

James's Story



I was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome which means the left part of my heart wasn't properly formed. I had three lots of open heart surgery in the first three years of my life. Because of my condition I struggle sometimes - I also have epilepsy - but this hasn't stopped me wanting to fundraise.

I've spent lots of time in hospital and friends and family have seen how brilliant the Evelina and ECHO have been, giving me and my family lots of support. The charity has always there at the end of the phone or email, and I wanted to be able to give something back.

I love being able to take part in fundraising events. We've held cake sales and done lots of running - my mum and brother Will have completed a sponsored 5km run and my Uncle Rob did a 10km race too. All my siblings and cousins ran a 1km race with me as well!

But recently we did something really mega, climbing up and over the roof of the O2 in London - attached to a rope of course! It was really hard as I get short of breath, but it was a fantastic feeling. Team Hook raised over £2,000 for ECHO.

The care that the Evelina and ECHO give to children with heart conditions is amazing and the hospital saved my life on more than one occasion. Fundraising with ECHO Teens is just one way I can say thank you for all they've done for me and my family.

With the NHS struggling so much, charities have to step in and provide more and more these days and that's why I wanted to support ECHO by fundraising. It's a great way to get involved, be part of a team, and have lots of fun.