

# Dylan, the wonder boy

Youngster's boxes of fun for children in hospital a loving tribute

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HE'S got one of the biggest little hearts on Tyneside.

Schoolboy Dylan Ward is putting the smile back on the faces of young hospital patients across the region.

Last month, the 10-year-old came up with the idea of packing and delivering "wonder-boxes" to children's wards in Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland.

The packages contain toys, games and art materials to brighten the days of poorly youngsters stuck in hospital with little to do.

Dylan, from Washington, buys the gifts himself from donations and his own pocket money, before packing them into colourful containers of fun.

And he's doing it all in honour of his grandad, John Pearson, who died two years ago from bowel cancer.

Dylan's latest deliveries are set to reach children at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary and Gateshead's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

"I just thought it was a nice thing to do for children who are not very well and might need cheering up," said the Blackfell Primary School pupil.

"It can't be very much fun being poorly and it's nice to be able to make their day a bit better."

"I pack the boxes myself and go shopping for things with my mum. I try to make them as bright and fun as I can."



**GIFTS** Dylan Ward, 10, with items to go in his wonder-boxes.

Dylan lives with his mum Ann Marie, 30, a teaching assistant, and dad Stephen, 33, who works as a quality control technician.

Last November, Dylan went to Downing Street to meet Prime Minister David Cameron after being nominated for Channel 5's Britain's Kindest Kid.

Then in December, he won the contest in a public vote.

The kind-hearted youngster also makes charm bracelets which he sells to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, and the budding artist held an exhibition of his paintings, generating £700 in sales

for the charity. Ann Marie said: "I'm so proud of what Dylan is doing."

"He's a quiet boy and just wants to help people in any way he can."

"It costs about £10 to make each wonder-box and he does it all himself."

"It was completely his own idea. He saw how ill his grandad was and he decided he really wanted to cheer people up who were going through tough times."

To find out more about Dylan's "wonder-boxes" or to make a donation, email [annmarieward@bt.com](mailto:annmarieward@bt.com) or visit [www.dylanward.co.uk](http://www.dylanward.co.uk)



**INSPIRED** Dylan, left, created his wonder-boxes in honour of his grandad John Pearson, above, who died of cancer.



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