

YOUR SCAA

SCOTLAND'S LIFELINE, POWERED BY YOU



FEATURED STORY:

**Without you,
Katrina could have
lost her little girl**



SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE

Autumn 2025 | scaa.org.uk

Discover how your support helped save little Cora

“Without them, we could have lost our little girl.”



“Time was running out. My little girl would never make the journey by road to hospital. I thought I was going to lose her.”

A series of seizures had left one-year-old Cora requiring specialist life-saving medicine on order at the local chemist. So, when the toddler started fitting again before the prescription arrived, her mother Katrina knew it was a race against time to save the youngster’s life.

“Cora had been prescribed the rescue meds, but it was her first prescription and a specialist drug that the chemist didn’t have in stock,” explained Katrina. “Unfortunately, she took another fit before supplies reached us.

“I was on my own at home with her and her two-year-old sister – 45 minutes’ drive from hospital in Aberdeen.”

“I tried not to panic but inside I was screaming. I knew how serious it was and I knew that every second brought her closer to permanent

brain damage or death. I knew if an ambulance was coming from Aberdeen, they just wouldn’t reach us in time. I was terrified. We couldn’t lose her – we just couldn’t.”

Katrina dialled 999 and explained the emergency.

“They kept me calm and said that help was on its way.

“I held Cora so that she wouldn’t hurt herself, but I never took my eyes off the clock,” explained Katrina. “We had been through so much with Cora that we knew that 20 minutes into a seizure could result in brain damage – longer than that and it could kill her.”

Unknown to Katrina, Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) – a service entirely funded by people like you – had already taken off from its Aberdeen base with a specialist doctor-led team on board with all the necessary kit, medication and skills to save the little girl’s life.

“I had no idea there was a helicopter coming until I heard it landing in a field next to the house,” said Katrina.

“Suddenly there were doctors and paramedics taking over and I felt this huge sense of relief. It was all a bit overwhelming really. I knew they could save Cora and I’ve never been so truly grateful to any group of people in my life.”

After life-saving treatment at the house, little Cora was taken by road ambulance to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, accompanied by the doctor SCAA had airlifted to the scene.

Three months later, the two little sisters were bridesmaids when their Mum and Dad (Sandy)

married in Aberdeen and then headed off on a family “honeymoon” to Spain.

Shaken by the experience, the family has now moved to be nearer emergency care for Cora should she need it.

The family is also taking part in fundraising for SCAA and Katrina’s workmates at Serica Energy – both land-based and those on the oil platforms – are supporting the charity following little Cora’s scare.

“SCAA brought life-saving help to Cora within 15 minutes of my initial call. Without them we could have lost our little girl.”

“They saved her life – how can you ever repay that? They brought her back to me and probably saved my life as well. Everyone wants to help ensure they’re available for the next little one that needs them.”

Helping Cora and Katrina in their time of need was made possible by people like you. Thanks to your support, we were able to deliver urgent life-saving treatment and help keep a family together.



Have you made your mark yet?

There's still time and we still have space for your name to fly with us on our life-saving missions across Scotland.

A gift of £40 means your name, or the name of one of your loved ones, will be featured on a map of Scotland, on the belly of our brand-new aircraft, alongside the names of other life-saving supporters.

Our Make Your Mark campaign supports the launch of SCAA's new Airbus H145 D3 helicopter, set to be operational from October. Our brand-new helicopter will be powered by kind supporters like you. This is Scotland's air ambulance – funded by people like you, for people across Scotland.

Your chosen name will fly on every mission, side by side with our crew, as a powerful reminder that you made it possible.

The next time you look up and see SCAA's new helicopter flying overhead, you'll know your name is on board and helping someone in their moment of greatest need.

The name you give, could help someone live – so please make your mark.

The process is easy, simply submit your name and donation, receive your personalised certificate, and we will print your name on our unique map of Scotland alongside other life-saving contributors. Your name will proudly accompany our crew on their critical missions.

Submit your name via:
www.scaa.org.uk/make-your-mark



MAKE YOUR MARK

OPERATION SKYWARD



Life-saving flights fuelled by your donations

In the past year, your support has fuelled SCAA on nearly 1,000 call outs. This growing demand for our life-saving service takes our crews to every corner of Scotland and to all types of emergencies.

Thanks to generous donations from people like you, we airlifted 326 of the most seriously ill and injured patients to definitive hospital care, ensuring that those most in need received help fast.

Calls for SCAA to attend at trauma cases continue to rise with nearly 350 in the past year. These have seen our crews attend everything

from major road traffic accidents to broken ankles and falls from height to explosions. Our call outs to road crashes have risen by 6% in a year with falls rising by a significant 20%.

Your support travelled with us on every life-saving response.

Our ability to transport doctor-led specialist teams speedily to the scene saw us deliver the skills of the Accident and Emergency department to the side of more than 130 patients. Critical care administered in the fastest possible time – thanks to you.

Medical emergencies continue to dominate our workload, with cardiac-related and stroke emergencies accounting for nearly half of all 441 medical call outs during the past year. Your donation gave these patients the best possible chance of survival and continued quality of life.

Your selfless giving also allowed our paramedics to travel with patients in land ambulances when airlifting was unsuitable, assist emergency services colleagues at scene and transfer vulnerable patients from our remote and island communities to mainland hospital care.

We couldn't do it without you.



A new era of life-saving – thanks to you

In October, SCAA will launch the most advanced helicopter air ambulance of its kind in the UK.

Flying from our Aberdeen base, the new H145 D3 will take SCAA to the next level in emergency pre-hospital care, with its customised fit uniquely designed to reflect the specific needs of our patients and crew over long distances and in challenging weather conditions.

