

Your Marie Curie



"You're protecting people's dignity at the end of their lives, whatever the illness."

Liz, Marie Curie Nurse

What's inside:

Being Mum's son again

Pete's story

Making time for joy

From movie nights to G&Ts

Summer 2025

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A heartfelt thank you

It's hard to put into words how much your support means to people at the end of their lives. Every day, whole families feel it – in the quiet moments, the gentle touches and the relief when someone is there to help.

These might seem like small things, but they matter so much to people like 97-year-old Joyce and her son, Pete, who shares his story on page four. Read on for plenty more about what your support is making possible, like the *Fix End of Life Care* campaign that's delivering real change.

Together, we're making end of life care better for more people, every day.

Sarah

Dr Sarah Holmes
Chief Medical Officer





Fundraising stars

John running the London Landmarks Half Marathon



From bucket collections to big races, supporters around the country are doing everything they can to help people at the end of life.

In Lincolnshire, **Jacquie Jordan** took part in her first ever collection this year at Morrisons in Gainsborough and had a very personal reason for taking part. Jacquie is living with terminal cancer, and said: “It would be lovely to be able to give back now before I need end of life care myself. The people are friendly, I’ve had a lovely time, and it’s been brilliant.”

Meanwhile, in Edinburgh, **Stephanie Wint** celebrated her 34th year of collecting – always

in fancy dress! We can’t wait to see what she wears next.

And in London, **John Owens** raised an incredible £6,500 running the London Landmarks Half Marathon in memory of his sister-in-law Lisa and father Paddy, both cared for by Marie Curie. “This was my way to say thank you,” said John.



Stephanie in her wonderful fancy dress



Pete and Joyce

Being Mum's son again



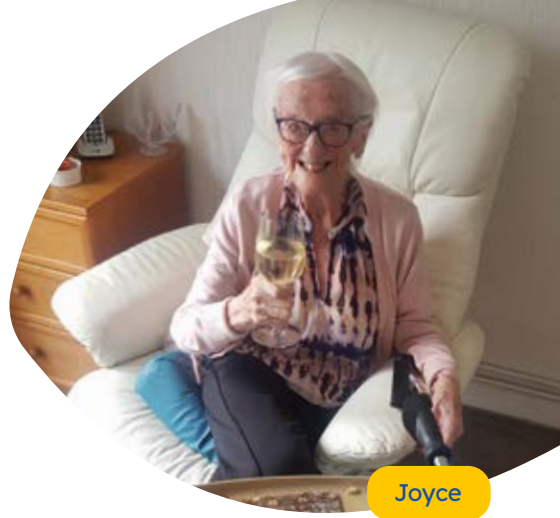
Your support brought huge relief to Pete when caring for his 97-year-old mum, Joyce, in her final days. Here, he shares their story.

“I gave up my job to care for Mum. She’d spent months in

and out of hospital, and all she wanted was to be at home. But the care package put in place just wasn’t working. I felt like I had no choice but to do it all myself.

“The tiredness just took over.

That and the isolation. I lost weight, I was stressed and cranky, and I barely left the house. Mum would get upset if I left her alone even for a short spell, like a run to the shops. That feeling of being on your own was just terrifying. It's something no one should go through.



“When we had the initial contact from Marie Curie, it’s difficult to describe the relief. Two nurses, Liz and Claire, were able to take turns handling Mum’s overnight care, so I could finally get some rest.

“Mum knew she wanted to be at home at the end, and Liz and Claire made it happen. Every last detail was covered, they soothed Mum’s pain, and I felt like I could finally be her son again, not just her carer.

“The relief that there’s somebody there that you can talk to is wonderful.”

Pete, Joyce’s son

“Your support helped Mum have things exactly how she wanted them in the end. That’s what means the most.”

Your generosity meant Pete could be there for his mum – not as a carer, but as a son.

Thank you for helping families be present, together, right to the end.



You're driving real change

Our *Fix End of Life Care* campaign is making waves. And it's all because of determined supporters like you.

An incredible **53,525** people signed our petition for better care last year, and thousands of you contacted your MPs and shared your own experiences. Those in power are starting to listen – but the fight isn't over.

Right now, too many people are spending their final days in hospital corridors, ambulances or A&E – because there simply isn't enough care available at home or in the community. That's why we've been campaigning to make sure end of life care is a priority

"My father was told he needed end of life care. Days later it was withdrawn due to funding. After three weeks he died in excruciating pain."

Christine, Marie Curie campaign supporter



in NHS England's 10-year plan, and that it's properly funded in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Our work is being recognised. The UK Government has now admitted that end of life care isn't good enough and that change is needed. Now we're campaigning hard to make that happen in all four nations of the UK.

