

BOX HOLDER NEWS

2026

The
Children's
Society

Welcome

Thanks to supporters like you, The Children's Society was able to help more than 57,000 children and young people last year. Your collections have allowed us to be there for those that need it most – such as young carers who need a break from their responsibilities, families facing hardship, and teenagers at risk of exploitation. We've offered vital therapy sessions, advocated for the needs of young people, campaigned for wide-reaching change, and much more. Turn to page three to see just how much of a difference you've helped us make.

In this newsletter, you can also read the stories of just two of our remarkable supporters: Gay Drysdall, who volunteered for the Romsey Abbey fundraising committee for 35 years; and Patricia Stone, who has volunteered for The Children's Society for almost 25 years, and has written a children's book to show just how much has changed for young people over the generations. You'll also find our always-popular house box quiz on page two.

Building the future every child needs is not an easy task. But I know that, with passionate and committed people like you by our side, nothing is impossible. Every penny you raise helps young people to transform their lives.

Thank you so much for standing with them.



Mark Russell
Chief Executive



Remembering Gay Drysdall

For 35 years, Gay Drysdall was an active member of the Romsey Abbey fundraising committee for The Children's Society, including ten years as chairman. She was part of organising a whole host of fundraising events, from cake sales, fashion shows and quiz nights, to garden parties and Christingle services.

The committee soon gained a reputation as one of the most significant fundraising groups of its kind. Gay would always be the first to say it was a team effort, but there was no doubt she was a significant driving force.

Gay's last position on the committee was as box holder secretary and organiser. It was her ambition to have 100 box holders in Romsey – something she then exceeded. Many still contribute regularly today.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Gay for her tireless work raising funds for children and young people during her life, and to her daughter, Alison, for sharing her story.

Please share this newsletter amongst your network by posting this onto a noticeboard. If you'd like an electronic version to email to your box holders, please contact our friendly Supporter Care team on **0300 303 7000** or supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk.

House box quiz

House box networks like yours have been raising funds for young people for more than 140 years – and in that time, our house boxes have taken lots of different forms!

Can you put these house boxes in order from the mid-1900s to the present day?



The difference **you make**

Thanks to the generosity of incredible supporters like you, we're able to be here for children today and work towards a brighter future. Here are some of the things you've helped make possible in 2024/25.

With your help, last year we supported **57,652 young people** across the country through one-to-one sessions, group work, events, and more.



We supported **8,037 young people** across all our early support hubs, Time for Young People and Pause services.



We worked with

3,547 parents and carers

through events, one-to-one sessions and work in small groups.

We worked with more than **15,800 professionals**, enabling them to better support children and young people at risk of abuse and harm or struggling with low wellbeing.



We ran **77 services for children, young people, and their families**.



Our services focus on providing early support and responding to risk.

For more fundraising ideas and inspiration, scan the QR code now!



Meet Patricia

As well as volunteering for The Children's Society for almost 25 years, Patricia Stone has written a children's book – **Dora Annie** – based on the life of her grandmother, who was a child herself when she began working for a farming family.

"I'm absolutely committed to this charity – we need to help children in England," says Patricia, who wanted to tell her grandmother's story to show how much has changed since she was young. "The situation is very serious, and The Children's Society is doing everything it can to help."

Patricia, thank you so much for your wonderful support.



Thank you
for working so hard to make your house box networks a success!

Your gift to future generations

Every year, gifts in wills help so many of the young people we work with to transform their lives, allowing us to adapt and deliver vital support when it's needed so that young people dealing with abuse, exploitation, and neglect know they're not alone.

Right now, more than 2,200 incredible people have pledged a gift in their will to help future generations of young people hold onto hope. Will you join them?

Find out how you can stand alongside young people at **childrenssociety.org.uk/gifts-in-wills**, where you can download your free will guide or request a copy by post. Alternatively, get in touch with gifts in wills expert Jess Meale on **0300 303 7000**, or email at **giftsinwills@childrenssociety.org.uk**.

“I wanted to leave a gift of love and caring to the next generation. The need is as great as ever and my heart goes out to every young life overshadowed by trauma and lack of care.”

Pam

childrenssociety.org.uk/gifts-in-wills

