



NHS Lothian
Charity

NHS Secret Santa opportunities 2023



nhslothiancharity.org

NHS Lothian Charity is a registered Scottish charity (No. SC007342)



NHS Secret Santa

Every year, on wards across NHS Lothian, many patients can't go home to their families during the festive period because they are too unwell. Being away from those you love at such a special time of year can affect your mood and be upsetting for family members.

To create a fun and engaging atmosphere for those in hospital during the festive period, NHS Lothian Charity supports over £70,000 of patient Christmas activities each year, thanks to the generosity of our NHS Secret Santas. This helps families celebrate together in the hospital, brighten our wards and improve mental and emotional wellbeing of patients. It also creates great job satisfaction for our NHS Heroes.

NHS Lothian staff go over and above their day-to-day role to bring festivities to our hospitals and communities. They spend time decorating wards and entrances shopping for items that will help lift the spirits of someone staying in the hospital.

Could your company be our NHS Secret Santa and help staff spread festive cheer for those too unwell to go home?

When Christmas Eve arrives, patients expect it to be like any other day on the ward – but NHS Lothian staff make it memorable, dressing up, playing music (with some bringing their musical talents to perform to patients) and organising games or activities. A small gift, Christmas crackers, or festive party food doesn't seem like much, but they make a big difference when you are unwell in the hospital and away from loved ones.



Julie Ferrier and Debbie James work as Charge Nurses in the rehabilitation wards at the Astley Ainslie Hospital, Edinburgh, caring for people with brain injuries. They have both worked every other Christmas caring for their patients throughout their long careers with NHS Lothian.

"We decorate the wards with multiple Christmas trees, and some patients get crafty and make their own decorations. A local choir visits and we all sing Christmas Carols. An NHS Lothian consultant with musical talents also comes to the wards and plays the guitar, and we all sing along.

The singing makes everyone feel included, even those patients whose brain injury means they currently can't speak. Even they can still sing along, as singing is controlled by a different side of the brain than speaking.

One of our patients had both legs amputated, then suffered a stroke, and as a result could not speak but he loved to sing. Joining in the Carol singing made him light up with joy, as the music triggered happy memories for him."

Could your company help spread joy to NHS Lothian patients at Christmas?

Your support could lift someone's spirits and give our NHS staff the gift of transforming what could be a difficult festive experience into an enjoyable one. Your company could help by supporting one of the listed opportunities to become an NHS Secret Santa, by donating your Secret Santa at work or by fundraising.





Spending time in the hospital over the Christmas period can be tough, especially for those without family to visit or children who may not be able to experience the magic of Christmas in their own homes. But it needn't be like that.

At the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP), staff go the extra mile to ensure children experience the sparkle of Christmas even whilst in hospital. For the Research Department at RHCYP, the festivities begin as soon as a child steps through the door, thanks to staff like Clinical Support Worker Rachael.

"As soon as a family walks into our reception area, they see a giant Christmas tree covered in glitter and handmade baubles, and paper chains line the corridors, I could see that parents felt instantly more relaxed as soon as they walked through the door.

It's nice to be able to give the patients something back. One of the best things about NHS Lothian Charity is that they allow us the freedom to select the presents for the children on an individual basis. That means I can pick something specifically for each child and for their individual needs."

Rachael RHCYP Research Nurse

Making healthcare better, together

NHS Secret Santa Support Packages



Christmas Tree package – for a gift of £5,000* to support Patients' Christmas your company will receive:

- Sole acknowledgement at **one** Christmas tree at **one** hospital site of your choice (subject to availability):
 - Western General Hospital, Edinburgh – Main entrance of Anne Ferguson Building
 - St John's Hospital, Livingston – Main entrance

An 'A frame' board, will be positioned in front of the tree with your company logo and will acknowledge your donation towards helping to fund patients' Christmas across NHS Lothian.

