

Quarterly Update

May-July 2025

As I look back on this past quarter, I have to begin with our Crowdfunder. From our modest portacabin headquarters, the team worked tirelessly to deliver a campaign that exceeded all expectations. But the true success belongs to the hundreds of donors and the many **Gymbassadors** who championed us every step of the way. Together, you helped us reach and surpass an ambitious target of **£250,000**. The outpouring of support from such an engaged and passionate community has been deeply moving, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed.

This achievement means we are now moving full steam ahead, with enabling **works which began in August** and construction set to continue throughout the autumn, keeping us firmly **on track to open in 2026**.

We still have a way to go, so I encourage you to stay involved, follow our progress, and help spread the word. The summer holidays have been a reminder of how vital Gympanzees is. Many of you will know we paused our Pop Up provision to focus all efforts on redeveloping the site, and so families have really missed us over these holidays. I say to them; **"See you next summer!"**

Kindest Regards,

Steph

Stephanie Wheen
CEO & Founder
of Gympanzees



The Build

We have successfully progressed through the expression of interest stage for the fit-out and are now in the final tendering phase. While our original plan anticipated enabling works commencing later in the year, contractor feedback recommended bringing this forward to the summer to reduce any potential risks to the fit-out schedule. Acting on this advice, **enabling works began in August**, including preparing floors for screed and creating space above the trampolines and pits below.

Specialist contractors for **Changing Places facilities, hoists and flooring** have also been engaged early in the design process, ensuring these elements are fully integrated from the outset.

Before and After Flythrough

We have been working with an amazing virtual reality company to bring to life the vast transformation that is currently underway on site. This flythrough video gives you a whistlestop tour!



Fundraising Campaign

Crowdfunder Success

Our **six-week Crowdfunder campaign (16th June - 28th July)** was an extraordinary showcase of community spirit and creativity, exceeding our **£250,000** target to raise an incredible **£257,000**.

Launch day set the pace, with **ITV News** capturing the buzz as families toured the building and explored our future centre through an **immersive VR headset**. Donors enjoyed a host of unique perks, from naming a tree in our woodland to receiving a Gympanzees colouring book, opening day tickets, or memberships, while corporates proudly featured on our online donor carousel.

Media coverage included Steph's interview on **BBC Radio Bristol**, and a highlight on social media was **a heart-warming video** bringing together children, families, and supporters **sharing the one word that captures what Gympanzees means to them.**

Watch
here!



With remarkable engagement from families, fundraisers, corporates, major donors, and new supporters alike, the campaign was a fantastic celebration of what we can achieve together.

Community Fundraising

Brothers Harrison and Cam pushed themselves to **run 15 miles** before conquering the summit of **Pen y Fan**. Ellie, one of our brilliant Pop Up staff, completed **a mini-triathlon** alongside her family, while a team from cycling company **Zwift** tackled an iconic stage of the **Tour de France Femmes** taking on a gruelling **3,500m of Alpine climbing**. Closer to home, two committed walkers set their sights on the **Cotswold Way walking 100km in two days**, covering its beautiful yet challenging terrain. Together, these inspiring efforts showed the many ways our supporters go the distance for Gympanzees.



We had a wonderful time being part of the **Bristol Film Festival** and the **Bristol Mason's Classic Car Fest!** Thanks to both organisations for your generous support of our work.

Key Gifts

The Nisbet Trust have extended their generous support, pledging a further **£100,000** towards core costs over the next year.

The Bristol Masons' Charity and **Morrisons Foundation** have recently made awards to purchase fun and interactive pieces of specialist equipment for the gym.

Proposals and conversations are ongoing with a range of Trusts, with a handful of applications through to the final stages, totalling over **£1.8million**. I look forward to updating you on some of these in our next report!

Events

Over £16,000 Raised at the Gympanzees Golf Day

We were delighted to welcome **18 teams** to **Thornbury Golf Centre** for this year's **Gympanzees Annual Golf Day**.

Thank you to everyone who took part, sponsored, donated, or volunteered. While the day brought a range of performances on the greens, it was inspiring to see such a dedicated group come together in support of Gympanzees.

We would like to extend particular thanks to **Chris Sheard from SR2 Recruitment** and **Geoff Fricker from Maxim Consulting Services** for their exceptional contribution in helping to make the event such a success.



Dragon Boat Race Sunday 21st September 2025

Following last year's success, we will be heading back down to **Baltic Wharf in Bristol**, for a fun day of paddling, music, and teamwork.

We might be able to squeeze in one or two last boats past the **1st Sept registration deadline**. Do get in touch if you'd like to take part.

We're still accepting event sponsorship to help enhance the impact of the day even further. With opportunities ranging from **£1,000-£10,000**, please email **jen@gympanzees.org** for more info on how you can make a splash!



The Lending Library

Supported by:



It has been great to have the **Lending Library** continue throughout the summer, particularly with the Pop Ups not running. The regional hubs continue to provide a convenient and accessible service, with our reach growing each month. We're on course to reach **21,000** children before we open, ensuring that our impact is still felt far and wide.

Sensory Support Kits

At Gympanzees, we recognise that movement not only benefits physical health but also supports attention, emotional balance, and an inclusive classroom environment. We have recently developed a **Sensory Support Kit** for use in both mainstream and specialist schools, designed to enhance focus, emotional regulation, and readiness for learning through movement and sensory activities. Based on feedback from teachers and occupational therapists, the kit and accompanying guidance have been kept concise to avoid overwhelming staff with information, while still offering practical, easy-to-implement ideas.

The kit includes equipment such as an exercise ball, spinning apparatus, bubble tube, weighted blanket, body sock, and balance board, along with a guide booklet featuring examples of short energy breaks, re-focus strategies, and more. The kit will first be trialled in schools that contributed to our research, before being made available to any school wishing to use it.

We look forward to rolling these out across schools across the region and helping pupils and teachers find movements to help them throughout the school day.

If you'd like to know more or enquire about a particular school being involved, please get in touch with our **Family Liaison Officer, Lucy Spielberg**, lucy@gympanzees.org



Case Study: Guided by Families

When Frankie outgrew his travel seat, family holidays seemed impossible, until our **Lending Library** stepped in. Frankie's mum Hannah found the **Special Tomato Out & About Seat**, giving Frankie the comfort and support he needed to enjoy his trip, and she suggested it to the Lending Library Team so that other families could also benefit.

The seat was researched, sourced, and made available for Frankie's trip, giving the family freedom, comfort, and the chance to enjoy their holiday.

Now, this portable seat is available for other families too, helping children take part in activities many take for granted. Guided by the families we serve, we're proud that our Library grows to meet real needs.



2024 Accounts

Our latest accounts have now been published on the **Charity Commission** and feature an in-depth review of our activity and achievements in **2024**, alongside a comprehensive financial review.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We're always happy to hear your thoughts, questions, or ideas about our campaign, your input makes a real difference. Stay connected and follow our latest updates, stories, and behind-the-scenes moments on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

More
here on
our 2024
Accounts



We've got a building, now you can help us make it a home!



Charity Number 1189375