

# Midweek

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## Bringing 'magic' to children's lives

by Richard Ashton

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A CHARITY set up in memory of a youngster who died from a brain tumour has donated £4,000 to help sick children.

The Wokingham-based Ollie Young Foundation handed over the cash to Helen and Douglas House as part of its ongoing efforts.

The foundation – which was set up in memory of Wooshill youngster Ollie, who died the day before his sixth birthday in February 2012 – has since raised more than £100,000.

Helen and Douglas House played a key role in the latter part of Ollie's life and the money will go towards a £6,000 Magic Mirror System, which will be installed in the sensory room at the hospice.

Ollie's father Simon said: "The Ollie Young Foundation has already bought a multi-directional hoist for the wet room here, where Ollie spent many fun-filled hours.

"To be able to contribute this state of the art system to the new-look Helen House means so much to us and I thank again all the wonderful fundraisers who have enabled us to do this in Ollie's memory."

The Magic Mirror is an interactive gesture-controlled



**Vital donation:** Helen and Douglas House staff Wendy Aubrey, Angela Wilkinson and Trish MacIntyre accept the cheque from the Ollie Young Foundation's Simon Young, Alfie Young and Claire Saul, back right. It will help pay for a Magic Mirror System, which responds to children's movement.

system that can be activated by any part of the body with the slightest of movements, producing different audio visual responses.

This type of technology is invaluable to children who have very little or no physical movement as even the smallest movement will trigger a response by the mirror.

A separate donation has funded the remaining £2,000 required to buy this system for Helen and Douglas House, which is based in Oxford.

Lindsey Rennard, director of income generation at Helen and Douglas House, said: "This is a marvellous dona-

tion towards the refurbishment of Helen House and we cannot thank the Ollie Young Foundation enough. The sensory room is such an important part of the care we offer.

"The children enjoy the colours, sights, sounds and smells and for a child who may have limited vision or hearing, or whose condition leaves them with little ability to move, the sensory stimulation it is of huge benefit."

The Ollie Young Foundation has already donated £90,000 to fund research into the condition and has also supported another charity, CLIC Sargent.