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Dear Friend

I'm Sam Bennett and I work with the nursing team here at St Barnabas. I'm privileged to work with a group of nurses and volunteers who, every day, make a difference to the lives of local people. But, we just happen to be part of a much bigger team – that includes you. Your very generous donations make St Barnabas' care possible.

Thank you – because your support has changed the experience of life-limited patients at the most vulnerable time in their lives – and will continue to do so for years to come.

I'm writing to you today to ask whether I might be able to call upon your generosity once more – to enable us to lift the quality of care and experience for our patients even further. With your help, we'd like to buy some more specialist equipment that will make it possible for patients to leave their (very comfy) bed – and have a bath.

I know, having a bath doesn't sound like a particularly big deal. But, it's the thing that many, many patients tell me they miss the most. Because you see, just because you're dying doesn't mean you can't have new, fulfilling, pleasurable experiences.



Sam Bennett,
Head of In-patient Services

We want to be able to offer a soothing bath to everyone who comes into the hospice for care, if they would like. Baths are also much appreciated by the large group of patients our nurses look after in the community and our Day Hospice. Many of them come into the hospice especially to enjoy a bath, something they cannot easily do at home.

And, if you consider your own personal experience, I'm sure you'll see why. If you think back to the last time you had a bath – you know, a proper one where the lighting was just right – bubbles up to the brim and lots of time to just sit back and soak in water that was the perfect temperature – you'll know how brilliant that feels (I love a bath at home – especially after a long shift here!).



President: Henry, Earl of Arundel **Patrons:** The Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pypier, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Lady Cable-Alexander SRN, Sir Patrick Cable-Alexander Bt, Nick Gibb MP, Ambrose Harcourt, Nick Herbert MP, Timothy Loughton MP, Rt Rev Mark Sowerby (Bishop of Horsham), Major Tom Wye, MBE, DL.
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Well, for many of the people we care for, a bath at home simply isn't possible – and often hasn't been for years. Conditions like cancer, motor neurone disease and other life-limiting illnesses mean getting in and out of a bath is either completely impossible – or so uncomfortable and painful it's not worth bothering with.

Now, at St Barnabas, we've understood for years how precious bathing is to many people. We have five dedicated bathrooms here that have amazing, specialist baths. They go up and down, have precise temperature controls and incredible jacuzzi options that means we can give people probably the best bath they've ever had. We can adapt the settings to every patient's precise needs – and we can change the lighting to suit their mood – and maybe put on their favourite music. We've even been known to find a glass of champagne on request too!

If you've had to go without for years, having a bath again can be a wonderful and emotional experience. So many family members tell us that the highlight of their loved one's stay with us was the time they had a bath.

Our problem is that, even with all our knowledge and experience, there are still some people we struggle to get in and out of these amazing baths. Patients who are just too frail or in too much discomfort to use our existing hoists or chairs. But now, there's new equipment on the market that will make it possible for us to offer a perfect bath experience to almost every patient who comes here. And these are the items I'm hoping you'll be able to help me to buy today.

There's a leaflet with this letter showing the items we need (illustrated by 'George', our helpful example patient). The specialist 'roll and move' sheet George needs costs **£111**. The new sling, exactly right to take pressure off his skin as we move him, will cost **£238** – fitted to a new hoist that will cost **£2,700**. And finally, the padded bath chair that will keep George comfortable in the right position while he relaxes in his bath will cost **£5,572**.

I'm not asking you to pay for a whole item by yourself. In the past, people have been kind enough to club together to buy an item between them – I'm hoping you might feel able to help in this way today. For example, you could be **one of three people giving £37.00** to buy a specialist sheet. Or, you could be **one of 100 people giving £55.72** to enable us to buy one of the amazing bath chairs our patients will need. Please just choose an amount that feels right for you and let us know on the enclosed response form.

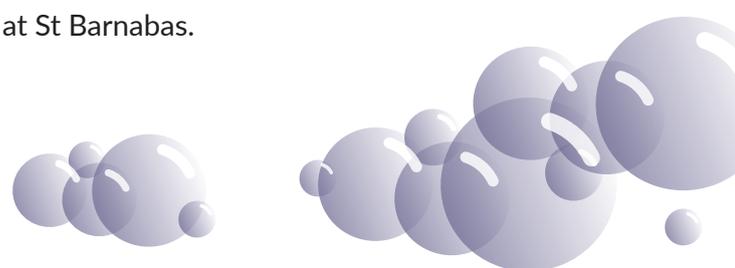
These are the items we need to allow us to take people from their bed and into the bath with dignity – and with as little discomfort as possible. I've seen the pleasure on so many faces of people as they've been lowered into the warm water for the first time in ages. Their expressions turn to surprise and joy – and, with your help, I hope to see many more such expressions this year.

Thank you so much again for the kind support you have shown our patients in the past. And thank you in advance for what you feel able to contribute again today.

With all best wishes from the whole nursing team here at St Barnabas.



Sam Bennett
Head of In-patient Services



P.S. The next time you have a bath yourself, take some time to concentrate on that moment when you slip into the warm water and you feel your whole body relax. That's the feeling you could give to life-limited people in your community with your gift. Enjoy your bath!