



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

LIFELITES CHARITY DONATES SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY WORTH £50 000,
FUNDED BY THE PROVINCE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT,
TO NAOMI HOUSE AND JACK'S PLACE.



Mike Wilks with Simone Enefer-Doy

The Provincial Grand Master, his wife Kay and other members of the Province attended Naomi House to witness the formal handover of a variety of assistive technology, specially developed for children with disabilities.

Over £50,000 was raised across the Province to fully fund the equipment for its 4-year lifespan, which includes ongoing specialist training for staff.

In the latest package, one of the pieces of equipment is an Eyegaze. This allows those with limited mobility to control a computer using just their eyes.

By using the Eyegaze, children who can only use their eyes and struggle to control anything for themselves, are suddenly able to play a game, paint a picture or even communicate with their family and carers, perhaps for the first time.

Other items include iPads, touchscreen computers along with lots of games and other software specially designed to be accessible for children with disabilities.

Claire Floyd, Play Specialist at Naomi House & Jacksplace told us about the impact that the VR equipment has had, "Daniel, one of our young people, used to play on the Xbox all the time, but due to his condition he's no longer able to hold the controller. It's been a couple of years since he's been on the Xbox but VR has opened back up gaming to him, and he absolutely loves it. He's very quiet and it helps him socialise with our other young people. It brings them together and they're able to meet other people who have the same problems they do, but they can just forget about that and be young people playing games."

Mike Wilks said, “My wife Kay and I have seen the incredible difference which Lifelites technology has made to the lives of children in hospices – the ability for these children to make things happen for themselves, to communicate perhaps for the first time, is priceless. Freemasons across the Province have supported Naomi House and Jack’s Place over the years; and are proud to cover the cost of the new Lifelites package at the Hospice”.

Simone Enefer-Doy, Chief Executive of Lifelites said, “We are thrilled to be able to provide equipment for the children and young people at Naomi House & Jacksplace who have life-limiting, life-threatening and disabling conditions, all thanks to the incredible generosity of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The magical technology we will donate can be used to play, to be creative and communicate, and enrich the lives of these children and their families, for as long as it is possible.”

Lifelites has donated equipment to every children’s hospice in the British Isles over the last 17 years, and continues to provide new technology and ongoing support to ensure that children in hospices have unlimited possibilities. Lifelites was able to donate the equipment due to the incredible generosity of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



Huw Bromage, Activities Team Leader from Naomi House, demonstrates a specially adapted iPad

