



**I hope that you enjoy the Footsteps Foundation spring news, reading about what has been going on at the charity and plans for 2017:**

## **Amazing Mums and Dads!**



Here at Footsteps we are in awe of – parents! The patience, dedication and selflessness that mums, dads (and grandparents) show in bringing their children over to us at Footsteps is inspirational. All parents want what is best for their children, but parents of disabled kids tell us they just have to fight that bit harder for it every day! This determination to get the best outcome for her disabled daughter was how Footsteps & Footsteps Foundation was founded

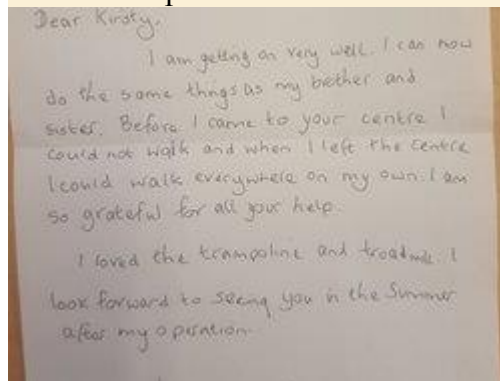
by Pip Hoyer Millar 12 years ago. We are so proud here at Footsteps as Pip was awarded an MBE in the New Year honours in recognition of all her hard work and vision helping disabled children by setting up Footsteps and Footsteps Foundation. Thanks to the family that nominated her and all those that supported the application – we are over the moon and think it is well deserved.



## **A Message from Pip Hoyer Millar MBE**

“As we approach the end of our first decade of operation, I am so proud of our achievements to date. What started out as a mission to get the help and support my daughter Minty needed, turned into The Footsteps Centre that we know and love, and a valued resource for hundreds of families throughout the UK. Since starting out, the charity has gone from helping 10 children in its first year, to 117 in 2016! We have spent £1.2 million on 20,000 hours of therapy and each year sees us going from strength to strength. But what we love are the human stories behind these statistics and the improvements that disabled children achieve when they are encouraged to reach their full potential which

can be life-changing for the whole family. This is the spirit of Footsteps Foundation and our aim is to help each child reach his or her unique potential”



### **Thank you for helping me to walk...**

We had a lovely phone call from a grateful mum the other day – she wanted to tell us that her daughter had started walking and had really advanced since her very first session at Footsteps. Rachel told us that Emma-Grace had made incredible improvements after coming to Footsteps, walking around the house, school and church for the first time!

Rachel explained that it was the confidence boost Emma-Grace got from her achievements at Footsteps that makes the difference and she praised the therapists for pushing her to believe in herself. Emma-Grace then sent us an adorable thank-you letter. We are so happy to hear about this progress, and look forward to seeing you soon Emma-Grace!

We love hearing from families and children about their Footsteps experiences – do you have some to share?

## **FOOTSTEPS BOOKING FOR 2018 SESSIONS**



The Footsteps Centre will be opening the bookings for 2018 on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 9.00am - 2.00pm**. To make it fair for everyone, including new families, they will only be taking bookings by phone on a first-come-first-served basis on the Footsteps Centre number: 01865 340376 and the Footsteps Foundation number: 01865 343851.

### **Lilly & Lauren**



Now we all know having children is one of the toughest jobs out there, so having twins with complex needs is really a full-time proposition! Just imagine having a child with a disability, then think what it must be like to have two little girls that need lots of extra support. We have many twins at Footsteps and last year we met Lilly & Lauren from South Wales and were pleased that they took to Footsteps straight away. Mum and dad (and grandparents) brought Lilly and Lauren to four three-week sessions in 2016 and **what fabulous results!**

A four hour round trip to bring the girls for physiotherapy every day but dedicated mum Sarah said it was well worth it - Lauren started walking after her second session and there is

no stopping her now! Before Footsteps, her sister Lilly was lying on the floor a lot and not able to move at all but now she bottom-shuffles, is more upright and can walk with mums support. So two little girls who have greatly improved mobility and can get themselves from A to B. Sarah said that she will still do a double-take when she sees Lauren walking past her!

## GET HIKING WITH TREKFEST 2017



What better way to raise funds for Footsteps Foundation than by – FOOTSTEPS! – Lots and lots of them! Trekfest is a very popular sponsored hike through some of the UKs most beautiful countryside. There are varied routes, dates and distances to suit everyone! Teams that have entered for us in past events have loved every minute of it! If you like walking in the wonderful UK countryside and want to help children like Lilly & Lauren learning to walk, why not get a group together with friends or work colleagues to

enter either in June or on September? Read all about it [HERE](#):

<http://www.trekfest.org.uk/>

## Our Amazing Supporters...



A huge thanks to all of our regular donors – your direct debits and standing orders mean children like Ben here, get the regular treatment they need!

Thanks to all our recent donors – The Henley Lions, The Christopher Laing Foundation, The young at Heart Club, Kokomo Studio, 1<sup>st</sup> Steventon Rainbows, Christine Briggs, Holly Bayliss, James Gesner, Anne Catterson-Smith, The IBB Charitable Trust, Ros Biggs, The

Alchemy Foundation, Berrick & Roke Village Show, South Stoke WI, Basildon CE Primary School, Juliette & Russell Pearson, David Beard, The Webb Family Charitable Trust, The Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society, John Holden, HSBC Oxfordshire Region, Robert McLarty and Poyry Management Consulting.

*Would you like to help children like Emma-Grace, Ben, Lilly & Lauren? Please [DONATE HERE](#)*

**Thanks for your ongoing support,**

**The Footsteps Team.**