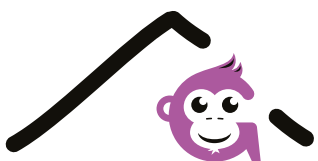




The Gympanzees Centre



PROJECT
HOME

#MakeItHappen
#APlaceToBeMe
#UnderOneRoof

 **Gympanzees**[®]
a world of fun & fitness
for all disabled children



We need your help
to open the UK's first,
fully inclusive play and
exercise centre for
children and young
people with disabilities
and their families

Hi everyone,

I am Stephanie Wheen, founder, and CEO of Gympanzees, a multi award winning charity, providing play and exercise for disabled children and their families, and have been a practicing physiotherapist by trade - specialising in working with children with disabilities. I started Gympanzees in response to the massive lack of options for exercise in the community for my clients. I am thrilled to be able to share with you that we have now found and purchased a building and secured £3.3m to purchase the site, including over £200,000 worth of pro bono support. I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported Gympanzees over the last 7 years.

Our work has only just begun, in September 2023 we will be launching the next phase of our campaign to raise a minimum of £10.8million to create a fit for purpose facility and open to our families by 2026. I still can't believe we have found somewhere that suits the needs of our families so perfectly. It just couldn't be better! The building is 43,000sqft on a 14acre site, with 500 parking spaces and 7 acres of green land, including a woodland. The incredible location and access off the motorways means we can serve an even wider community and we look forward to welcoming over 200,000 visitors a year from South Gloucestershire, Bristol, North Somerset, South Wales and the surrounding counties.

This property will also allow us to work collaboratively with other charities, councils, universities, businesses, schools, local clubs allow us to explore commercial opportunities and commercial opportunities. This space will be the first of its kind in the UK and be available and accessible all year round. It will be a hub for our families to have an amazing time with their whole family while feeling supported and listened to and feel less isolated. Crucially it will also offer endless opportunities to improve health and wellbeing for both children and their families, all in a safe and welcoming environment.

Gympanzees will be extraordinary and make life more fair for so many. But this has to be a joint effort. Our families need the South West to join in to make it happen. There are many ways you can get involved, support us both financially and non-financially through volunteering, participating in our events, offering gifts in kind, or simply by spreading the word about our organisation and the fundraising campaign. If your questions have not been answered in this brochure, we are on hand to talk to you about this incredible opportunity to be part of something truly amazing. We know this is ambitious but I have no doubt we will get there - there is just no other option!

Thank you

Stephanie



**“You’ve opened up
a world in which we
can just exist exactly
how we need to.”**

**“We’ve got a
building but it’s
not yet a home.”**

We are on a mission to open the UK’s first, fully inclusive and purpose built exercise and play centre for the 66,000 children and young people with disabilities who live within an hour of the site, and their families. A place full of fun, fitness and friendship for the whole family, available throughout the year for 200,000 visitors to the site from across England and Wales.

We have secured £3.1million to buy an incredible site. Now we need to raise £10.8million to turn it into a spectacular centre with multiple different activity rooms, a highly specialised and inclusive design and filled with extraordinary equipment to meet the play, exercise and social needs of all children and young people. The funds will also allow us to continue our vital current services over the next 3 years. Catering for people (0-25yrs) with sensory, physical, learning difficulties, SEN and any mild to profound disability and open all year round.



A place to be me, a place to be free

There are 66,000 children and young people with disabilities living within an hour of Bristol. 77% of them cannot access regular leisure facilities, so can't play, exercise or socialise in the same way as their peers and are twice as likely as non-disabled children to be lonely. Children living with disability want more understanding and acceptance, more choice of activities, more fun, more joy and experiences other children take for granted.

72%

of parents with a disabled child suffer mental health issues as a result of isolation.

Our families had a dream, that dream is becoming a reality through Gympanzees, but only with your help.

To date we have been working to prove our concept and refine our business plan through Pop Up events. These are smaller versions of the permanent centre with a host of activity rooms (such as music, trampolines, 3 sensory rooms and soft play), a specialist gym, accessible indoor and outdoor playgrounds, exercise suites, therapy rooms and a community cafe). We have run 6 Pop Ups over 106 days in the Easter and summer holidays in special schools.

We have welcomed over 16,000 visitors with some making a 6 hour round trip for their 1.5 hour session and others staying in hotels so they can come 2 days in a row. Our feedback has been extraordinary with an unheard of Net Promotor Score of 94, 100% of families saying there is nothing else like this and 98% saying they loved it and will come again.

Our health impacts have been overwhelming, with so many children achieving developmental firsts such as a 6 year old who took his first steps, a 9 year old who rolled over for the first time, countless children who spoke to a stranger or made a friend for the first time and 2 three year old boys who had their first laugh. We also had 20% of parents who took another parents' numbers to meet up outside of the pop up - helping reduce isolation and have lasting impacts outside the Pop Up.

