

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The Committee  
Worth Matravers Village Hall  
Pikes Lane  
Worth Matravers  
Swanage

Dear Jack, Yvonne, The Committee and the Entire Village of Worth Matravers

On behalf of the Young Carers, I just wanted to say a MASSIVE thank you to you ALL for all your hard work and the AMAZING donation of £2,045 raised at your recent Plant and Bric-A-Brace sale. It was great to meet some of you and to be able to help, a little, at the event. We are truly grateful for your support and I look forward to inviting you all to see our centre once the summer activities are complete.

I just thought I would also take the opportunity to share a bit of information about Young Carers to show how your kind support will help us to support these young super heroes.

*Sadie is twelve years old. Her mum is sick, her dad's not around, and it's Sadie's job to look after her mum and little brother. At home, she does almost all the housework. At school, she's usually too tired and stressed to concentrate, and she's falling behind. She's often picked on because the other children notice that there's something different about Sadie, and there's no one to turn to for help. Nobody knows that Sadie's a young carer. She's doesn't even realise it herself.*

A young carer is a child, just like any other. The only difference is that young carers are responsible for the care of at least one member of their family, though they may be as young as 5 years old themselves. These children work incredibly hard to take care of their loved ones, yet they represent a largely forgotten community, and often face enormous disadvantage as a result. At MYTIME, it is our mission to level the playing field for young carers and young adult carers by providing them with the support, opportunities and friendship that every child needs and deserves. The children and young adults we help range from 5-25, and we exist to champion and empower them to reach their full personal, academic and professional potential. We work towards these goals through the following programmes:

- **Our Memory-Making and R&R Retreat Programmes.** Through these programmes we provide fun and enriching activity days, weekend retreats and online youth group sessions for young carers. These events allow young carers to take much-needed breaks from their caring responsibilities and, most importantly of all, to meet other young carers. The young carers we work with tell us that their caring roles can often cause them to feel lonely, but the truth is that young carers belong to an enormous community - they just don't always realise it. Our Memory-Making and R&R Retreat programmes aim to create vital opportunities for young carers to build support networks and form friendships that can last a lifetime. £100 pays for 1 child to take part in a Memory-Making Day, £150 pays for 1 child to take part in a weekend retreat and £1050 pays for 1 week of online youth group sessions for 90 young carers to enjoy.
- **Our School Support Programme.** School can be challenging for any child, but particularly for young carers. Because of their duties at home, young carers may find it difficult to complete homework, get to school on time or attend regularly. If they're worried about a relative, they may struggle to concentrate in class and may need to contact home at frequent intervals throughout the day. It's important that school staff are aware of a young carer's circumstances so that they can support them to overcome these obstacles. Our School Support Programme exists to raise awareness of young carers within their school communities, to help schools identify and more effectively support young carers and, ultimately, to ensure that young carers have everything they need to be happy and successful in their education. £2,500 pays for a school to take part in our School Support Programme for an entire year.



YOUNG CARERS

- **Our Employability Programme.** This programme is designed to support young carers and young adult carers of ages 16-25 into further education, training or employment. Some young carers may find it difficult to access further education or employment if their caring responsibilities take up much of their time, or if they've left school without many qualifications. At MYTIME, we work with young carers such as these to help them identify and access a job or further education course, which both interests them and fits around their caring role. £4,500 pays for 1 8-week Employability Programme for 12 young carers.

The work we do for the young carers of Dorset is of enormous importance, but we cannot do it without the generosity of our community. We therefore can't thank you enough for supporting MYTIME Young Carers and helping us in our quest to Level the Playing Field for these youngsters.

Thanks millions.

**Maria Tidy**

Community Engagement Manager

MYTIME Young Carers

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