

A round up of some of the wonderful fundraising going on for our charity

*A warm thank you to all our fundraisers and donors
- large and small - for your continuing support.*

Pedal for Scotland



My Pedal for Scotland challenge really began in September 2018 when a friend of mine had just completed one of the London to Paris cycle events on behalf of her charity, Bloodwise. I remember thinking at the time what an amazing thing to have achieved.

Around that time I also received an email from our TCF chair Maria Ahern. Maria wrote "I am hoping that we can use the 50th anniversary to raise awareness of TCF and hold events all over the UK. I hope that you will help me make it an amazing year for TCF."

I thought of several events we could hold in Scotland but my thoughts always seem to return to the amazing cycle challenge my friend had done. However I knew I had to be realistic about what was involved and what I could personally achieve. I then came across a news article for the annual Pedal for Scotland cycling event (Glasgow to Edinburgh) taking place on the 8th September 2019 and thought - could I do this? This could be my contribution for the TCF 50th anniversary.

My youngest son Hugh, who himself is a keen cyclist, suggested joining me on the challenge so that was that - we had a Pedal for Purpose - we both were going to take part in the Pedal for Scotland cycle challenge to highlight the amazing contribution TCF makes in supporting

bereaved families and also to raise much needed funds.

In July I set up a donation page on the Just Giving website - our initial target was for £500 with the intention of 50% going to TCF nationally to support TCF members across the UK and 50% towards our Scottish Gathering to help with financial assistance and bursaries. However, what happened next took us completely by surprise within two days of our Just Giving page going live we broke through the £500 target - the generosity, kind words and moral support from everyone was amazing.

On the morning of the event the sun was shining with over 7000 cyclists taking part. All of the cyclists had a Purpose to Pedal and my son and I knew why we were doing this. The end result was astonishing - we had successfully raised awareness of The Compassionate Friends and over £1800 in donations!

There is however no doubt in my mind that the huge moral support, the unbelievable generous donations and lovely, kind words from everyone became a major part of our driving force to succeed. It was an absolute privilege to be doing this in memory of all our beautiful children and loved ones.

by Hugh McAninch

