

Dear Friends

It has taken me almost 2 weeks to write this letter as every time I started it I got stuck!

How on earth can I possibly put in writing how much your amazing donation means to a charity of our size - £60,000 – unbelievable!

When I first came along to the meeting in Dalkeith I was really impressed the committee wanted to know so much about our work at CCLASP and was delighted to be told that you had chosen us to benefit from the forthcoming 15months of fundraising.

What a 15months that has been. I was told that Lodges within the Province of Midlothian were keen to be involved and the awareness of the charity must surely benefit from that alone.

I appreciate you had months of planning events, gathering donations and Jim Pryde in and out our office with prizes to be 'smartened up' by our lovely wee Megan for the Barn Dance and then the cheque presentation.

CCLASP staff sat with a family at the barn dance who's son had just completed his treatment for leukaemia and also a family who sadly had recently lost their son to cancer and we were having a fantastic time laughing, singing and up dancing together, when Brian Kerley announced he would like me to go up for the presentation. There was a hush when the members came out with the giant figures and I watched with bated breath as they turned over zero after zero and I thought to myself oh where is this going then the big six appeared and I almost passed out! Floods of tears later I managed to say a short thank you.

I am so proud to have had the honour of being taken under your wings and what a wonderful achievement for you all to raise such a huge amount especially topping our 'Secret Millionaire'!

Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to all your members for this donation it is very much appreciated and will be used directly to help all the families in different ways, one of which will be to allow them to have a well deserved chosen holiday as you requested.

Kindest regards

Valerie Simpson Managing Director/Founder www.cclasp.net