

13 October 2010

Dear

Gary and I are running The New York Marathon on 7th November.

For many years now I have applied to numerous charities for funding of therapies and equipment for our son Joel who has quadriplegic (affecting all four limbs) Cerebral Palsy.

Life is not easy for families with children who have extra needs and finding charities to support families in paths they choose to help their child is very difficult too. It is unfortunate that statutory services for these children and their families are just not enough.

There have been many times when we have just not known where to turn for help as naturally we want the best chances for our son.

I believe it was about 10 years ago now that The Insurance Charities first helped our family with their generous support. Not just financially for therapy and equipment but they have really been there for us as a family unit. We would not be here as we are today without the help and support they have so willingly given. No amount of words can express our lifelong gratitude to The Insurance Charities. They truly have been remarkable.

When Joel was 21 ½ months old we first went to The Peto Institute in Hungary for Conductive Education therapy, we decided to pursue this further as we believed in it. We travelled to Hungary each year but found it too stressful when Fran, Joel's sister was small. We found a Centre in England but the consistency was difficult on my own. I followed suit of another mum who managed to get this specific help in mainstream primary school for her son. This was not easy but again with the help of The Insurance charities we finally got permission from school and the authorities to proceed with specialist help at school for Joel. We were at the end of Summer term suddenly and we had not got any specialist furniture in place neither did we have any funding for any.

I hurriedly applied to many charities whom I had never heard of or approached before for help with the furniture for school in the hope that with a little funding from each we would perhaps raise enough.

To my utmost relief I remember the message I received from Lifeline 4 Kids, which was to inform me that they would gladly purchase all the items on our list. I could not believe it. True to their word we had everything ready for the start of the new school year. Joel having the help he needed each day at school gave me enormous peace of mind.

As our way of saying THANK YOU to The Insurance Charities and Lifeline 4 Kids we decided that we would like to try raising funds for them by running in The New York Marathon.

Gary has run a couple of Marathons and ½ Marathons but never before for charity.

I have not done any running since leaving school in 1977 and began my training about this time last year.

I ran in our local park and started with a “Couch to 5K” running plan which began as a minute run, 90 second walk twice round.

This coming Sunday Gary and I will be running our longest and final long run before the Marathon, 21 miles!!.

I have come a long way (still can't believe it!) and I cannot say I enjoy it but I am determined to finish the marathon with Gary.

We will be very grateful for any support in the way of a donation of any size that you may like to give.

If you are online you may prefer to click on our link.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GaryandDebbiePitman>

Warmest Wishes,

Debbie and Gary Pitman