





Watching the children and having fun with them - it's just phenomenal. The camp makes a huge difference to them. - Professor Jane Cummings CBE, Chief Nursing Officer for England, 2018 / OTW Volunteer since 2007

Why we do, what we do

Over The Wall is a charity that helps children, young people and their families reach beyond the boundaries of serious illness to discover a world of mischief, magic and new possibilities.



An estimated 50,000 children in the UK live with serious health challenges.



This can result in isolation, poor self-esteem and low confidence.



Children miss opportunities to participate in everyday activities enjoyed by their friends and peers.

Our vision is that all children and young people, living with the challenges of serious illness and disability, can access transformational therapeutic recreation camp programmes, free of charge.

We tackle the above issues, ensuring our programmes improve the quality of life of the child by encouraging, exciting and inspiring them to regain their sense of optimism, possibility and hope.

Quite simply, we aim to empower children with serious illness to become the hero of their own story.



Our camps

Health Challenge camps

We invite applications from children aged 8 to 17 years, living in the UK, who are currently receiving treatment, or experiencing health challenges. Our five-night Health Challenge camps cater for more than 130 different conditions. Medical care at camp is provided by the 'Beach Patrol'- a skilled team of volunteer doctors, nurses and paramedics, that support campers with 24-hour medical assistance and supervision.

Siblings camps

These four/five-night residential camps have been developed for children and teenagers (aged 8-17) who have a brother or sister (of any age) who is currently receiving treatment or experiencing health challenges. At camp, we provide a range of activities including swimming, climbing, woodwork, theatre, music, arts and crafts, archery and much more.

Family camps

We welcome applications from families who have a child currently receiving treatment or experiencing health challenges between the age of O-17, (although one child in the family must be aged between 8-17). Family Camp takes place over a weekend and accommodation consists of a family room (or rooms, depending on the size of your family), many of which have en suite bathrooms and are multi-bedded.



It was the most emotional, amazing, adventurous and fun weekend ever. We left with wonderful memories of achievements made and friendships gained - an emotional experience which has totally blown me away. - Camper parent

How is OTW different?

Our camps provide first-class medical care for more than 130 different health conditions. We provide a 24-hour fully-qualified medical team, on site, that caters for all treatment and medication needs of our campers. This ranges from administering medication, changing catheters/feeding tubes and dressings, to dealing with emergencies.

Inclusion is critical to our philosophy and every effort is made to ensure that campers can be defined by their ambition and not their condition. Every camper has a thorough assessment ahead of camp and a care plan is put in place, if appropriate, to ensure that everyone can participate in every activity. Our campers tell us that they are fed up of being labelled as 'different' because of their illness, so camp is a place where they are seen as unique and amazing in their own right.

OTW is the only activity camp in the UK founded upon the concept of Therapeutic Recreation (TR) and its application to help seriously ill children. TR focuses on helping our campers to realise the incredible abilities and talents they possess; this model is a 4-step programme based on Challenge, Success, Reflection and Discovery, and has the effect of rapidly transforming the child's outlook, confidence and self-esteem. Our camps have been shown to improve confidence, self-esteem, independence, relationship skills, interest in new things as well as reduce feelings of isolation (Yale University 2015 and Ohio University, 2017).

Therapeutic Recreation

We encourage campers to become the hero of their own stories and realise their incredible talents and abilities.



Intentional Programming

A wide variety of activities encourage campers to step outside their comfort zones



With guidance and encouragement, campers learn to challenge themselves

Physical & Emotional Safety

Campers enter a safe, supportive and fun environment



Inspire Confidence

Campers are assessed ahead of camp to ensure they can gain enjoyment from all of our activities

Success

Every challenge is met with success

Positive Labelling

Campers are praised and encouraged - to recognise their success



Challenge, Success, Reflection, Discovery

Reflection

Specific time dedicated to encourage campers to internalise their success

Discovery

They discover something for the first time - that they can achieve more

Lasting Impact

Children leave with improved confidence, increased sense of independence, improved selfesteem and increased resilience

















CHILDREN'S HEART SURGERY FUND



Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation

CROHN'S & COLITIS UK









How you can work with us

At OTW we are passionate about collaboration and focusing on the synergy between charities to provide a more joined-up approach to children's illness.

