

## Can you help MACS?

There are many ways to support MACS!

- Become a regular giver - set up a monthly donation via our website
- Organise fundraising activities in your community or at work. How about a cake or car boot sale? Our online fundraising pack is packed full of ideas!
- Take part in a sporting challenge for MACS. Apply for an event place with MACS or join another challenge event
- Ask your employer about Payroll Giving
- Talk to us about becoming your company Charity of the Year
- Think about leaving a gift in your will to aid MACS in the future

Please visit [macs.org.uk/want-to-help/](http://macs.org.uk/want-to-help/) to find out more.

**Whatever you'd like to do,  
we'd love to hear from you!**



**Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia  
& Coloboma Support**

### Contacting MACS...

T: 0800 169 8088 W: [www.macs.org.uk](http://www.macs.org.uk)

E: [enquiries@macs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@macs.org.uk)

F: **MACSCharity** T: **@macsthecharity**

**#MACSCharity #TeamMACS**

Registered Address: MACS, Suite 472, Kemp House,  
152 City Road, London EC1V 2NX  
Registered charity no: 1161897



**Microphthalmia,  
Anophthalmia &  
Coloboma Support**

**All about MACS**

## About MACS and MACS conditions

MACS started life in 1993 as a small support group run by, and for, parents whose children were born with Anophthalmia, Microphthalmia and / or Coloboma. These terms mean that one or both eyes are missing, or are small and underdeveloped.

Approximately 80 to 90 affected children are born in the UK every year and MACS - as the UK's only charity supporting people with these specific conditions - has grown in response. Despite our growth over the years, we've stayed true to our roots, continuing to place the needs of our members at the core of all that we do.

Impact on sight can vary greatly. Our cover boy George has bilateral Anophthalmia; he has no eyes and no vision. Another child born with unilateral (affecting one eye only) Microphthalmia or Coloboma may have limited vision in that eye, but get along well with the other, functioning eye.

Many children undergo repeated procedures as they age to fit prosthetic eyes. These artificial eyes help to expand the eye socket, allowing the skull to grow at a normal rate, and usually look just like a real eye.



## How does MACS help?

MACS welcomes all affected UK-based children and adults, parents and carers as members to our warm and supportive community. Our services provide a lifeline to those who struggle with the impact of MACS conditions and we exist to help the whole family.

### Support line

Volunteer parents operate our support line 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, and offer a listening ear to anyone who may feel overwhelmed or isolated, especially during the early years of a child's life.

### Access to our community network

We provide opportunities for members of all ages to connect with the wider MACS community online or via activities such as our annual Family Weekend and regional meet ups. Making contact with those who understand your experience makes a big difference and helps to provide much needed reassurance and hope for the future.

## Practical help

We offer our members: discounted family breaks in fully accessible accommodation; signposting to specialists and services; a helping hand to get funding towards essential equipment and support; resources to help explain MACS conditions to children; schools packs to help teachers support pupils with MACS conditions; up-to-date medical information and research updates via our website; and workshops and advice clinics at our annual Family Weekend.

## Activities to promote wellbeing and life skills

Being blind or visually impaired, or looking and feeling different, sometimes leads to issues with self-esteem. We encourage our younger members to take part in activities such as sailing or adventure holidays and take advantage of the chance to learn new skills, develop confidence and become more independent.

