

Your TLC Lottery News *October 2022*



TLC is 25 years old!

Let's celebrate together 25 years of The TLC Lottery. As one of our loyal supporters

you have helped raise a massive £7.7 million pounds for charity. What an amazing achievement of which I hope you are as proud as we are.



“I am so grateful to the supporters past and present who play our lottery, without whom this massive achievement and anniversary milestone would not be possible. The income from TLC lottery has helped so many families in our communities and I would like to convey a heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you.”

Lorraine Halling
Lottery Manager

What has changed since 1997?

Over the past quarter of a Century we have seen the introduction of Wifi, Smart Phones, Flat screen TV's, Sony Playstation's, Internet banking, the google search engine and Amazon on line shopping to name but a few.



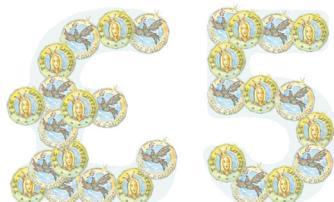
What hasn't changed is the support and generosity of our lottery players and the need for the services our charities provide in our communities.



“Round up, Round up”

What a fabulous response we have had to round up your monthly subscription from £4.34 to £5. The £8 per year has been added to the donations pot and distributed to the charities. So far we have raised £2,500. It's not too late...

If you would like to round up your subscription, simply give Rachel a call on 01564 825047.



The cost of living is at an all time high, and our charities are facing higher and higher running costs. Your support is vital now, more than ever. Do you have a friend or family member who would like to join us too? If every player could recommend us to just one person, we could generate approximately £200,000 additional income each year for our charities.

LOTTERY FACTS

Over £3 Million has been paid out to winners of the TLC Lottery and an additional £78,000 in Super Draws Prizes.



Toby Porter, Acorns Chief Executive, said:

“Since 1997, the TLC Lottery has helped raise an enormous amount, not just for Acorns but some wonderful and very important causes right across Birmingham. It’s an immense achievement and on behalf of everyone at Acorns and the children and families we support, I want to say a huge thank you to all the loyal players who have contributed. Acorns relies on fundraising to provide our services – so your generosity means we can continue our vital work.”

Esme's Story

Esme is a smiling, happy, bubbly little girl, who is full of life and well known for the beautiful bows she wears in her hair. Her personality draws people in. She takes everything in her stride, regardless of whatever's thrown her way. Mum Jenna explains how Acorns has made a difference in their life:

“When she was born, she was so beautiful. But deep down in my heart, I knew something was wrong. She was just so tiny in comparison to her brother and sisters.



“Over the first few months of her life, we were really struggling to get her to feed. We went through countless bottles and teats and tried every formula we could find, but she just wasn’t growing.

“A scan on Esme’s brain at six months confirmed the gut feeling I had. Something was wrong. She was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Aicardi-Goutieres syndrome (AGS), a condition which has no cure.

“When we got the news, we felt empty. It was as though someone had just taken our whole world and broken it into a thousand pieces.

“Now nine, Esme still can’t sit up, walk, or do the things I would love for her to do like go out to play, invite her friends round, or do things we take for granted every day. But we’ve accepted that.

“She is who she is, and we’d rather enjoy the time we have with her than spend it worrying. Coming to Acorns makes that time special. They have such a close place in our hearts and are like a second family to us. I couldn’t imagine our lives without them now. At Acorns we know Esme’s going to receive the same level of care that we would give her at home.

“It’s such a happy place for Esme too and it’s full of smiles. The staff put on lots of activities for the children and plan their whole day around fun, care, and creating memories to last a lifetime. These memories are something that as a family we will hold on to forever. Without those memories, you’ve got nothing else to carry you forward.



“When Esme goes to Acorns, that’s time we can give back to our other children and give them the one-on-one care that they might be missing out on. I just love Acorns, I really do. And if the time does come and Esme’s time is up, I’m glad that we have them by our side.

“Whatever dark days are coming and whatever the future holds, Acorns are going to be there to support me and my whole family. Until then, they help us enjoy every moment of the time we have with Esme.”

Simon Fuller, CEO at The Hospice Charity Partnership, formed by the merger of Birmingham St Mary's Hospice and John Taylor Hospice, said:

"Since starting back in 1997, TLC has raised an incredible £7 million for local charities, including Birmingham St Mary's Hospice. The vital funds raised by TLC enable us to care for more local people living with life-limiting illness and their families.

