



Royal Bank of Canada



GREAT
ORMOND
STREET
HOSPITAL
CHARITY

**INSPIRATIONAL CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HOSPITAL STAFF AND CELEBRITIES JOIN
SIX THOUSAND PEOPLE AT THE RBC RACE FOR THE KIDS 5K FUN RUN
FOR GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY**

10-year-old GOSH patient Rowan inspires 100 strong team to take part

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) patients, families, staff and celebrity friends joined thousands of runners at the ninth annual **RBC Race for the Kids** in Hyde Park today, Saturday 13 October, helping to raise an expected half a million pounds to support seriously ill children across the UK treated at GOSH.

Actor Jason Isaacs, presenter Kirsty Gallacher and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Champion Vernon Kay joined participants who took part in the inclusive 5K fun run by running, walking, scooting, and taking part in wheelchairs to help raise vital funds for GOSH.

Jason Isaacs said: "It's the first time I've taken part in **RBC Race for the Kids** and what an amazing atmosphere! It was so inspiring to see children who have been through so much take part with their families, all to raise money and give something back to such an amazing hospital."

Ten-year-old GOSH patient Rowan Pethard from Hemel Hempstead sounded the klaxons to officially start today's inclusive race ahead of taking part with a huge team of over 140 family and friends to mark a very special milestone year of finishing his treatment for leukaemia.

Rowan inspired the 'Running for RoRo' team today after he was diagnosed at just six years old with aggressive blood cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, after he collapsed in his mother's arms outside the family's GP surgery. He was admitted to GOSH and has been having intense chemotherapy for the last few years. Despite his condition, Rowan and his family always take part in the event, but this year have recruited the biggest patient family team that **RBC Race for the Kids** has ever seen to celebrate Rowan ringing the end of treatment bell this summer.

Supported by title sponsors Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) for the ninth year running, the race is expected to raise over half a million pounds which will go towards the hospital's most urgent fundraising needs. These include pioneering research to find kinder treatments, providing cutting edge equipment and the essential refurbishment of the hospital to provide state-of-the-art facilities to match the hospital's world-class care.

Tim Johnson, Chief Executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity said: "It's been a fantastic day here in Hyde Park celebrating our ninth **RBC Race for the Kids** fun run and what a privilege to have Rowan officially start the race. I've met some inspirational children and families, who are treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital and who come back year after year to take part in this truly special event. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us today, the money raised will make a huge difference to seriously ill children from across the UK."

Over 2,000 RBC members of staff, clients, friends and family took part in this year's event. The bank has supported the hospital since 2010 and has raised over £2.5 million thanks to staff fundraising, title sponsorship and generous donations. From this year, all funds RBC raised will go towards supporting vital parent accommodation facilities at GOSH. The new 'Royal Bank of Canada House' will provide a home away from home for the parents and families of seriously ill children being treated at GOSH.

Dave Thomas, CEO, RBC Capital Markets said: "The **RBC Race for the Kids** is a highlight for all of us at RBC, providing a fantastic opportunity for us to give back to the community as well as meet some truly incredible people, whose lives have been touched by Great Ormond Street Hospital. We are delighted to be in our ninth year of supporting them and the inspirational work they do to make such a tangible difference to the lives of seriously ill children and their families."

For more information about the event please visit: gosh.org/raceforthekids

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About Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity

Great Ormond Street Hospital is one of the world's leading children's hospitals with the broadest range of dedicated, children's healthcare specialists under one roof in the UK. The hospital's pioneering research and treatment gives hope to children from across the UK with the rarest, most complex and often life-threatening conditions. Our patients and families are central to everything we do – from the moment they come through the door and for as long as they need us.

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity needs to raise money to support the hospital to give children the best chance for life. The charity funds research into pioneering new treatments for children, provides the most up to date medical equipment, funds support services for children and their families and supports the essential rebuilding and refurbishment of the hospital. You can help us to provide world class care for our patients and families. For more information visit www.gosh.org

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About Royal Bank of Canada

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is a global financial institution with a purpose-driven, principles-led approach to delivering leading performance. Its success comes from the 84,000+ employees who bring its vision, values and strategy to life so it can help clients thrive and communities prosper. As Canada's biggest bank, and one of the largest in the world based on market capitalisation, RBC has a diversified business model with a focus on innovation and providing exceptional experiences to 16 million clients in Canada, the U.S. and 34 other countries. Learn more at [rbc.com](https://www.rbc.com).

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