



Balloons

Supporting bereaved children and young people in Exeter, East and Mid Devon



20 years of making a difference

Clare's story...



"I am incredibly proud of the work the charity has done, and continues to do."

In 2004 I was working on an oncology ward in Exeter. A young mother was very sadly dying, I tried but failed to identify any bereavement support locally for her two young daughters.

At the same time, Jill Rose was single-handedly delivering bereavement training for school nurses to support bereaved children. Like me, she was acutely aware of how little support existed in Devon.

After I reached out to Jill, she invited me to attend her course. As a direct result, I was able to make many small child-centred changes to the oncology ward. However these changes only benefited children of parents/relatives who were diagnosed with cancer. It did not reach those children who had suffered a bereavement for other reasons.

Jill and I decided to join forces to develop an all-inclusive service based in Exeter. We were soon joined by like-minded professionals from various walks of life such as child protection, the legal system, social work and education. All passionate about making a difference.

It took over a year to set the service up, and one of the families from the oncology ward gave us our first £100. Awards of small grants soon followed and by 2006, we became a registered charity and Balloons was on it's way to becoming the well known and valued charity that it is today.

Please remember that we are here for you or someone you know who needs support.

Get in touch on support@balloonscharity.co.uk

Balloons (Devon) | Registered Charity Number: 1158666