



# THE ARCHIE FOUNDATION

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE  
FOR SICK CHILDREN IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND



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(Courtesy of the ARCHIE Foundation Website [www.archiefoundation.org.uk](http://www.archiefoundation.org.uk))

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The ARCHIE Foundation was set up in September 2000 with the aim of raising at least £3 million to help create a world class children's hospital in Aberdeen for children and families in the North East of Scotland and the islands of Orkney and Shetland.

At the time NHS funding was in place for a new building and core equipment, but to make the difference between this new hospital and a world class hospital required additional funds so the ARCHIE appeal was launched.

ARCHIE's name was derived from Aberdeen Royal Children's Hospital is Excellent! and the ARCHIE figure was designed by children's book illustrator Claire Mackie whose family roots are here in the North East of Scotland.

The ARCHIE Foundation appeal captured the imagination of the public and business community and by the time it closed in December 2003 a magnificent total of £5,069,599.09 had been raised through donations from 50p of pocket money to £250,000 from a business benefactor.



So when the new Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital (RACH) was opened in January 2004 it was able to do so with almost all of its equipment brand new (instead of transferred) and the many other differences which ARCHIE was able to make including -

- Every individual room in each ward would have had a reclining chair for a parent to stay overnight with a very ill child. ARCHIE enabled them all the rooms to be built one metre wider and with a built in fold down bed.
- Adjacent to the high dependency unit is a suit of rooms similar to a Travel Lodge for parents of seriously ill children to stay close by, for extended periods if necessary.
- A classroom for children to continue their learning whilst recovering.
- Play areas on every floor.
- A quiet room and a chapel where families can gather their thoughts and strength.
- Art projects throughout the hospital which create a bright, interesting, child friendly environment.
- Sensory rooms for exercise and rehabilitation.
- Equipment to make a hospital stay more bearable.
- Specialist staff to enhance the quality of life of children in the hospital including music therapist, arts co-ordinator, family support worker, pain management nurse and play leader.
- Funding for PhD research into child specific treatments.
- and much more



## Today

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Since the opening of the new RACH building, the ARCHIE Foundation charity has grown in stature, in confidence and in reach. Today it is providing support to the NHS child health teams across the whole of the North of Scotland with the natural growth of the charity into the Highlands.

For example, in 2011, the ARCHIE Foundation delivered projects in communities throughout the North East and Islands of Scotland, including 11 different hospitals, genuinely making a very real difference to well over 100,000 local children and their families.

With 2013 marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RACH, fund raising efforts continue today with refurbishment projects to the fore. AFES looks forward to continuing its association with ARCHIE.