

Tuesday O'Hara Fund

Helping Young Adults With Cancer & Leukaemia

○ **The Inspiration**

The Tuesday O'Hara Fund was set up in memory of a young girl called Tuesday who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in June 2003, aged 18. After long stays in hospital and numerous amounts of chemotherapy Tuesday lost her 4 year battle on 27 January 2007. Tuesday's friends and family decided to continue her fight by raising money to help others who suffer this illness

○ **About Tuesday**

Tuesday loved to spend time with family and friends going on outings, shopping and theatre trips. These were a distraction from her illness. Tuesday just wanted to be treated normally. She had the great knack of making people laugh and was always smiling. This is one of the things that her family and friends miss most.

She will be remembered for being a bit mad, fun-loving and her insistence to wearing odd socks! On one occasion Tuesday chose to go abseiling for charity rather than go to hospital and receive a blood transfusion. True to her crazy nature, when she received a new Rottweiler puppy she named it "Chemo" after her treatment programme.

Raising Awareness



Most people would say "It's only Leukaemia, that's curable". Speak to a family who has lost a Child, Teenager or Young Adult to Leukaemia and they will tell you otherwise. Leukaemia is an aggressive Cancer requiring aggressive treatment.

- *Leukaemia is the biggest killer of children, teenagers & young adults in the UK*
- *The majority of young people get just one week in every six to spend at home before having to embark on their next course of treatment*

Why Choose This Charity?

- There are numerous charities that raise funds to help find a cure but very few that help the young person live a normal life!
- The average course of chemotherapy has a 5 – 6 week cycle. During this time the youngsters must stay in hospital not only to receive treatment but because the drugs wipe out their immune system. If someone even coughs near them they could get a severe infection and die
- Imagine being an 18 year old and having the possibility of death hanging over your head. This is devastating enough but then:
 - *You are being kept in a ward full of elderly patients*
 - *Your friends cannot visit in case they infect you*
 - *You have no access to the internet or your favourite TV channels*
 - *You have no home comforts. Even some of your family can't visit you.*
 - *Your clothes are too big or too small due to medication causing major weight fluctuations*
 - *You are dealing with severe sickness, bleeding gums, hair loss, major infections and a medicine input tube hanging from an artery near your heart.*

It is enough to make the strongest person want to give up but with our help we can give these young people a bit of normality, make them feel like the young and vibrant people they were instead of the pensioner they are sharing living space with. We can help make them smile and carry on their fight!



Tuesday O'Hara 26.04.85 ~ 24.01.2007

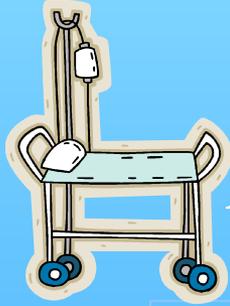
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**Sick To Death By Tuesday O'Hara**

You never really know if people understand  
All they offer is a friendly hand  
Do they actually want to listen to what you've got to say?  
You don't actually know but tell them anyway.  
Being ill is such a lonely place you have death staring you in the face.  
Your so scared of dying that you find yourself just sitting crying.  
Sometimes the pain hurts so much you cant even bare to be touched,  
You just want to be left alone, but then again you don't.  
All you have left to do is hold your head high & have a smile on your face.  
Carry on walking with through life pace by pace....

# Charity Objectives

- The relief of sickness and preservation of health of young adults aged between eighteen and thirty years, suffering from Leukaemia/Cancer within the geographical area of East and West Sussex. In particular but not exclusively by the provisions of financial assistance and the provision of equipment/items for Eastbourne District General Hospital Pevensey Ward, not normally provided by statutory authorities
- Part of the charity's aim is to raise funds which will enable cancer sufferers under financial hardship and their families in any way they can. For example:
  - *Providing wigs*
  - *Clothing vouchers*
  - *Games Consoles and laptops to help pass the long hours in hospital*
  - *Holidays*



# *Pevensey Ward Objective*

- The Pevensey ward provides day and in-patient services for people undergoing chemotherapy for cancer and related illnesses. The conditions treated include Leukaemia Lymphoma and other blood diseases with patients coming from the whole of the county. The pressure on the services in the unit has grown and it is now bursting at the seams, there are desperate requirements for expansion of facilities, replacement of equipment and more chemotherapy trained nurses
- There are many complications from chemotherapy such as life threatening bugs since the treatment lowers the body's ability to fight of common viruses. People undergoing chemotherapy badly need side rooms to protect them and provide an environment for recreating and meeting visitors
- Another specific need on the Pevensey Ward is dedicated facilities for young people and adolescents as they not only battle a horrific disease but try and cope with the problems that everyday life throws at you during your teens. It is vital that youngster's time on the ward should be as comfortable as possible and the environment should be homely
- Young adults facing a possibly life-threatening illness benefit a lot from being surrounded by their peers rather than children or older people. They badly need ward facilities where they can chill out, surf the net, watch satellite TV, relax and spend time with friends and family as they might normally. A 'home away from home' feel is vital
- Above all they need resources that allow then to build friendships with other patients of the same age so they can create bonds to help each other.