



A little help from TB Alert

Natalie's story...

Natalie, a young mum from Halifax, was diagnosed with Renal (Kidney) TB after a long illness.

Knowing that she had TB was in some ways a relief - at least it was curable. But by the time she was diagnosed, Natalie hadn't been able to work for years. She was receiving benefits but was finding it hard to make ends meet.

What's more she was extremely weak and in a lot of pain. Because she lived a long way out of town she struggled to get to her appointments at the TB clinic, and to take her children, James and Thomas, to playgroup.



"The buses only ran every two hours and if I missed one it would take me over an hour to walk back from town - I was so slow pushing the buggy. But I didn't want James and Thomas to miss out just because their mum was ill."

Natalie



Natalie's TB nurse, Eryl was concerned that the stress and exhaustion, as well as the remoteness was having a detrimental effect on Natalie's health.

When Natalie found somewhere to live closer to town (and closer to her friends who could help with childcare), it seemed to make a lot of sense to move. But she couldn't afford to pay a removals firm.



Eryl applied to TB Alert for help from the Patient Support Fund, which provides small grants to TB patients to help them complete their treatment and improve their chances of a full recovery. She was awarded £104 which Natalie used to cover the costs of moving.

Natalie said she almost cried when she found out about the grant she was so happy.

Now fully recovered, Natalie is volunteering for TB Alert educating medical staff and the public about TB. Her late diagnosis meant years of pain and weakness and she doesn't want anyone else to go through what she did.

"Despite being seriously ill Natalie never let her TB get in the way of providing a good and happy home life for her two sons. She never complained, even though I could tell that she was finding dealing with her illness a real strain. I was absolutely delighted that TB Alert could help Natalie when she was struggling during the most difficult times."

Eryl Stephens - TB specialist nurse

Your gifts can make a real difference

Last year we gave nearly £11,000 in grants to 78 people in need (approximately £130 each). Here are just a few examples* of the people we have helped recently through the TB Alert Patient Support Fund...

- Regular £3 meal vouchers for 6 months gave Gary, a homeless man, a hot healthy meal each time he attended the clinic for Directly Observed Treatment (DOT)
- A £15 weekly bus-pass helped Ian pay for travel to the TB clinic for daily DOT sessions
- £20 provided mobile phone top-ups for Julie to keep in touch with her nurse throughout her treatment
- £8 a week covered extra petrol costs for Ali to take his two children to visit their mum who was in hospital with spinal TB for 3 months
- £50 bought a small second-hand fridge for Usha who was moving into an unfurnished bedsit. This meant she could buy cheap nutritious food to help her get better.

*Natalie, featured inside this card, has said we could use her real name - all other names have been changed



Stop Tuberculosis Worldwide

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Tuberculosis Charity**

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