

ADDOR

Anne Dyer & Daniel O'Reilly Foundation



Anne Dyer



Daniel O'Reilly

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ADDOR is pleased to announce a further grant in support of the continued fight against Huntington's disease (HD), providing financial assistance to help an HD sufferer Stuart Dickson.



Stuart 40 years old lives with his wife Hannah and their two children in Weston Super Mare. At the age of 33 he was diagnosed with HD, inherited from his father Ian, who sadly passed away in 2011. He currently has carers to support his meal times and access to the community, whilst Hannah is at work.

Prior to his diagnosis Stuart enjoyed his job, working hard for his family, time spent with friends and going away on holiday abroad. He also loved spending Saturdays in the pub watching football

He had previously always been in physical work being a scaffolder, so when the symptoms of his Huntington's disease (HD) became so severe he had to stop work. The transition to being at home a lot and requiring support in all elements of his life really effected his mood and very quickly his symptoms progressed.

The family was advised by Stuart's HD Consultant that time spent at the gym would maybe help his mood, and also prevent his feeling of isolation, whilst also helping improve his overall health and well-being.

For the last year Stuart has been able to attend the local gym, aided by his wife and or carers and amazing results have been evident to see. Whilst it hasn't been able to stop the progression of his HD, it most definitely has improved his mental and physical health.

He has also been able to focus on his nutrition and fluid intake taking care to consider what he needs to have a successful session at the gym. He has become friends with members of the gym, and has a great sense of belonging there.

Stuart's dexterity, balance, strength and mental state has all been majorly improved, whilst he does struggle with areas of the gym due to coordination, he is well supported with gym equipment to apply himself, and the support he has there is just brilliant.

He really enjoys spending time there, so when the membership was nearing its end Stuart quickly became very fearful and anxious a common symptom of HD, it really did affect him negatively knowing he may not be able to continue.

Knowing financially the family could no longer afford this expense due to the current financial crisis, they requested help from ADDOR, with evidence of how brilliantly successful the gym has been for Stuart, they really needed this financial support.

Hannah says Stuart lives a very full life, and always likes something to look forward to, his family love adventures so are very often exploring the local Weston beach on short walks. He also enjoys spending time with his family, listening to dance music and attending the gymnasium.

ADDOR is very pleased to provide a grant of £500 to Stuart to help facilitate his continued attendance at a local gymnasium and enhance the quality of his daily life.

Tiffany, Stuart's HDA representative wrote "I just want to thank ADDOR for agreeing to grant the family this award. There was really no other organisation who could help him pay for the gym and it will make such a positive difference to the family".

Hannah wrote "this is a really lovely write up, and again I'm so very thankful for your support. Stuart's smile and happiness today really has spoken volumes, my family and I are forever grateful".

ADDOR is very happy to have helped.

If you would like to help in the fight to defeat HD, fund research projects and help others like Stuart

Please donate at addor.co.uk