We are very proud to say we have also secured a £2.2m loan from Triodos Bank for the purchase of the site - confirming their belief in our business plan.



The Site

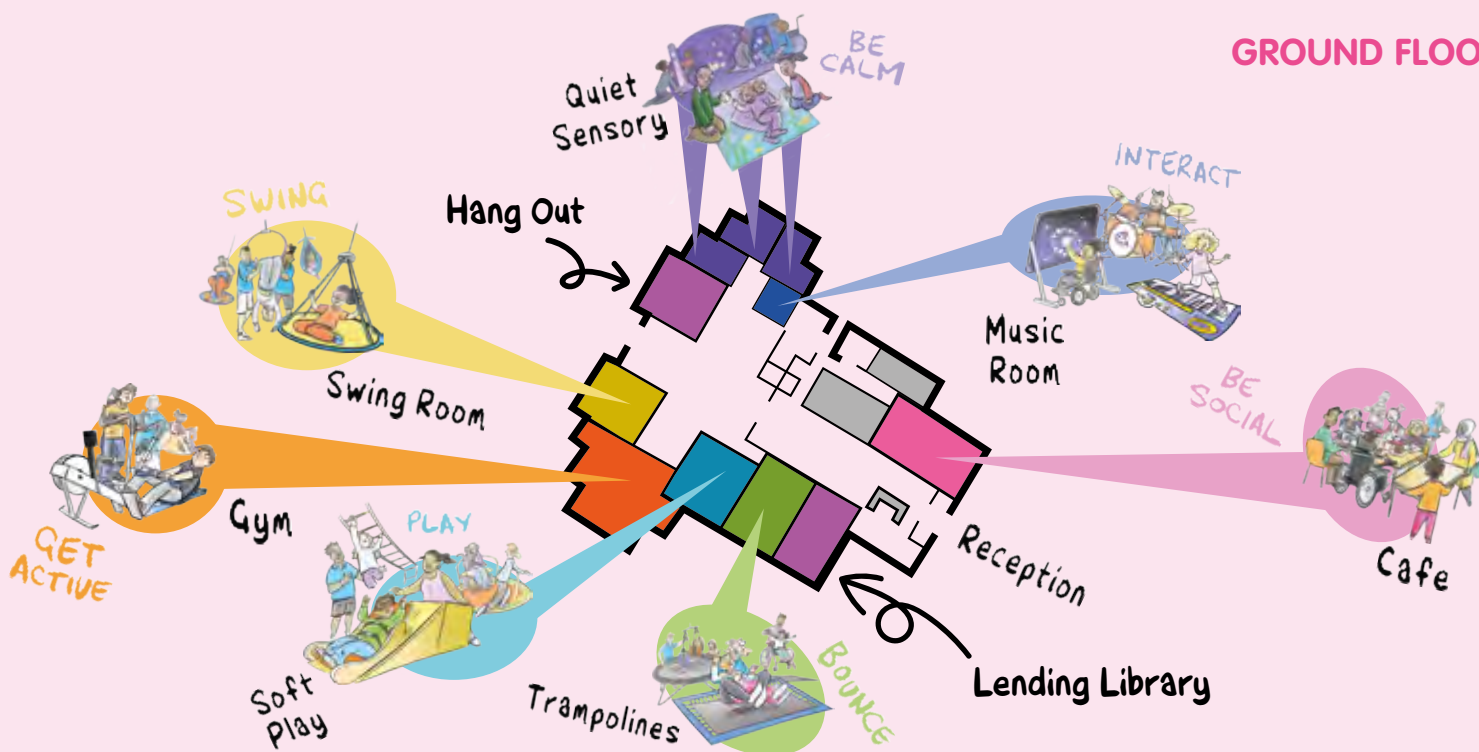
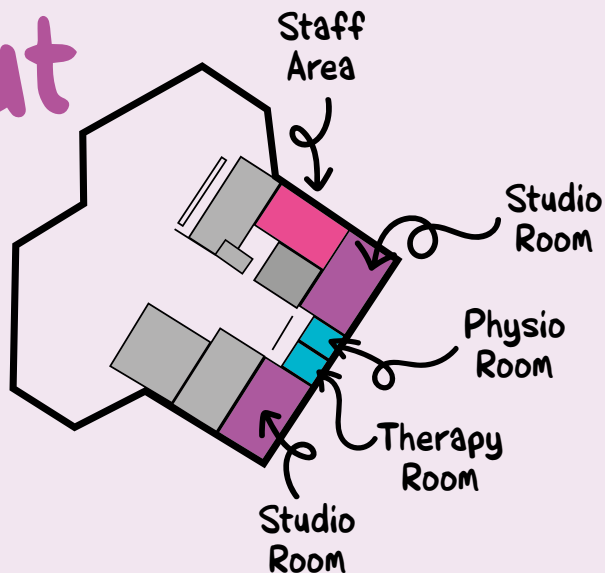