Every signature, every voice, every time we spread the word – together, we're making a difference.

To find out how you can get involved, visit **mariecurie.org.uk/campaigns**

Garden goals, sorted



With plenty of warm summer days still ahead, now's the perfect time to turn your garden into a peaceful retreat. Whether it's planting wildflowers, hanging a feeder for visiting birds, or pulling on a new pair of gloves to tend your flowerbeds, a little care goes a long way.

At the Marie Curie Shop, you'll find everything you need to

bring your garden to life. Things like seed kits and pots, beautiful decorations, and plenty more for indoors too. With every purchase, you'll help more people get expert end of life care.

Browse the full range today
at mariecurie.org.uk/shop

10% off
your next order

by using the
code **YMCS25**
at checkout.





Healthcare
Assistant Viki

Making time for joy

For Marie Curie Healthcare Assistant Viki, the everyday moments often matter the most. “I love it when we’re able to help people create nice memories,” she says. “Sometimes people are so sick of tea and coffee,

and when you suggest a glass of wine or a gin and tonic – their faces light up! It brings back a bit of normality.

“It’s great, too, when we can create parties for people’s birthdays, or if people have

got young children, movie nights and things like that. When you work in other healthcare settings, you're just not able to create those moments due to staffing, timing, resources. As stretched as we are, we can give that time to people here. That's the most rewarding bit."

At the Marie Curie Hospice, West Midlands, Occupational Therapist Lisa agrees that making time for joy matters. She said: "I once cared for a man who desperately wanted to play golf again before he died but didn't have the strength to make it round the course. When we chatted it through, we realised the actual golf didn't matter – it was being in the bar afterwards with his chums. So we got the golf club to fit a stair rail, to help make it happen."

Let's keep coming together to help loved ones make the most of every moment.



Occupational
Therapist Lisa

Your kindness makes moments of care possible. **Thank you for helping create lasting memories for loved ones to cherish.**



You're bringing peace into homes

Supported by you, our Enhanced Hospice Care at Home team brings clinical, practical and emotional support to people in the comfort of their own homes. Edwina, a nurse in the team, knows the peace this can bring.

“When I arrive at a patient’s house, I can often see the family is very anxious – especially if their loved one is in pain. But I soon feel the relief, when they see we know what to do and it gives them that reassurance.

“My goal is always to help patients feel at peace, and make sure their care reflects who they are. If someone loves being in the garden, we might move their bed out there! Small things like this can really help people feel like themselves.

“When we give pain relief, we always try to time it so patients can be present with the people

they love. And we’re there for families too – sometimes even a cup of tea or a chat helps them feel more relaxed.

“Thanks to your support, people can stay in their own homes, with the right care – and have the calm, dignified ending they deserve. It’s exactly what I believe a good death should look like.”



Nurse Edwina

A hero's final act of kindness

Les Jackson died in January 2024 at the age of 98, but his kindness lives on. A former RAF Pathfinder and rear gunner during World War II, Les lived a full, adventurous life. He was fiercely generous too, including a gift of over £24,000 to Marie Curie in his Will, because of his respect for Marie Curie Nurses and belief in the importance of end of life care.

Described by his family as stoic and principled, Les's gift will now carry forward that same quiet strength – helping others through their most



Les's family with his incredible gift

vulnerable moments with dignity and compassion.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like Les, Marie Curie Nurses will be there for people across the UK for many years to come.

Gifts in Wills fund more than a third of Marie Curie's voluntary income. To find out more, including how to access our free Will-writing service, visit mariecurie.org.uk/YourWillTalk



Time to unwind

Take a moment to yourself – grab a cuppa, relax, and see how many words you can spot below.

B	E	A	E	N	I	E	N	E	D	U	B	M	E
F	L	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S	S	U	L	E
I	O	O	A	I	D	C	E	I	R	T	T	P	D
O	C	R	O	I	R	I	I	O	O	I	T	E	E
E	E	S	E	M	W	G	G	S	E	E	E	A	E
S	I	O	B	L	L	D	I	N	P	S	R	C	P
S	L	B	S	E	A	S	E	B	I	E	F	E	L
T	L	B	M	E	E	F	I	L	E	T	L	E	B
D	A	V	R	Q	Y	E	I	I	R	B	Y	O	E
C	T	E	I	B	I	R	D	L	E	I	O	P	L
H	D	U	O	R	W	G	A	R	D	E	N	Y	E
B	C	T	W	I	L	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	I
D	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	I	C	I	P	N
E	C	A	S	U	S	S	I	C	R	A	N	Y	O

Narcissus
Wildflower
Bloom
Sunshine
Garden
Bird
Bee
Butterfly
Peace
Memories
Dignity



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
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**Marie
Curie**