



Press release

£100k raised so far for St Columba's Buy a Brick Appeal

Monday 5 July 2010

St Columba's Hospice today announced that the first milestone of its Buy a Brick Appeal has been reached, with more than £100,000 raised to date. The appeal, which has been running since 22 April, is raising funds to help rebuild the hospice over the next four years.

Lesley Christie, Director of Fundraising said:

"The response to our Buy a Brick appeal has been extraordinary and we're extremely grateful for the support our community has shown to us so far. However, we still have a lot more to raise to help us undertake a much needed redevelopment of our hospice.

"We're calling on people to dig deep and give whatever they can to help us build a new St Columba's Hospice, so we can continue providing the best possible care to our patients and their loved ones. If only 10,000 people give £15 a month over the four year rebuild project, we will have raised the £7 million that we still need."

The rebuild project will transform and modernise the current buildings and facilities. More single rooms for patients will be created, as well as extra space in all patient rooms for families to stay, more family rooms, and upgraded catering, laundry and administration facilities. A new Centre for Excellence in Palliative Care will also be built to further develop the hospice's education programme in palliative care.

The rebuild will cost £26 million to complete, and the Hospice still needs to raise a further £7 million to reach its target. The first phase of work is set to get underway later this year.

People who donate to the buy a brick appeal can buy a virtual brick for the hospice, which they can personalise with their own message and photo online. Supporters can buy an 'in memoriam' brick to remember a loved one, an 'in celebration' brick to mark a special occasion, or an 'in support' brick to show their support for the work of the hospice.

People who would like to buy a brick or would like more information should visit www.bluedove.org.uk or call the St Columba's Hospice fundraising team on 0131 551 1381.

Ends

For more information please contact Isabelle Herlt, PR and Communications Manager, on 0131 551 1381 or iherlt@stcolumbashospice.org.uk

Notes to editors about St Columba's Hospice:

St Columba's Hospice provides free specialist palliative care to patients and support to their loved ones. Our aim is to improve the lives of people whose illness cannot be cured. We help people to live as actively as possible after diagnosis to the end of their lives, however long that may be. We care for around 1,000 terminally ill patients each year.

It costs £11.61 to run St Columba's Hospice for just one minute, which means that it costs more than £6 million to run our charity each year. We rely on donations of more than £3 million annually from our friends and supporters who believe in what we do.

St Columba's Hospice is about to undertake an essential rebuild of our facilities to create a new, modern hospice - enabling us to continue providing the highest possible standards of specialist palliative care to patients and support for their loved ones. Over the next five years, our entire site will be redeveloped, creating improved patients rooms, better facilities for families and a new education wing that will house our Centre for Excellence in Palliative Care Education. Our rebuild will cost £26 million - £7 million of which we still need to raise through fundraising appeals.