40 YEARS OF LIFESAVING

Since Shirley Nolan started our charity in 1974 we've led the way as the world’s first bone marrow register, connecting incredible individuals willing to donate their stem cells to people with blood cancer and blood disorders who need a lifesaving transplant.

And we’ve reached many memorable milestones, passing 500,000 donors on our register and, in this year alone, facilitating 1,240 lifesaving transplants.

We know our vital work would not be possible without our fantastic supporters who helped us raise an amazing £8.2m. We’d also like to thank the patients who inspire our work and our wonderful staff and volunteers.

We will continue to endeavour to help every single person in need of a transplant. That was Shirley’s dream when she set up our charity, and we will not rest until it has been achieved.

‘I look to the day when no child dies like my son, waiting for a donor to save him.’

Shirley Nolan
THE ROUND TABLE SIGNS UP 100,000 DONORS

1986 A Round Table campaign helped us sign up an incredible 100,000 donors in six weeks. And our enduring relationship with them continues to this day, raising over a million pounds to support our work and finding thousands of donors.

2014 Our campaigns continue to make a lifesaving difference. Our Roadmap for Recovery campaign, which calls for a change in NHS policy to ensure every patient receives the care they need after a transplant, has had a strong impact.

As a result of our work, the influential Clinical Reference Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation has agreed that better arrangements need to be made for post-100 day care and supported our call to the NHS.

We will continue this campaign until we have secured the change that will deliver a better future for transplant patients.

‘We believe the care you receive should be determined by the condition you have, not by the area in which you live and the hospital at which you’re treated.’

Henny Braund, Chief Executive
The marrow decade
1998-2008

Happy 10th Birthday Marrow
1998 James Kustow was inspired to organise a donor recruitment clinic at Nottingham University after his friend was diagnosed with leukaemia. Following the success of that single event, James went on to found Marrow, an award-winning medical student-run organisation that recruits students to our register.

2014 Marrow is now a 44-strong network of student groups which this year broke records yet again. They signed up an astonishing 11,606 potential lifesavers across 321 events and raised an amazing £160,000.

Incredibly 1 in 5 people who go on to donate are recruited by Marrow. That’s invaluable in helping us be there for even more people who need us.

‘Thanks to the tremendous energy and commitment of all the Marrow volunteers, the network has gone from strength to strength.’

James Kustow, Marrow founder
2000

2,500 LIFESAVING TRANSPLANTS

2000 This year saw Anthony Nolan reach many milestones. We helped provide our 2,500th person with a lifesaving transplant, our income was more than £10 million for the first time, and Shirley was awarded an OBE.

2014 We’ve now facilitated over 12,000 transplants, always putting patients at the heart of what we do. To make sure we provide the best support, this year we secured funding for our very first Anthony Nolan Nurse Specialist who will be dedicated to improving the experience of transplant patients.

We’ve also worked closely with patients and families. One of the highlights of this collaboration was working with parents from across the UK to write ‘A Parent’s Guide to the Transplant Journey’ – the only support of its kind in the UK.

‘We’re here for them throughout their journey as a constant source of advice and support.’

Hayley Leonard, Anthony Nolan nurse
2008

THE UK’S FIRST DEDICATED CORD BLOOD BANK

2008 We set up the UK’s first dedicated cord blood bank. This allows mothers to safely donate the blood from their umbilical cord and placenta after they give birth. Cord blood is rich in stem cells, which we use for lifesaving transplants.

2014 Leicester Royal Infirmary and Leicester General Hospital celebrated their 5,000th cord blood collection when baby Alexander’s cord blood was collected.

Overall more than 10,000 mums have donated their cord blood to Anthony Nolan. It means mums and their newborns can do something remarkable – give life twice in one day. And over 30 cords from Anthony Nolan’s cord bank have been used so far in potentially lifesaving transplants.

‘I found out that a cord blood donation wouldn’t interfere with my birth and I could give someone else another chance at life.’

Joanna Garfoot, cord blood donor
THE WORLD’S YOUNGEST DONOR

2012 A change in our joining policy saw us become the first register in the world to start recruiting those between the ages of 16 and 30.

2013 October saw the first anniversary of the change. And it was Victoria Rathmill who, in the same year, became the world’s youngest ever unrelated stem cell donor aged just 17. During the last financial year, 2,940 16-year-olds and 3,962 17-year-olds joined our register.

Importantly, the change in joining policy has reduced the average age of a new donor to the register from 29 to 21. Research has shown that younger donors offer patients the best chance of life, and this makes sure that more donors than ever in the ideal age range are available to hospitals.

‘It was an immediate decision. I had the opportunity to save someone’s life, I didn’t have to think about it.’

Victoria Rathmill
OUR AMAZING FUNDRAISERS

As we celebrate 40 fantastic years, our work is more in demand than ever. It means we need our amazing supporters even more to help us be there for everyone who needs us.

And they never disappoint, raising millions of pounds for us, which is vital as we plan for the future.

This year we raised a total of £8.2m. That included over 1,500 people who ran, cycled, trekked or parachuted for us to raise over £1.1m. Over 32,000 people who generously supported us with a regular gift, totalling £3.5m. And more than 1,200 individuals and groups in the community who raised over £1m through street collections, cake sales and being sponsored to do the things they love. All of them vital to our lifesaving work.

‘Like my treatment, a marathon is a long journey; it requires preparation, perseverance and support.’

Andrew, transplant recipient and fundraiser
LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Pioneering spirit is something that has always marked Anthony Nolan out. And this same spirit will continue to be at the heart of our work as we push forward to do even more.

This innovative approach has seen us introduce third generation sequencing, a new way of working which means typing at the highest possible level of resolution.

It will help us take a significant step towards realising our goal of saving the lives of everyone who needs a stem cell transplant.

Here’s to the next 40 years of lifesaving

‘Our staff will have the most comprehensive data available as we strive towards improving transplant outcomes.’

Prof. Steven Marsh, Director of Bioinformatics
Over the last ten years we’ve seen steady and constant growth. Through the success of our fundraising and carefully managing our expenditure we are in a strong position, helping more patients than ever before. This has enabled us to fund our vital work, put patients at the heart of what we do and make sure that we can save the lives of even more people with blood cancer or blood disorders.