

Liam and Callum Fairhurst



Stricken with cancer, with a synovial sarcoma of the left thigh, at age ten, affecting his left leg and his lungs, Liam Fairhurst (left) had no time for self-pity. Instead, during his four-year treatment, he managed to raise more than £320,000 for the children's cancer charity, CLIC Sargent.

Liam had been inspired by a fellow patient, Jack Wilkinson, who died from cancer, as he “wanted to do something lasting in his memory as Jack was such an amazing, kind kid.”

Shortly after an operation on his leg, Liam's first fundraising event was to swim a mile. His bravery and determination won him the attention and admiration of the national press.

In 2007 he appeared on ITV's Fortune: Million Pound Giveaway show, pitching for £50,741.10 to pay for a fully-equipped holiday caravan in Yorkshire.

He was awarded the money, sufficient to allow 30 families every year to have a free holiday, and to help them forget the pressures and stresses that childhood cancer creates within a family.

In the same year, Liam received a Diana Award which celebrates the courage, commitment, compassion and selfless acts of young people aged 12 to 18.

Almost a year after his older brother's death in 2009, Callum Fairhurst, 13, has also received his own Diana Award in recognition of his tireless fundraising efforts, undertaken to keep the memory of his elder brother alive, and to continue the work that was started by him. It was his way of dealing with the stress and the loss of Liam.

So far, Callum has raised more than £10,000 for the children's cancer charity, and a cycle ride - The Twycle ride - from John O'Groats to Land's End, would augment the sum.

For his efforts, he was given the Junior ‘Young People of the Year’ award in Britain in 2011.

Both Liam and Callum are to be commended for “selflessly supporting others and making their communities better places in which to live. They are an inspiration to all.”