

(Please provide a statement describing how the nominee meets the award criteria and provide examples to support the statement. Please note the information supplied will form the basis for a decision made by the judging panel and if shortlisted will be used in any associated publicity materials. Please keep nomination to no more than two pages.)

East Anglian Air Ambulance would like to nominate eleven-year-old Jack Jinkerson for Young Person of the Year.

In April 2019 Jack's dad Stefan, aged 58, was attended to by the East Anglian Air Ambulance crew from our Cambridge base. Stefan had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at home and despite best efforts sadly passed away at home. When tragedy like this happens, it is understandable that family and friends take time to grieve. Although everyone grieves in different ways, the strength and determination Jack has displayed is nothing short of admirable. Many adults wouldn't have coped as Jack has done and been able to turn such a sad situation into something positive to drive not just themselves but their family and an entire community forward.

Since the incident, Jack has made it his mission to raise awareness and fundraise as much as possible for EAAA in memory of his dad. Never seen without some form of EAAA merchandise, Jack is constantly finding new ways to tell people about the charity and the amazing work we do.

Following a visit from a member of our aftercare team to talk through the incident, Jack mentioned his idea to host a sponsored walk. Jack wanted to do something memorable that was both an honour to his dad's memory and helped to fundraise for the charity.

In July 2019, on the day of what would have been his dad's 59<sup>th</sup> birthday, with support from his family, school and EAAA, Jack organised a wonderful event where he raised an incredible £3,720 in memory of his dad. The walk included more than 300 children from his school plus over 50 relatives and teachers. In total the sponsored walk consisted of 10 laps of the school field, which is four miles in distance.

His mum reflected:

*"Jack wanted to do something as positive as we could despite it being our first year without his dad, I am still so proud of him for coming up with this idea and taking part. It was a very emotional day but I know Stefan would have been looking down on us spurring us on."*

*"The way Jack has handled everything makes me so proud, he has honestly been the strength that has guided the family through since Stefan's death."*

It was lovely to see Jack received a community award, nominated by his school, for his awesomeness, resilience and planning the walk.

A letter from the National Leader of Governance said:

*"It is truly impressive to see how a young person, with determination, resilience and commitment can achieve so much and to have walked and biked over 255 miles to raise money for such a worthy cause that I know if close to your heart shows what a truly #activecitizen you are."*

*"I know your teachers and the school community are immensely proud of you and your achievements and, although it is rare for me to write personally to one of the 10,000 children and young people in our Trust, I could not let this pass without adding my thanks to you for all you have done, for your contribution to an important cause and for being an outstanding member of your school and our Trust community."*

Determined to not stop there his efforts have continued as he likes to take part in many of our events! Most recently he has taken part in Together We Ride, a monthly challenge to ride as many miles as possible and raise money.

Jack and his family have also been invited to meet the crew who attended his dad at a base visit in Cambridge. The visit was an opportunity for Jack and his family to ask any questions they had about the day of the incident and the treatment Stefan received.

One of our Clinical Liaison Nurses, who works as part of our Aftercare team said:

*"I've been involved with Jack and his family since shortly after the incident. I am still so in awe of him and every time I speak to him I can't believe he's so young! To walk with Jack, his mum and family on the sponsored walk was really touching, I know it meant an incredible amount to them all.*

*Every time I see Jack, or his mum sends me an update he's wearing some sort of EAAA merchandise whether that be a hat or t-shirt and always on the look out for how he can raise awareness or fundraise. He truly is a phenomenal little boy."*