Why it will be remark-ABLE:

- Caters for every disability
- Improves physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Space to make lots of family memories
- Reduces isolation for the whole family
- Celebrates difference and equality
- A safe, supportive environment
- Disability-led and non-judgemental
- Innovative and world-class equipment
- Open sessions available to the public
- Tailored rooms, equipment and sessions for different needs
- Community focused café
- We will create a fully adapted physical and sensory environment
- Problem-solving approach to ensure it is inclusive to all
- Open seven days a week
- Able to support over 300,000 children and young people with disabilities, plus their families, every year



The Layout



We need your help to #MakeItHappen

Please join us on this life-changing and essential journey to provide everything under one roof for children and young people with disabilities and their families.



There are many ways to support

Project Home Appeal

as a business...

Business Champion

This is an amazing opportunity to get involved right at the start of the project and become a Business Champion. Alongside the fantastic benefits below it will boost staff morale and engage your customers by showing your support for a fantastic South West based children's charity. Benefits include recognition of support, marketing and PR opportunities and staff engagement.

£10,000 (can be paid monthly)

Sponsorship

We have some amazing sponsorship opportunities to suit all budgets. From room sponsorship to equipment, we can even create bespoke sponsorship packages to suit your specific requirements. This is a great way for your organisation to support the appeal and the facility when it opens.

Sponsorship opportunities available
from just £100 per month

Sponsor our events

There is also an opportunity for you to sponsor one or all our events. This will allow us to yield 100% profit from our fundraising events and give you the opportunity to secure social media promotion for your business.

Charity of the year

This is an easy and great way to get your organisation involved with the appeal. Choosing us as your Charity of the Year can help you further engage with your employees through fundraising activities, fun events, volunteering, regular communications about the difference your support is making, whilst also helping you deliver on your CSR objectives.

Volunteering

We rely heavily on volunteers to deliver our services to families – so we're always looking for support! Whether it's helping at our events, making sure our Lending Library equipment is cleaned, packed and delivered or ensuring our new facility is ready on time and on budget, there are some amazing opportunities for your organisation to make a positive difference to our services and future by lending your time, skills and materials.

Gifts in Kind

We are extremely lucky that many businesses support us through gifts or services in kind. This allows us to reduce our expenditure massively, and re-invest our income directly to benefit our children, young people and their families

Space Sponsorship

Every space in our facility will help build a world of fun and fitness for thousands of children and young people with disabilities and their families. We have a comprehensive list of sponsorship opportunities differing in price point, and small, medium and large rooms or pieces of equipment we can discuss with you in more detail, just get in touch with our team using the phone number on the back of this brochure.

Please be aware that some of the rooms have already been sponsored, so please do get in touch to discuss current options. Prices start from as little as £5,500, up to £835k.

Space
Swing room
Soft Play
Gym
Trampolines
Calm Sensory
Active Sensory
Music
Playground
Hangout Room
Reception
Changing places x 2
Café
Café Play Area
Kitchen
Physio studio
Therapy suite (2)
Exercise studio (2)
Lending Library base
Office
Staff room
First Aid room

For more information on how to fund or sponsor a room, please contact appeal@gympanzees.org



What families have shared with us

“Just want to say a huge thank you for your amazing vision and determination to provide a place for our children to be themselves, to feel safe and secure and most of all to have fun. X and I have loved coming to Gympanzees to be with others that understand. Who get what our children need and having all X’s sensory needs met has been incredible. I’ve found it emotional, that they can just be in their world has meant so much. I’m spreading the word and will support as much as we can. I truly hope this amazing vision becomes a much-needed reality.”

“We came from Swindon for our session yesterday - not the furthest distance but still an hour each way. It’s always so worth it but yesterday was especially brilliant, seeing our daughter peddling on one of the cycling machines for the very first time! She’s never managed peddling before. It was an amazing moment. Thank you Gympanzees for everything you are doing.”

“Absolutely brilliant, a unique offering which enables all 3 children to play together, get exercise and have fun, without me having to worry about crowds or judgement. Fantastic staff and other parents who understand.”

“Yesterday was the first time my little boy ever sat in sand- a completely new experience and one I never thought would happen.”

“We love coming here because we don’t have to say ‘sorry’ when my son makes happy noises.”

“There is a difference between your children being tolerated and celebrated, but here it is so clear they are celebrated.”

“Best place I’ve been to, it’s so much more inclusive than any other place we can go.”

“Somewhere we know the kids are going to be safe, we’re not judged.”

“My son never sleeps, and he slept for 12 hours after his session!”

