

## Can you help MACS?

There are many ways to support MACS:

- Become a regular giver - just set up a monthly donation via our website
- Text **MACS01 £20 (or other £) to 70070 to make a quick one-off donation**
- 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's Charity of the Year
- Think about leaving a gift in your will to aid MACS in the future

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



**Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia  
& Coloboma Support**

**Support line & enquiries**

**T: 0800 169 8088 E: enquiries@macs.org.uk**

**Fundraising**

**T: 0800 644 6017 E: fundraising@macs.org.uk**

**www.macs.org.uk**

**f MACSCharity @macsthecharity  
#MACSCharity #TeamMACS**

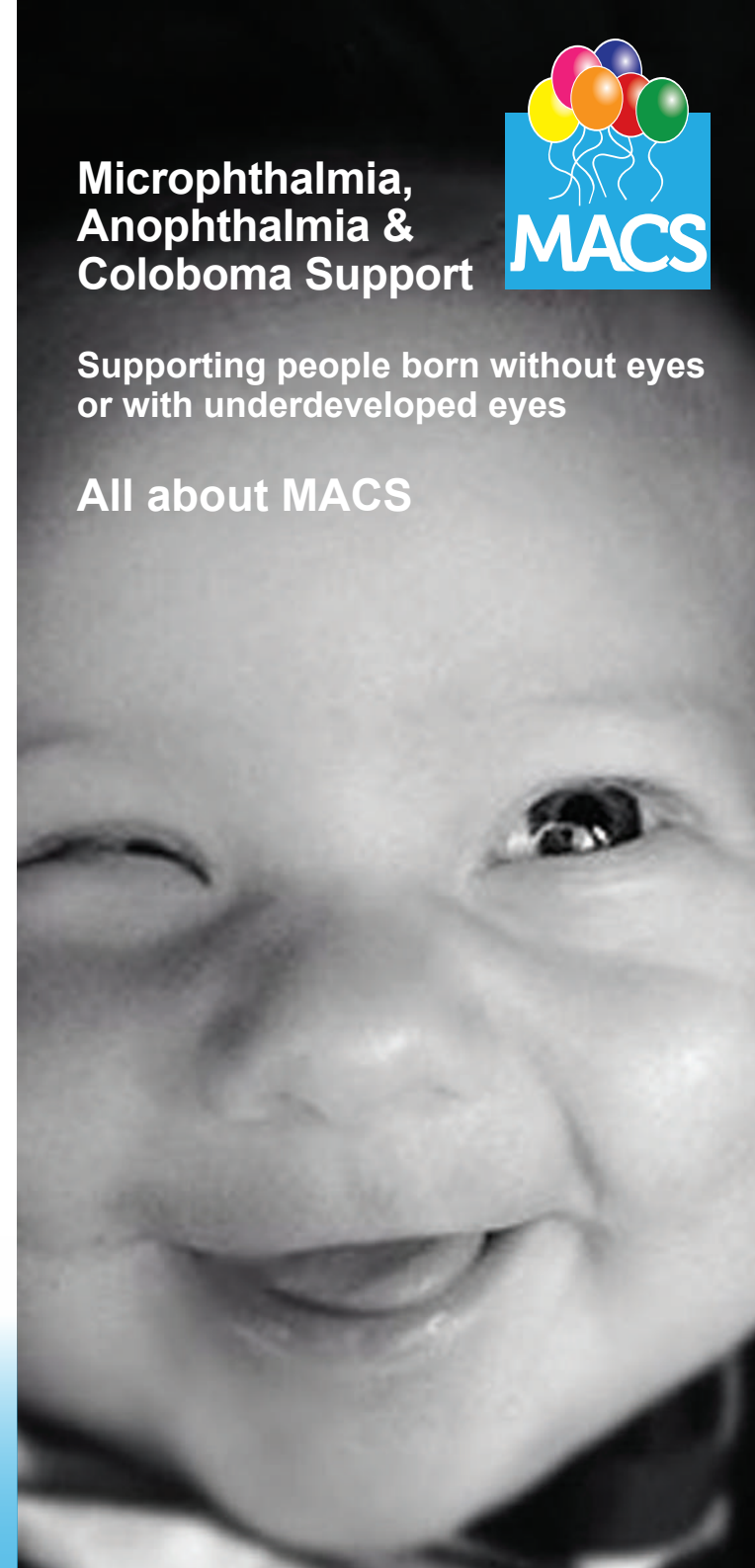
Registered Address: MACS, Suite 472, Kemp House,  
152 City Road, London EC1V 2NX  
Registered charity no: 1161897

**Microphthalmia,  
Anophthalmia &  
Coloboma Support**



**Supporting people born without eyes  
or with underdeveloped eyes**

**All about MACS**



**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 the eye/s 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 this, we've stayed true to our roots, continuing to place the needs of our community at the core of all that we do.

Impact on sight can vary greatly. A child born with bilateral Anophthalmia has no eyes and no vision. Children like our cover girl, Aurora, born with unilateral (affecting one eye only) Microphthalmia, or Coloboma, may have very limited or no vision in that eye, but get along well with the other, functioning eye.

As they grow, many children undergo repeated procedures 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 parents, carers, children and adults as members to our warm and supportive community. Our services provide a lifeline to those who struggle with the impact of MACS conditions.

### **Support line**

Volunteer members operate our support line and offer a listening ear to parents and carers 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**

Helpful resources accessible to our members include: access to professional advice; written guides to the conditions and medical procedures; a small grant fund; and respite holidays in caravans equipped to aid people who are visually impaired or otherwise disabled.

### **Activities to promote wellbeing and life skills**

Being blind, partially sighted, or simply 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.

