

# Toys galore as family donate TV show prizes



**DREAM COME TRUE** Nadine and Ivan Hollingsworth and their son Sebastian, two, deliver the toys they won to the Children's Heart Ward at the Freeman Hospital

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A COUPLE who won thousands of pounds of toys on a TV show delivered them to the hospital that saved their son's life.

Ivan and Nadine Hollingsworth won a stack of toys on ITV's Text Santa on Christmas Eve, after being plucked out of audience in front of millions of viewers by Ant and Dec.

The Geordie favourites told viewers how the pair, from Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, have raised more than £170,000 for the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF) at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital, where medics saved their son Sebastian.

Sebastian was born in January 2009 with the complex heart condition Tetralogy of Fallot. He had life-saving surgery when he was just 16 weeks old.

Ever since, Ivan, 35, and Nadine, 34, have devoted their energies to raising funds through a series of events – including a coast to coast challenge that saw Ivan run back to Tyneside from Cumbria in five days.

Now they've helped the heart unit yet again, after winning the huge pile of toys, as well as a trip to Disneyland and a mini sports car for Sebastian.

Yesterday, together with two-year-old Sebastian, they delivered the gifts to the heart unit, including a pile of soft toys to seven-month-old Llana Qazi, of North Shields, North Tyneside.

Other toys included 50 trendy Ice watches, Trunki children's cases, DVDs and portable players, books, board games, music CDs, computer games, Thomas the Tank Engine, Doctor Who goodies and Lego.

Ivan and Nadine said they took

## Winners give gift haul to children's heart unit

great pleasure in giving out the toys but were even more pleased that their charity work and CHUF reached a national audience by appearing on Text Santa.

Ivan, a pharmaceutical rep, said: "We've come away saying that being on Text Santa is just the start of something."

"We are trying to put CHUF on the map and engage with everyone in the region, but now we've reached a wider audience and want people to adopt the Freeman in the same way people have adopted Great Ormond Street hospital.

"This is a world-leading unit run by a small charity, so this is a great opportunity.

"After filming I got to say a quick 'hello' to Ant and Dec, and I'm trying to pin them down to doing a half marathon."

Nadine, a business manager, said: "I sat down with the producers after the show finished and they showed me the list of toys, and I was gobsmacked. To get such a vast number of toys at Christmas is going to make a huge difference."

■ For more information about Ivan and Nadine's fundraising work, visit [seb4chuf.co.uk](http://seb4chuf.co.uk), or read Ivan's new blog at [seb4chuf.wordpress.com/](http://seb4chuf.wordpress.com/)

## Theatre visitors' kind donation

THEATRE visitors have this week been raising money for an animal charity on Tyneside.

Collections were held after a matinee performance of Legally Blonde the Musical this week, with the money raised going to Bryson's Animal Refuge, in Gateshead.

Cast members announced the collection on-stage at the curtain call and generous audience members donated more than £400.

Bryson's Animal Refuge was founded in 1947 to provide sanctuary and a home of rest for retired and ill-treated horses and ponies.

Over the years the charity has expanded and now also provides a refuge for dogs, cats, goats and other animals.

Legally Blonde the Musical ends its run at the Sunderland Empire tomorrow.

## Firm's sweet success

A CONFECTIONERY company is celebrating after winning a £50,000 cash grant to help it expand.

Chocolate maker Ken-speckle, a community-led venture based in Lynemouth, Northumberland, plans to boost production and double its workforce from four to eight thanks to the windfall from Santander's Social Enterprise Development Awards.

The business was launched two years ago by Trust in the North - the trading arm of the Lynemouth Resource Centre - to boost income and support its community cafe.

## Meal for nurses

A PUB is offering free meals to nurses to thank them for working the festive period.

The Astley Arms, on Marine View in Whitley Bay, launched the offer for local nurses from January 9 to 14.

Some 88,000 nurses worked on Christmas Day, meaning 22% of all nurses in the UK missed out on time spent with friends and families.



**CHEER** Seven-month-old Llana Qazi, who is waiting for a heart transplant at the Freeman Hospital, gets her new toys

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