



# Press release

## Edinburgh's biggest charity bookshop to open its doors

**Wednesday, 12 May 2010**

A new St Columba's Hospice charity bookshop will be opening its doors in Goldenacre on Thursday 20 May, and the whole of Edinburgh is invited to join in the celebrations. The second hand bookshop, at 15 Montagu Terrace in north Edinburgh, will become the city's largest charity bookshop, with shelf space for over 4,000 titles.

The new bookshop was made possible with the help of a Standard Life employee, Roni McNeill, who has been working at St Columba's Hospice for the past three months as part of the company's employee secondment programme. Roni, who is the 100<sup>th</sup> seconded employee for Standard Life, was set the challenging task of find a suitable site for the shop, creating a project plan and managing all aspects of the shop fit out and opening. Standard Life has also helped by donating printing and design services and arranging for a team of employees to take a break from their regular jobs to paint and decorate the shop.

Barbara Brockie, Trading Company Coordinator of St Columba's Hospice said:

"St Columba's Hospice is very grateful to Standard Life for giving us the opportunity to be part of their secondment programme, and for loaning Roni to us for the past three months – her expertise has been enormously beneficial to us. We'd also like to give a huge thank you to our volunteers who have done an amazing job at setting up the shop in their own time. We are really excited about being able to provide a St Columba's Hospice bookshop for people in the north of Edinburgh."

Roni McNeill, Learning and Development Consultant at Standard Life, and Project Manager for the new shop said:

"It's been an incredible opportunity for me to work on this project with St Columba's Hospice and I've learnt a lot from the experience. We're encouraging all booklovers to come along to our opening on Thursday 20 May to say hello, browse our shelves and buy a book to help raise essential funds for St Columba's Hospice."

As a special treat for the store's opening day, all customers who spend £3 or more will receive a voucher for a free hot drink from the nearby Café Montagu. Like the already successful St Columba's Hospice bookshop in Morningside, all fiction paperbacks at the shop will be only £1 each. The shop will also have a special area for children to play while their parents are browsing, as well as a book order service for hard to find titles.

The St Columba's Hospice bookshop will open at 10am on 20 May. The address of the shop is 15 Montagu Terrace, Edinburgh EH3 5QR.

**Ends**

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