Jamie Loncaster Memorial Fund: 2015 - 2025

A decade of remembering & fundraising for a legacy of heart screenings

Marking the 10th anniversary of losing Jamie on 14th March 2015.



Jamie had no history of heart problems and was a seemingly fit and healthy young boy. He died suddenly and unexpectedly from cardiac arrest caused by myocarditis, aged just 13½.

The heart-breaking loss turned our lives upside down, but the love and support from our family, friends and the community around us was truly overwhelming and will *always* be remembered.

We are so grateful for the amazing fundraising events you've undertaken or contributed to. Special thanks go to so many people, but there is simply not enough space here to list every fundraiser and event. Many are listed on our website on the Fundraising Events page and there are a few photos in the Photo Galleries section too. On behalf of Jamie, we thank you for your fundraising efforts, donations and support over the last ten years.

Lives potentially saved by Jamie's legacy...

In the UK, **12** young people under **35** die from an undetected heart problem **EACH WEEK.** Statistics from CRY show that 1 in 100 screened will have something wrong with their heart and 1 in 300 screened will have a life-changing issue.



The total raised during the last decade for the <u>Jamie Loncaster Memorial Fund</u> held at <u>Cardiac Risk in the Young</u> now exceeds an amazing and humbling £185,000.

As a result of these donations, we have been able to cover the cost of screening the hearts of **2,676** young people in our area and we know of several cases of concern over that time with at least three operations on young people who were seemingly fit and healthy.

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Funds remain for two heart screening sessions in 2025 and two in 2026, by which time we will pass the 3,000 heart screenings mark. The cost of heart screening event is deducted from Jamie's memorial fund at CRY and by the end of 2026 the fund will be empty. We have no plans to host screenings after 2026, but would encourage anyone who would like to be screened to contact the CRY <u>Test My Heart</u> team and register their interest, as there are other events held around the country each month.

As we move beyond this 10 year milestone, we have decided that it's time to significantly reduce our social media activity and website uploads. We will no longer be actively fundraising either, although any donations will still always be added to Jamie's fund at CRY to support them in their work. We will, of course, continue to promote our heart screening events and keep our website refreshed with any relevant news updates.

It's certainly not been an easy decision to make, but creating social media posts can be emotionally draining. Jamie will always remain a huge part of our family and we are reminded of him every day as we glance into his bedroom or see photos of him around the house. We mention Jamie's name often and cherish the memories we have of the joy, love and laughter he brought to all our lives. We will never forget him and we doubt that those of you who knew him will either. He is missed by so many.

Over the last ten years, we have perhaps become accustomed to hiding behind a cheery smile, but life is certainly not how we ever thought it would be and there is a Jamie shaped hole in our world that will never be filled again. He'd have been 23 now and we often wonder what he'd doing with his life, as we see his older brother and cohort of friends transitioning into adult life, working hard, settling down and buying houses. It's truly heart-breaking and always will be, but we're sure he watches over us and keeps us all safe.



We hope to meet Jamie again one day after this life and have so much to catch up on when we see him. After the biggest hug in history, we will be sure to tell him all about the fantastic and caring community around us and how you came together and supported us in our darkest times.

Thank you again for a decade of love and support – we will remember it always.

Hug your children a little tighter tonight please – life can change in an instant... **Graham, Jenny & Ross Loncaster**