



coram | better chances
for children
since 1739

**Become a Charter
Patron**

**Give children the love and
opportunity they need to thrive.**

For nearly 300 years Coram's mission has been to create better chances for children. Now and forever.

Our founder, Thomas Coram, was steadfast in his mission to create better chances for children. Along the way, he inspired many supporters, including the Duchess of Somerset, the painter William Hogarth, and the composer George Frideric Handel. Together, they persuaded the highest authority in the land to allow them to establish the UK's first children's charity, set against a backdrop of a society that was ambivalent to children's rights and welfare. Today our resolve mirrors that of our founder and those early pioneering supporters; we will not rest until all children have the love and opportunity they need to thrive. But to do this we need to work collectively and would like to ask you to join us and become a Charter Patron supporter to champion the needs of children. Coram's Charter Patrons are a group of dedicated supporters who have been making a huge difference to children and young people's lives for well over a decade.

For nearly 300 years, Coram's mission has been to create better chances for children. Now and forever. This brochure illustrates how you, as a Charter Patron supporter, can make even more of a difference to the lives of children and young people who face adversity.

To join, please return the donation form or donate at www.coram.org.uk/ways-you-can-give/join-our-charter-patrons or speak to our Charter Patron Manager, Rachael, on rachael@coram.org.uk or 020 7520 0306.



We are Coram – the first children’s charity, helping hundreds of thousands of children, young people and families every year. Together we can ensure children get the love and opportunity they need.



By becoming a Charter Patron, you will help:



PROVIDE A SAFE AND
LOVING HOME
FOR CHILDREN WHO
DON'T HAVE ONE



PROVIDE ACCESS TO
**EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES**
THAT GIVE CHILDREN CONFIDENCE
AND ENRICHES THEIR LIVES



ENSURE **CHILDREN'S
VOICES**, ESPECIALLY THE
MOST VULNERABLE, ARE HEARD
AND THEIR RIGHTS UPHELD



CREATE A SOCIETY
THAT CARES

Find safe loving families for children in care

Adoption can be transformational for children in the care system, but it is not without its challenges for children and their new families. With your support, we can ensure that all adoptive families continue to have vital access to Coram's lifelong post adoption support. This includes dedicated support from our experienced social workers and an advice helpline, parenting skills workshops for all types of adoptive families, and help with accessing education and health services for adopted children.

Miranda and Hamish* adopted a little boy called Archie* through Coram.

Miranda says: "From the very first call with Coram, the team were so encouraging. Our social worker is fantastic – just knowing that we can contact her when we need support is so helpful. When we think back to that moment of seeing Archie's photo for the first time it makes us feel very emotional. We knew when we read his profile that we really wanted to move forward.

Our Impact

£2,500

COULD PAY FOR 100 ADOPTIVE FAMILIES TO ACCESS VITAL LEARNING RESOURCES SUCH AS LIFE STORY WORK, AND PEER SUPPORT INCLUDING OUR STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

1 IN 4



CHILDREN WHO ATTEND AN ADOPTION ACTIVITY DAY ARE MATCHED WITH THEIR FOREVER FAMILIES

1,500

ADOPTIVE PARENTS SUPPORTED THIS YEAR



The first time we met Archie, the connection was wonderful, it felt so easy from the start. We got to know Archie's foster carers really well, they were incredible. We feel so lucky that Archie was so loved by them and we stay in touch and visit them when we can.

Archie's needs and identity are key. We are open to the fact that Archie might want to meet his birth family one day and we'll always be there to support him. We've had some support from Coram with Archie's life story work which has been really amazing. There were a few challenges at his school so we contacted our social worker and as a result, the school agreed that all staff would get training on adoption, which is fantastic. Archie brings us so much love and joy. He is very affectionate – he tells us he loves us every day, and us him. He is tenacious, curious and very sociable."

Since adopting, Miranda and Hamish have also attended some of Coram's post-adoption training including the Incredible Years parenting course which they found very helpful and commented that they enjoyed making friends with fellow adopters. They also attend the annual Coram picnic which Miranda says "helps Archie to see he's not the only one, there are lots of children like him."

Miranda concludes: "We feel privileged to have him in our lives and he has grown into a beautiful little boy. It took time to find our son, but it was worth the wait. We are so happy, he is the best thing that has ever happened to us."

Adoption provides the love and opportunity that children like Archie need, giving them security, stability, and the chance to grow in a loving family.





Change lives through reading

Coram Beanstalk believes that life changes when children choose reading. We have been creating readers for over 50 years through our one-to-one, in-person reading support. With your help, we can reach more children, in more schools, and ensure that we can create new generations of enthusiastic readers.

Jane, a Coram reading helper, told us about her experience of helping a seven-year-old girl with her reading:

"I began working as a reading volunteer with Emily*, a child in Year 3, at the start of the academic year. Initially, she was very nervous in our sessions and clearly lacking in self-confidence. She was still sounding out unfamiliar words that she didn't recognise, reading haltingly and not seeming to enjoy the experience. I took a step back and took the pressure off her reading aloud.

Instead, we made a bookmark together and discussed what kind of stories she liked, and if she read outside of school. It was so important for us to take the time to get to know each other and ultimately gain her trust. During these early days I then offered a new selection of books and let her choose which she wanted to read, and we played word games at the end of each session.

With regular praise and encouragement, she began to read a wider variety of books. Soon her enthusiasm was growing, she really worked hard during our sessions and was reading fluently by the end of the year. Her class teacher approached me to make a point of telling me how amazed she was with her progress which was a real highlight of the year."

