



Service Above Self

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ROTARY RAISES £750,000 FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

Rotary Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland announce today that they have raised £750,000 for children's hospices in the last twelve months. The partnership between Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland and the Association of Children's Hospices 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.

Many events have been organised throughout the year and forthcoming events include the Meriden Motorcycle Megaride on 27th June, which will see hundreds of motor cycling Rotarians riding from Leamington Spa to the centre of England, Meriden. In July the Rotary Club of Cannock is driving a vintage John Deere tractor from Birmingham to Dublin.

As well as the local work with individual hospices, many Rotary Clubs have also been supporting the work of the Association of Children's Hospices and more than £20,000 has been raised for 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 new hospices such as in Dublin and Bristol.

Brian Stoye, 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."

Barbara Gelb, Chief Executive of ACH said "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 £630,000 raised," said Barbara Gelb, Chief Executive of the Association of Children's Hospices. "During the 12 month adoption, existing links have been strengthened and new bonds forged between Rotary branches and local children's hospice services.

On top of the incredible amounts of money raised, Rotarians have donated, and I am sure will continue to donate, many hours of their own time doing voluntary work supporting the work of the staff in the children's hospices. The adoption by Rotary goes a long way in making a difference to the lives of thousands of children, and their families, using children's hospice services each year," she concluded.

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 26 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 13 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 Barbara Gelb ACH Telephone 0117 905 5082 .

Notes for Editors

1. Rotary is an organization 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.

For general information on Rotary in your area, contact the local Rotary Club President, details from Robin Freeman telephone 01789 765411

2. ACH was formed in 1995 and is a small, national charity and umbrella organization working 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.