We understand that providing activity camps for seriously ill children and young people is a high risk activity, particularly as the regulatory requirements become ever more rigorous and complex and many charities do not have the capacity, budget or skills to take this on.

OTW has led the way in delivering award-winning camps and is ambitious to increase access for more children and their families across the UK. By working together, we can provide you with a bespoke camp, exclusively for your members or community at a fraction of the cost. A bespoke camp helps your charity achieve its strategic outcomes, raise awareness and attract additional sources of funding.

Work with us and together we can achieve more.

Such an excellent weekend - can't thank Over The Wall and Crohn's & Colitis UK enough! It was a safe, caring and fun adventure to help you share experiences with others in your position and to make new friends. - Camper parent

Opportunities for partners

Camperships

This is where the partnership charity commits to securing five or more camper places at one or more of our camps for their service users.

Bespoke camps

This is where the partnership charity commits to an entire camp, designed and tailored to meet their needs whilst maintaining the principles and values of Over The Wall.

Over The Wall will assess campers, prepare, organise, manage and deliver camp. The main responsibility of our partners is to promote and advertise the camp to their members and secure enough applications for camp. We have successfully collaborated with several charities, including Allergy UK, Crohn's & Colitis UK and Anthony Nolan to produce bespoke camps.

Our research shows that the vast majority of parents who attend our partnership camps, feel better connected to other parents, better informed about our partner charities' support services, and feel more confident about caring for their child after attending camp.

How we can help you



By linking with us, an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' children's charity, you will enter into a partnership that is guaranteed to deliver mutually-beneficial rewards - helping you meet your strategic objectives and deliver specific outcomes.



We'll do all the paper-work and 'heavy lifting': we assess the campers, prepare, organise, manage and deliver camp.

Our dedicated team of volunteers, including fully-qualified doctors, nurses and paramedics provide 24-hour medical cover while at camp. We take care of DBS checks and training.



We contribute to two-thirds of the cost of camp, offering fantastic value for money.



A dedicated partnerships manager will be on-hand throughout your journey with us.

Our partnership will help to create new funding opportunities for your organisation, create great PR and will impact positively on your brand and reputation.



Opportunity to improve your offering and engage your specialist community.

Staff volunteering scheme available.



We asked campers how they felt...

Before camp:

After camp:





Thank you for taking care of me and for helping me to do so many new things. I had a wonderful time at camp! - OTW camper, 2018

What our families say



It was wonderful for our daughter to realise that she is not the only one going through this and for us parents to be able to share our experiences with others that are on the same journey.



We have come away feeling that we are not alone, knowing we have support and where to find information for other support services.



My son wasn't the quickest up the climbing wall and the volunteer instructor took his time and let him get down on his own with a lot of encouragement. Because of that, he felt like he did it himself and felt great achievement.



One of the highlights for us was our volunteer knocking on our door before quiz night to do a family face painting session. I cant remember the last time I had kicked back and relaxed with my children as a family since our son was diagnosed with diabetes. We are grateful to both charities for giving us the opportunity and recognising the condition.

The quality, range and accessibility of activities are immense and as a result children's worlds are opened up and at times challenged. Children overcome previous fears and learn new skills of coping for when they leave camp. - Ofsted, 2018

FAQs...

How much does it cost partner charities?

Our partnership model encourages other UK children's charities to utilise our expertise to provide residential experiences for their client groups at one-third of the full cost with Over The Wall committing to raising the remaining two-thirds of costs. This represents remarkable value-for-money for our partners and allows other charities to collaborate with very little financial risk.

Where do camps take place?

Although we call them 'camps' we do not use tents!
All the facilities we use, across the UK, must meet our exacting standards for accommodation, dining and activities. Camps take place in Dorset, Wiltshire, Staffordshire, South Yorkshire, Fife and Perth, utilising private schools such as Byranston School and Strathallan School and other top-quality leisure facilities.

How does OTW guarantee quality?

We have a multi-faceted approach to building quality into everything we do, through our culture as a learning organisation, independent evaluation of our processes and service delivery, independent inspections and a high level governance infrastructure covering clinical care and camp operations. This focus on quality has resulted in us repeatedly receiving an 'Excellent' rating from the Care Inspectorate (Scotland) and an 'Outstanding' grading from Ofsted (England) for the past three years.

