

ROTARY RAISES OVER £1,000,000 FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

Rotary Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland announce today that they have raised £1,006,722 for children's hospices in the last Rotary year to July. The partnership between Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland and the Association of Children's Hospices (ACH) had two aims: to raise much needed funds and to raise awareness of children's hospices. Many Rotary Clubs have formed strong links with their local children's hospices and their support will continue in the future. As well as fund raising Rotarians are giving thousands of hours of volunteer time, helping hospices in a variety of ways.

As well as the local work with individual hospices, many Rotary Clubs have also been supporting the work of the ACH., more than £20,000 has been raised from the Association to help with the work they undertake centrally. The partnership has also raised awareness of children's hospices, which is crucial, especially in the development of the new hospices such as in Balloch, Scotland and Bristol

Brian Stoyel, President Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland said "I am delighted at the success of the partnership and the support given by Rotary Clubs to help continue and expand the wonderful children's hospice services which so many parents depend on. The strong links that have developed over the past twelve months will ensure continuing support for the hospices from Rotary Clubs in years to come."

"The support the children's hospice movement has received from the members of Rotary in the last 12 months has surpassed all expectations, with over £1,000,000 raised," said Barbara Gelb, Chief Executive of the Association of Children's Hospices. "This is a phenomenal achievement and we would like to thank Rotary Clubs once again for their fantastic support.'

There are some 20,000 children across the UK with conditions that mean they will not live to reach adulthood. Some children die when very young; others deteriorate slowly over many years. Families caring for life-limited children – often 24 hours a day over many years – can feel extremely isolated and under enormous emotional, physical and financial strain: relationships can suffer; careers may have to be abandoned; well brothers and sisters feel left out; and normal family activities become impossible.

Children's Hospices welcome whole families for respite care, giving them a break together or time to themselves in a comfortable home-like atmosphere. They provide expert palliative and emergency care; practical advice and information; and also terminal care and support into bereavement for as long as it is needed.

There are currently 29 fully operational children's hospices in the United Kingdom, 5 organisations offering a Hospice at Home service, 1 children's hospice Day Care service and

another 7 projects with plans at various stages to establish a children's hospice service. ACH works on behalf of all of these organisations.

For more information or photos please contact Judith Diment on 01628 672965 or 07860 162313

For more information about ACH Contact Tom de Pass Telephone 0117 905 5082 .

Notes for Editors

1. Rotary is an organisation of business and professional persons united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. Members carry out this work in their community and/or overseas by giving their time and their expertise. A Rotary Club is open to men and women who are business, professional or community leaders who want to use their experience for the benefit of others. Rotary celebrates its centennial on 23rd February.
For general information on Rotary in your area, contact the local Rotary Club President, details from Robin Freeman telephone 01789 765411 www.rotary-ribi.org
2. Formed in 1995, ACH is a national charity that works on behalf of all UK children's hospices. ACH seeks to improve the provision, regulation, quality and funding of children's hospices services and promotes the needs of life-limited children and their families. ACH receives no statutory funding and increasingly relies on corporate sponsors to fund core costs.