

December 2016



Oliver with
son, Elliot
and wife,
Sharon

Will you help give families hope this Christmas?

My family mean everything to me. When I was diagnosed in 2012 with a glioblastoma aged just 39, I remember my wife Sharon crying and all I wanted to do was comfort her and tell her it would be OK.

It didn't sink in at first, it just didn't seem real.

Family and friends rallied around us with amazing support which was, and continues to be, invaluable because it takes a long time to accept your life has changed forever and to adjust to the 'new' you.

I wanted to maintain a sense of normality so I went back to work as soon as I could, but after 18 months I made the difficult decision to leave because it wiped me out so much that I didn't have the energy to play with my son, Elliot. I had to accept that I couldn't do it all and I made the choice to save my energy for my family – family time has become even more precious since being diagnosed.

Our experience has highlighted the vital need for research into this devastating disease. I feel very lucky that I've survived this long with a glioblastoma, but luck shouldn't play a part.

A cure is desperately needed.

The Brain Tumour Charity is funding pioneering, global research into glioblastomas – the most common and aggressive type of brain tumour – giving hope to families just like mine.

Be a Star

You can make a difference this Christmas by helping to fund this research. Led by the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with scientists from Canada and Denmark, it has the potential to transform the lives of adults and children affected by a glioblastoma diagnosis by progressing drugs to clinical trials more quickly.

Whether you're living with a brain tumour, supporting a loved one or remembering someone you've lost, please Be a Star and give a one-off donation of whatever you can afford to The Brain Tumour Charity.

Turn over to read more

Tackling late diagnosis

Thanks to your generosity last Christmas, our researchers at the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh are making progress in understanding the common signs and symptoms of brain tumours in adults and the potential impact of late diagnosis on clinical care and outcomes. To learn more about how your money is making a difference, visit thebraintumourcharity.org/our-progress.

Our united community

Giving a donation today will ensure we can build on the progress we've made together and that in the future, once a diagnosis has been made, better and more effective treatments will be available.

Simply complete the form below and send your donation to us in the envelope provided. Then, use the star in the enclosed booklet to write a short message about the loved one who inspires you and place it somewhere special.

Family is everything, so I will be dedicating my star to Sharon and Elliot and hanging it on our Christmas tree. Their incredible support, alongside family, friends and doctors, helps me to keep my sense of identity and fulfil my personal mantra to 'look forward, be positive and keep smiling' every day.

On behalf of The Brain Tumour Charity staff, Trustees and Patrons, I'd like to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you for reading our story.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Oliver, Sharon and Elliot Highway

P.S. *We all have our different stories and inspirations but we share the same goal. I hope you will give what you can afford so we can help more families to share more Christmases in the future.*

Prefer to donate online?

Show the strength and power of our united community by donating online and dedicating a virtual star to your loved one. Please visit visufund.co.uk/star. Your star will appear in our sky of hope along with hundreds of others.

