

Camp Simcha | Compassionate support for families

SUMMARY

Camp Simcha is a lifeline for Jewish families facing serious childhood illness, providing culturally sensitive, whole-family support bringing stability and hope during their most difficult times.

When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, family life is abruptly transformed. Hospital stays, intensive treatment and uncertainty disrupt routines and place significant emotional, practical and financial strain on parents and siblings. Within the UK Jewish community, families often require tailored support that understands both medical realities and cultural and religious needs.

Without specialist support, the burden of serious childhood illness can become overwhelming for the entire family.

OVERVIEW

Camp Simcha works nationally to provide practical help, emotional and therapeutic support, and moments of joy that bring relief into family life. Through professional social workers, family liaison staff, respite care, hospital transport, peer support groups and residential retreats, the charity supports the whole family so that no one faces serious childhood illness alone.

Programmes include crisis response, in-home and hospital support, sibling mentoring, condition-specific Communities of Support, parent groups and inclusive summer schemes.

OUTCOME

For families in crisis, Camp Simcha provides immediate reassurance and sustained support. Parents report feeling less isolated and better able to cope with the pressures of treatment and uncertainty. Siblings feel seen and supported, rather than overlooked, during a time when family focus is understandably elsewhere.

By combining practical help with therapeutic and peer support, Camp Simcha enables families to regain a sense of stability and connection. At moments when life feels fragile and overwhelming, the charity helps restore confidence, resilience and hope.

Sustainable development goals:



IMPACT

Over the past year, Camp Simcha has:

- Supported 1,640 family members from 283 Jewish families, including 110 new referrals, while helping 96 families transition out of active support.
- Delivered over 14,000 hours of family liaison and social work, 3,500 hours of respite care and 1,880 therapeutic sessions.
- Provided 3,821 crisis meals and 4,574 hospital transport journeys.
- Mobilised 126,000+ volunteer hours and reached 13,500 children of all faiths through hospital outreach and inclusive summer schemes.
- Supported 850+ siblings, expanded parent peer groups, assisted 18 families facing severe mental health challenges, and strengthened seven condition-specific Communities of Support.



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