Your continued support has given us the confidence to invest a further £2 million a year to ensure we provide the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) that the people of Scotland deserve.

Our investment, funded by you, also saw Night Vision Imaging Systems (NVIS) launched in winter with Helimed 76 at Perth and a more modern NVIZ equipped H135 introduced to replace the charity's long-standing workhorse G-SCAA.

Our crews will fly our life-saving service into the future – thanks to you.

Demand for speed and expertise at the scene of the most serious illness or accident is vital and SCAA plays a crucial role in delivering both.

No one in Scotland should die because help can't get there in time and this new helicopter will offer greater range, endurance and capacity which significantly enhances our life-saving service and our ability to meet the ever-growing demand on pre-hospital emergency response teams.

Thank you.

Because of people like you, we were there for Iain when his aircraft crashed



Thanks to your support, Iain was in hospital within just 20 minutes.

RAF Officer Iain Bright had just five seconds to react when his aircraft engine failed shortly after takeoff and he began plummeting towards the ground.

“The engine just quit, which meant I went from max power to nothing with no warning,” reflects Iain. “This grassy mound that jutted out of the airfield was right in front of me...I knew if I hit it the impact would kill me.”

With just seconds to avoid the obstruction, Iain, 58, attempted a left turn to reduce the crash angle.

“I knew I was crashing, and I knew it was going to be severe. The option in front of me of hitting the mound would have almost certainly been fatal,” he says.

Flight lieutenant Iain crashed hard from a height of around 100 feet resulting in him being knocked unconscious and wreckage from his small aircraft being strewn across the airfield at Easterton, near Elgin.

He regained consciousness after six minutes and managed to call his friend who was with him at the airfield but completely unaware of what had just occurred.

“I hope SCAA are always there for anyone who needs them. You just never know when you wake up that something bad could happen to you that day.”

The extent of Iain’s injuries was reflected in the damage to the aircraft, the front of which was completely ‘shredded’.

“When I came to, my legs were in the grass,” he admits. “I could see the sole of my left foot, so I knew that was badly broken. The windscreen had exploded on impact, thankfully my eyes were protected by my visor, but I couldn’t undo my chin strap. Then I realised there was a large shard of windscreen stuck in my chin. Once I pulled that out, I managed to crawl free of the wreckage.

“My friend – who was a doctor – called for medical help.”

A local land ambulance arrived within 10 minutes. Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland and Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance all rushed to Iain’s aid.

Unbeknownst to Iain, the extent of his injuries were extreme. He suffered two broken ankles, his back was broken in two places, four broken ribs, partially collapsed lung, and internal bleeding.

“The pain started to hit as soon as I knew help was on the way...I think the adrenaline was wearing off,” Iain comments.

“SCAA’s Helimed 79 was on the scene quickly”

“SCAA’s Helimed 79 was on the scene quickly with several other emergency service vehicles. The paramedics gave me pain relief and put my left leg – which was in bad shape – into an inflatable splint.”

Thanks to the support of the Scottish public, Iain was airlifted by SCAA in 20 minutes to the major trauma unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, the same journey by road would have taken over 1.5 hours.

Iain spent a week in high dependency and a total of three weeks in hospital, where he had both ankles rebuilt with ‘lots of metalwork’. His hospital stay was captured in the Channel 4 series Rescue Medics.

“I couldn’t put any weight on my feet for four months,” Iain says, “I was in a wheelchair for a long time.”

A complete ankle replacement had a drastic



improvement on Iain’s mobility. He admits he can now go for walks on the beach and since his accident he has been determined to fundraise for SCAA.

Two years after his crash, Iain and his colleagues visited our Aberdeen base at Dyce after raising over £650 for SCAA. In a tribute to her father, Iain’s daughter also raised £500 during the charity’s 100 Miles in October challenge (2023). And Iain managed to raise over £1,000 doing the same challenge in 2024.

He says: “If SCAA weren’t there and I was just relying on a land ambulance, I think it would have been a horrible journey.

“To the crew who helped me, I’d like to say thank you for being so prompt and professional”.

Your generosity helped Iain get the advanced hospital care he desperately needed after his crash in the quickest time possible. This in turn helped aid his recovery process.

Your support in action



1 - Perth

Two back-to-back emergencies involving people with breathing difficulties in the Perth city area saw SCAA paramedics deploy in their Rapid Response Vehicle to assist. SCAA paramedics were able to stabilise both patients before handing over to Scottish Ambulance Service colleagues.



2 - Mull

SCAA proved invaluable when a patient on Mull needed mainland hospital care after the last evening ferry had sailed. Helimed 76 flew the man safely to the Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban in under 10 minutes.



3 - Cairngorms

SCAA landed at a remote bothy in the Cairngorms to reach a man injured in a fall on the hillside. The crew worked alongside a team from Braemar Mountain Rescue to treat the patient and get him off the hill for transfer to hospital.



5 - Halkirk

SCAA landed in Halkirk to airlift a patient to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Transport by road would've taken around four and a half hours, but the flight took 50 minutes, ensuring the patient received hospital care in the fastest possible time.



4 - Kirkwall

SCAA made two return flights to Orkney in one day to ensure that two islanders received mainland hospital care in the fastest possible time. Helimed 79 reached Kirkwall in under an hour and returned with a patient each time.



6 - Gigha

SCAA ensured a woman injured in an e-bike accident on the island of Gigha received mainland hospital treatment in the fastest possible time. The injured patient was airlifted to Glasgow in just 30 minutes.

Please follow us on socials and if you can, donate to help us get there, **in time.**



 Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance - SCAA

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