



Liam Fairhurst: Liamsmile

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WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO FUNDRAISE?

Liam was inspired to fundraise for CLIC Sargent after experiencing first-hand the work that the charity does in supporting children and young people suffering from cancer.

Liam underwent a gruelling operation and treatment for a tumour in his leg in 2005. In December 2006, to celebrate a year since the end of his treatment, and in memory of his friend Jack Wilkinson who he had met in hospital, Liam decided to swim one mile at his local pool.

WHAT DID YOU CHOOSE TO DO AND WHY?

Liam chose swimming as his activity because the operation had left him with only 50% of his thigh muscle remaining and he was finding it difficult to walk.

WHAT WAS INVOLVED AND DID YOU GET MUCH HELP FROM THE ORGANISATION/PEOPLE YOU WERE SUPPORTING?

Liamsmile was supported strongly by CLIC Sargent, who were involved at every stage of the event.

Through this event, and Liam's subsequent fundraising, the CLIC Sargent co-ordinator Karen Roberts is now regarded as one of the family!

HOW MANY PEOPLE ON YOUR VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING TEAM AND HOW DID YOU GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER?

With the help of friends, family, the local radio station Star107 and the charity, Liam quickly built up a large team of supporters.

The swim was also sponsored by Next Generation, who provided the venue for the event, and by a local car dealer, who supplied the family with a car so that Liam could attend training sessions for his swim.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE, INCLUDING EVERYONE'S TIME?

It took around six months to organise the event in total.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE ASKING FOR DONATIONS, ANY TOP TIPS?

Liam and his dad Mark set up an online donations page with justgiving, and were surprised at how effective it was. Star 107 also promoted the justgiving page as a way for their listeners to donate.

In 2007, following the succes of liamsmile, the Fairhursts' local newspaper, the Ely Standard, were also inspired to set up their own collections fund to enable their readers to give donations.

WHAT WAS YOUR TARGET?

£1,000

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WANTING TO DO THE SAME THING?

Work closely with your charity.

Don't forget to thank everybody who helps you.
Don't be shy in approaching your local media for help.

Liam Fairhurst passed away on 30 June 2009.

Donations in his memory can be made by visiting www.liamfairhurst.com or clicking [here](#)

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