friends can spend time together away from the hospital.

Last year the centre welcomed more than 650 patients and 1,700 parents.

Michelle Harnwell visits the Drop in Centre regularly when accompanying her two children to appointments at the RHSC.

Michelle said: "Olivia has cerebral palsy and as a result visits the Sick Kids regularly for crucial orthopaedic appointments. My son Ben also has acute lymphoblastic leukaemia so we visit the hospital every month so he can receive life-saving chemotherapy treatment and blood and platelet transfusions.

"During these worrying times the Drop in Centre is a haven – it's somewhere you can go for a relaxing, reliable chat located within the hospital grounds. The team are second to none and their professional, empathetic and approachable nature always puts me at ease.

"As well as having the opportunity to meet with other parents who are going through a similar experience, the centre provides complimentary therapy which helps keep you sane after spending hours in the hospital ward worrying about your little one."

The SKFF's Drop in Centre was the first of its kind in the UK when it opened its doors in 2006 and the funds raised from the Ultimate Sports Quiz will help to meet the £135,000 the charity invests in the centre each year.

SKFF supporters and sports buffs attending this year's quiz will be treated to a drink and tasty supper before having the opportunity to get their hands on priceless sporting items at the event auction.

The quiz itself will be hosted by Scottish sport pundit Scott Wilson and quizmaster Johnny Craig.

Rachel McKenzie, head of voluntary fundraising at the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said: "We're very excited to welcome quiz teams from across Edinburgh to join long-time SKFF supporter Scott Wilson at the eighth annual Ultimate Sports Quiz.

"I know Scott will have no problem putting attendees' sporting knowledge under the spotlight on what is sure to be a great night of fun and fundraising. There's still time to secure your place and help us continue to fund a fantastic facility which benefits thousands of families each year, including the Harnwells."

The SKFF's Ultimate Sports Quiz will take place from 7pm on Thursday, 23 April at The Ghillie Dhu, 2 Rutland Street, Edinburgh.

Tickets are priced at £45 per person, £225 for a team of five or £450 for a team of ten and can be purchased from Linda Cameron on 0131 668 4949 or <u>linda.cameron@luht.scot.nhs.uk</u>.

Submitted by Corrie Campbell

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