Isabella's story

Told by mum Emma

My daughter Isabella was deprived of oxygen at birth. She's now ten years old and has quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Her mobility is limited; she's a full-time wheelchair user with emerging independent sitting. Cognitively, she's a bright and social child, who enjoys all the things that any typically developing child would. I also have an energetic one year old, George.

As Isabella has got older, organising a day trip or simply going to the local park has become challenging. Fortunately, Gympanzees was a lifeline for our family over the long summer break. Carefully planned sessions enabled us to meet other families in similar situations and make new friends. We didn't have to worry that Isabella might be accidentally injured by another child.

Both children were able to access and enjoy all of the equipment. Isabella had never been on a trampoline before... she absolutely loved the sensation of bouncing up and down! She didn't want the fun to end and was heartbroken at the end of every session.

George thrived in the soft play while Isabella was able to have free time on the mats.

The sensory room provided a quieter area, where both children played together. One of their favourite activities was 'splat' on the interactive mat or relaxing with the lights. We have many fond memories of this area.

The gym enabled Isabella to try new equipment and work muscles that had never been worked before. It was great to see her using an 'Innowalk' and riding an 'I Joy' each day. It was clear that every aspect of the Pop Up had been carefully considered. Isabella is unable to use a standard disabled toilet and needs a changing bed. We were able to stay for several hours as I knew there was somewhere I could safely change her with dignity. The coffee shop was mindful of customer needs; George is allergic to egg. Egg free alternatives were sourced, and delicious cake served.

All of the staff were extremely helpful and welcoming. They went that extra mile to ensure the whole family had an enjoyable experience. Too often Isabella sits in her chair and watches her peers play on days out. However, wide corridors, quiet sessions, hoists, trained staff and a wealth of play equipment enabled my daughter to shriek with excitement as she played.



IMAGE: Isabella, mum Emma, and brother George





Individual Champion

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved right at the start of the project and become an Individual Champion. Benefits include:

- Dedicated plaque on the exclusive Champions board in the finished leisure and exercise facility
- Invitation to the grand opening of our new leisure and exercise facility
- Open evening to use our new facility for family and friends, including use of the café and being able to try out the specialist equipment throughout
- Hard hat tour of building site with CEO to see the physical progress of the build
- Annual Champion event invitations
- Regular updates showing the impact of your support
- 20% discount on a table of 10 at our Annual Ball
- Welcome and thank you post on our social channels and in our e-newsletter
- Your name on the Champions page of our website
- Opportunity to 'champion' our cause with like-minded individuals.

£5,000 (can be paid monthly)

(If you pay UK tax Gympanzees can benefit from Gift Aid. Please ask for more details. Higher and additional rate taxpayers can also benefit from additional tax relief).

There are **more ways** you can get involved too!

Sign up to our events

Another way of getting involved and giving back is to check out our events calendar online and see if any of our events take your fancy. We offer an excellent supporter experience and will be there for you during your fundraising

Fundraise for us

However you want to fundraise for us, if its on your own, with friends, in your community, at your club or school, whether it's a bike ride or bake sale, we'll support you every step of the way. Visit

www.gympanzees.org/appeal

for loads of great fundraising ideas and tips on how to maximise your fundraising. We've also got some useful downloadable materials like logos, copy, posters and pictures for you to use to help you raise as much as possible and raise awareness of your incredible fundraising effort. We're also available on email and the phone any time you need to chat to us.

Join our Friends Scheme

We'd love to be your Friend! A regular monthly donation is a huge help towards the appeal. It's super simple to sign up online and in return for your generosity, you will receive a welcome pack including branded merchandise as a thank you, and regular updates.

Amplify our message

We'd be super grateful if you would help tell our story and spread awareness of our appeal! Please find us online (we're on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube) and give us a like or share when you can. It really makes all the difference. Please spread the word about Project Home and encourage your networks to get involved. Maybe share your experience of working with Gympanzees on LinkedIn and signpost others to us. It is essential that we share this far and wide not just to encourage others to fundraise but also to connect other families or agencies who support children and young people with disabilities, they may not have heard about our charity previously.

Make a generous financial donation (one off or regular gift)

We have been incredibly fortunate at Gympanzees to have received a number of major donations from individuals, trusts, grants and philanthropists. Thanks to their generosity we have continued our mission. We are looking for anyone who would be able to make a sizeable donation as a one off or regular gift to our new Project Home. If you would like to discuss this further, please do contact us direct.





For more information and to support Project Home Appeal:

www.gympanzees.org/appeal

Email: appeal@gympanzees.org

Tel: 07778 032082



Scan to donate
←

Reg. Charity No: 1189375
*Contact a Family, 2017. Politics Home, 2014.
Activity Alliance, 2020b. Powrie et al., 2020.

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