



Independently Mobile

"We are extremely grateful to the Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Association for the donation of £5,000 made towards the cost of our son James' new wheelchair. James suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a rare muscle-wasting condition. Typically, sufferers become totally wheelchair dependant by the time they are teenagers and experience progressive difficulty in sitting up straight.

A good wheelchair is vital to prolong James' ability to sit up and assist him to digest and breathe correctly. It is essential to have the proper support for his posture in addition to helping him in his daily stand, one of the best exercises he can do. Crazy though it sounds, the human body is not designed to sit down all the time - gravity is very beneficial in helping with digestion and keeping the back straight. The latter is important as, while muscles are weakening, the support for the spine is also weakening and it is common for sufferers to have surgery to fuse the vertebrae. The longer the operation is postponed the better, as research into alternative treatments is happening all the time.

James' chair also requires height adjustment to enable him to have better access to his different working environments, e.g. his desk in the classroom and his science bench in the school laboratory.

Needless to say, the desired chair was not available on the NHS and the Government only agreed to donate £1,500 towards the £15,000 cost. A staggering donation of £5,000 (one-third of the cost) from the Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Association was instrumental in helping us to give James the wheelchair he deserves.

Thank-you so much to all at CABA in making our family's life that much better and for supporting James in his efforts to live life as independently as he can."

Duncan Gardner FCA