*The £5,000 gift is made up of £2,500 + VAT for sponsorship and £2,000 donation – all proceeds will go towards our patients' Christmas appeal.



- A special event will be arranged, where you can invite up to 10 special guests to attend a light switch on ceremony of the tree with light refreshments.
- You will receive a certificate celebrating your company for bringing Christmas to patients, visitors and staff. Your kind donation will mean that we can go above and beyond to bring Christmas to all our patients and staff.
- Message baubles will be provided to your company so staff can send back to us to share with NHS Lothian staff and patients.
- Acknowledgment of your support to approx. 31,000 NHS Lothian contacts including staff in an internal update – the weekly brief.
- Acknowledgment of your support on NHS Lothian Charity social media channels.
- Acknowledgement of your support in our supporter newsletter to the approx. 75,000 people on our mailing list.
- Acknowledgement of your support and your logo displayed on a dedicated website page for sponsors and company supporters of Patients' Christmas.





**Bauble package – for a gift of
£2,000 towards Patients’
Christmas your company will
receive:**

- A certificate celebrating your company for bringing Christmas to patients, visitors and staff. Your kind donation will mean that we can go above and beyond to bring Christmas to all our patients.
- Message baubles will be provided to your company so staff can send back to us to share with NHS Lothian staff and patients.
- Acknowledgment of your support to approx. 31,000 NHS Lothian contacts including staff in an internal update – the weekly brief.
- Acknowledgement of your support on our social media channels.

- Acknowledgement of your support in our supporter newsletter to the approx. 75,000 people on our mailing list.
- Acknowledgement of your support and your logo displayed on a dedicated website page for sponsors and company supporters of Patients’ Christmas.



**Candy cane package – For a
gift of £1,000 towards
Patients’ Christmas your
company will receive:**

- A certificate celebrating your company for bringing Christmas to patients, visitors and staff. Your kind donation will mean that we can go above and beyond to bring Christmas to all our patients.
- Message baubles will be provided to your company so staff can send back to us to share with NHS Lothian staff and patients.
- Acknowledgment of your support to approx. 31,000 NHS Lothian contacts including staff in an internal update – the weekly brief.



- Acknowledgement of your support and your logo displayed on a dedicated website page for sponsors and company supporters of Patients' Christmas.



Holly package – For a gift of £500 towards Patients' Christmas your company will receive:

- A certificate for your company celebrating your generosity of supporting Christmas for patients and staff across NHS Lothian
- Message baubles will be provided to your company so staff can send back to us to share with NHS staff and patients.
- Acknowledgement of your support and your logo displayed on a dedicated website page for sponsors and company supporters of Patients' Christmas.

Choose how you make your donation:

You can also choose how you make your donation to support patients and our NHS Heroes at Christmas, you can:

- Make a company donation.
- Donate your Secret Santa at work.

- Raise money from activities such as:

The National Elf Service Day – a fun Christmas outfit day at work, home or with your community group.

A raffle, quiz, or donations in lieu of Christmas cards.

We have lots of ideas to share, get in touch for more inspiration! fundraising@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

- Engage your teams to fundraise, match fund their efforts and pledge to collectively donate your chosen amount. Support us during Christmas and beyond to give our patients and staff extra TLC when they most need it.



Thank you for considering these opportunities to help, your support will lift the spirits of patients spending Christmas in hospital. You could show someone you've never met a truly special kindness by becoming their Secret Santa. With your help, we can give the patients of NHS Lothian a Christmas with some happy memories.

For more information, contact:

Tumong Edwards, Community and Events Fundraiser

Email: Tumong.Edwards@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Mobile: 07814351417

"Having spent Christmas in hospital myself, I know from personal experience that it's a real lift to get a wee surprise from Santa. I have no doubts that the benefits from that are massively underestimated, so thanks to everyone at the charity for organising this important but overlooked aspect of looking after both the health and wellbeing of patients. Thank"

Malcolm former NHS Lothian patient

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