



## The Lewis Foundation

Charity No. 1166405

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The Lewis Foundation was set up by Lorraine and Lee Lewis who spent 4 years in and out of Talbot Butler Ward at Northampton General Hospital, when Lee's mum was receiving treatment for cancer. They noticed how sad and bored patients looked on the wards and in the private rooms when they were on their own without family and friends being present. A patient spends a lot of time alone. They

talked about what they could do to make a patient have something to look forward to. This is so that they can take their mind off endless treatments and thinking about their cancer.

From their own personal experiences they know that for the patient and their family it is a difficult time - financially, emotionally and physically. That is why they wanted to assist in some way to relieve that.

The first project was paying for televisions for the private rooms on Talbot Butler Ward in Northampton General Hospital so people did not have to pay £10 a day or £35 a week to watch TV.

During 2014 - 2015, Lorraine completed Tough Mudder and Rat Race - Dirty Weekend ( 20 miles, 200 obstacles). The money raised provided 11 TV and DVD players, which are still being used on Talbot Butler Ward.

Every Friday night they visit Talbot Butler Ward in Northampton General Hospital. They hand out gift packs with their volunteer team, Laura, Keith and Jo. The patients on the ward can pick from a list of 27 gift packs free of charge, to either keep them occupied or provide an essential item they may need.

The gifts range from portable radios, Model Craft kits, Books, puzzles pamper packs and many more. Whilst those items may not a face value seem important when you are on the ward they become important. The gift they use as an ice breaker to get people talking and then spend time with them to reduce loneliness.

They also provide packs to day patients receiving treatment at Haematology and Oncology departments in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes.

In addition, on request they provide home donations of their gift bags. They now supply 600 free gift packs a month.