On behalf of all of the staff, patients and families at The Hospice Charity Partnership, thank you so much for supporting local people in desperate need of end of life care. We couldn't do what we do without you."



Sheila's Story

Former teacher, Sheila, has kindly shared her story of being cared for at Birmingham St Mary's Hospice:

"I attend the Day Hospice at Birmingham St Mary's Hospice every Tuesday. We do all sorts of activities, things like crafting, card-making and painting. It really brightens up your day when you come to the hospice.

"I find it a very calming and peaceful place. It's light, bright and a change of environment from home where you can forget about your illness for a while, which is so valuable.

"When you come here and meet other people who are also really ill, you can socialise with them. It's really nice just talking to people while you're doing the activities and it takes your mind off of your illness. When I leave the sessions, I always feel as if I have more energy.

"Depression is a big part of illness that I think we all suffer from and doing something even for just half an hour feels like a release. We're all social creatures and after lockdown we've really found out how important socialisation is.

"In 2002, I was first diagnosed with breast cancer, which reoccurred in 2014 and I had a mastectomy. After suffering from a number of falls, in 2020 I was taken into hospital where they discovered I had a brain tumour which was operated on and has since stabilised. However, following a routine body scan to check the cancer, doctors discovered primary cancer in my liver in March 2022.

"I also live with inclusion body myositis, a progressive autoimmune condition which affects the muscles in my arms and legs, so I can't walk unaided and rely on a walking frame and a motorised wheelchair to help me get around.

"I didn't know what to expect when I started coming here. But all of the people here are just so lovely and helpful. Tammy, Katie and Lucy from Day Hospice have been just brilliant throughout my time at the hospice, and the volunteers are absolutely marvellous.

"You can just mention one thing and they chase it up for you, no hesitation, they just go ahead and do it. This really helps to take a lot of the stress and pressure off me which I'm so grateful for.

"I'm also starting to see a counsellor through the hospice which I think will really help me.

"I can't praise it enough; the hospice is such a wonderful place, and I can't fault any of the support or treatment I've had. Even the food is fantastic, I have to praise the Catering Team too.

"I just can't express how I feel about this place, it's so wonderful."

Quote from **Cate Burke**, Interim CEO, Focus Birmingham

“Has it really been 25 years since TLC lottery started raising funds for our Charity? At Focus we provide support, care, advice and guidance in the local community to help with all aspects of a sight loss journey. We have a wonderful Complex Needs Day Service where people of all ages can participate in our stimulating programmes of activities, whilst our Supported Living Scheme provides specialist support to those with sight loss and complex needs with all that is required to help them live independent lives. I would like to thank each and every one of the TLC players for helping us make lives better.”



Mark's Story

We would like to introduce you to Mark. In 2019 after being referred to Focus with sight loss and hearing problems, he was assigned to a support co-ordinator within our sight loss team.

Mark couldn't see out of either eye due to cataracts and his hearing had deteriorated to the point where he was deaf in both ears. Our support team were soon able to find Mark a place in the Focus supported living facility.

It was here that Mark was given the help and support required to arrange and attend Hospital appointments for his cataracts. He was supplied with hearing aids which improved his hearing and his overall well-being and quality of life improved vastly. For Mark, moving into this facility has been a life changing experience. He really enjoys mixing with his fellow residents, playing pool and snooker, watching movies, listening to music and loves shopping! Mark is now able to live a more inclusive, independent life.

Jason's Story

Jason was a pupil at a local specialist school from nursery age and attended right through to college. In May 2015 at the age of 28 Jason started attending the Focus Birmingham Day Service.

His mother Shan says 'We chose Focus Birmingham because of the vast amount of on-going activities and specialised support that is on offer for Jason's complex needs. For example, speech and language, physiotherapy and in-house transport, to name a few.'

Jason has always looked forward to his days at Focus and originally attended 5-days per week. More recently he has had to reduce to 3-days per week due to him receiving dialysis treatment. His mum explained, 'Jason has lost his kidney transplant over the last year, Focus have been extremely supportive with Jason and myself. In particular they have helped Jason understand what's happening to his failed kidney through social stories and what treatments to expect in the future i.e. dialysis and eventually a new kidney.'

She continued, 'Jason loves attending Focus Birmingham and everything they have on offer. He particularly enjoys the online games they do, especially Who Wants to be a Millionaire. He also enjoys baking, arts & crafts, sing-signing and outdoor visits. Jason particularly likes going to the pub for lunch.'