Coram Beanstalk's work is vital to ensure that children like Emily who are struggling do not get left behind, ensuring that the ability, and love, to read is shared by all children whatever their background or situation.

96%

OF CHILDREN SUPPORTED
SHOWED IMPROVED
CONFIDENCE AND SELF-
ESTEEM

84%

OF CHILDREN
SUPPORTED SHOWED
SIGNS OF DEVELOPING
A LOVE OF READING

£1,250

COULD BUY 100 BRILLIANT
BOOKS FOR CORAM BEANSTALK
VOLUNTEERS TO USE IN THEIR
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS WITH
SCHOOL CHILDREN.



Get children's voices heard and their rights upheld

For 50 years, Coram Voice has been working tirelessly to ensure that every child in care, or with experience of care, has a voice which is heard and someone to turn to.

Kelly* was a homeless 17-year-old child with no care status who had previously been known to Children's Services but never taken into care or offered consistent help or support. She became homeless after a breakdown in the relationship with her family, having experienced persistent emotional abuse and threatening behaviour at home. Kelly suffered from anxiety, depression, and had a history of suicidal thoughts.

Kelly called us after being told about our service by another young person at a homeless centre. Kelly told us that she had approached Children's Services many times for help, but said "when I talk to them, they don't listen to me." When Kelly first contacted the Coram Voice helpline, she told us that she was sofa surfing and did not know where she would be staying from one night to the next. She had tried to present as homeless in person to the local authority but was turned away by their staff. Kelly wanted somewhere safe and stable to live near her friends and college. She wanted to be taken into care because her family could not look after her. Our helpline advocates gave initial advice on Kelly's right to be safe and accommodated by her local authority. They reassured her that she had done the right thing in contacting us and seeking support.

We had identified safeguarding concerns regarding Kelly's situation and raised a safeguarding alert with the local authority.

Kelly told us that she wanted to go into care, but Children's Services were refusing to take responsibility for her as she was approaching her 18th birthday. Her




Coram advocate secured a solicitor for Kelly, who would support her to acquire legal care status. We stayed in touch with Kelly, contacting her every day to see how she was doing and to provide her with updates about the work we were doing on her behalf. Kelly often had questions for her advocate concerning the support she was being offered by Children's Services. Her advocate was able to share information with her about her rights and entitlements as a homeless child, which enabled Kelly to make informed decisions about her care.

All too often we see local authorities appearing to delay support to 'wind down the clock' to avoid having to take responsibility for young people that they should have taken into care when they were known to them as children. Kelly, with her advocate's help, was able to secure the accommodation and care that would support her to recover from her experiences, continue her education and have the chance of a positive future.

*Identifying details have been changed.

Last year, through our Coram Voice Always Heard helpline:

2,963 
USERS OF THE
CORAM VOICE
ADVOCACY SERVICE
IN THE LAST YEAR

262 
HOMELESS YOUNG
PEOPLE WERE
SUPPORTED IN
THE LAST YEAR

£4,500 
COULD HELP US PROVIDE
ADVOCACY AND LEGAL
ADVICE TO 10 CARE LEAVERS
ENSURING THEY HAVE SUPPORT
IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THEIR
LIVES, SUCH AS STARTING
FURTHER EDUCATION OR ACCESS
TO SAFE ACCOMMODATION

Join us

As you can see, the problems faced by so many children and young people in the UK, particularly the most vulnerable, are still as pressing as those who were supported by Thomas Coram and his early pioneers. Today, Coram is acutely aware that the only way to achieve change is with the help of friends and like-minded people who recognise that all children deserve love and opportunity. Our Charter Patrons represent exactly that, a small group of people who care deeply about the plight of children in the UK and who want to ensure better chances for children. Now and forever. Charter Patrons pledge to donate over £1,000 in any 12-month period via a one-off gift or a direct debit. Please consider joining this special group.

Your support will not only be financial. We will send you regular briefings and invite you to special events, both in-person and online, that enable you to see the impact you

are having on some of the children you will be supporting. You will be able to participate in Q&As hosted by Coram group CEO, Dr Carol Homden, to further understand the impact of our work, and your support. Finally, you will also be invited to a range of supporter and arts events.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO WHAT THOMAS CORAM AND HIS FELLOW CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN DID NEARLY 300 YEARS AGO AND CREATE CHANGE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME.

Over the last year, Coram has directly supported over 198,000 children, young people and families. Will you stand with us to ensure that we can continue to provide love and opportunity to children and young people throughout the UK?

Charter Patrons pledge to donate over £1,000 in any 12-month period (either via single donation or a regular monthly, quarterly or annual Direct Debit), however any support for our programme is very gratefully received.

To become a Charter Patron, or support the programme with a donation, you can donate online at www.coram.org.uk/ways-you-can-give/join-our-charter-patrons. Alternatively, please contact our Charter Patron Manager, Rachael Corns, on 020 7520 0306 or email rachael@coram.org.uk for more information on the programme, or for other ways to donate.

We're always thrilled to talk through the programme in more detail and would be very happy to arrange a tour of the Coram Campus and the nearby Foundling Museum if you'd like. Equally, if there is a particular area of our work that you're interested in learning more about, we can set up a meeting with one of our service specialists so that you can gain a more in depth understanding of what we do.



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Registered Charity no: 312278

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coram.org.uk/ways-you-can-give/become-charter-patron

Rachael Corns
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020 7520 0306

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children (Registered Charity No. 312278) was established by Royal Charter in 1739.

* Names and personal details have been changed to protect anonymity.
Funds will be used where the need is greatest.