



Reg Charity Number 1134588



Rotary Clubs of Sussex
Helping Hospices

PRESS RELEASE

HIKE 4 HOSPICES – RAISING FUNDS FOR HOSPICE CARE IN SUSSEX

Four local hospices benefited from a whopping £42,000 when Sussex Rotarians presented them with the money raised from their third Hike 4 Hospices sponsored walk.

In just three years, Hike 4 Hospices has raised an incredible £112,000 for St Barnabas House, The Martlets, St Wilfrid's and St Peters & St James, every penny of which pays directly for patient care.

The Rotarians and representatives from the four hospices also took the opportunity to officially launch the 2010 Hike 4 Hospices event. This year, the walk will again take place over two days – 21st and 22nd August – along the beautiful South Downs Way between Lewes and Goodwood. The route covers 42 miles but is divided into six legs allowing people of all abilities to take part and is great fun for families and walkers of all ages.

More than 20 Rotary Clubs are involved with over 100 people helping with the organisation of the event and offering great support to all the walkers on the day. Last year's event saw 600 walkers over the two days and organisers are hoping to welcome even more participants this year.

Between them, the four hospices provide specialist palliative care to tens of thousands of people suffering from advanced progressive life-limiting illnesses right across Sussex. Patients are never charged for their care. But this service does not come cheaply. For all four hospices, the total cost of providing this care is £13.5 million per year. Only a small portion of these costs are funded by the government and so each hospice has to raise between 70% and 85% of the costs themselves.

Hike 4 Hospices organiser, Mike Harvey, said, "It is astonishing that our hospices receive so little funding, especially when one sees what a tremendous difference this specialist care makes to patients and families at the most difficult time in their lives. Hike 4 Hospices wants to help provide some of the missing funds for this essential service and, with the help of the people of Sussex, we are confident of raising even more vital funds at this year's walk."

Said Alison Moorey, Chief Executive of St Wilfrid's Hospice, "We are delighted with the continued and developing success of the Hike 4 Hospices walk and thank everyone involved in the organisation of the walk and everyone who walked and therefore contributed to the ongoing success of all of the four hospices. This support is vital to help us give our care to those facing the end of their lives and to support their loved ones."

This sentiment was echoed by Caroline Lower, Chief Executive of the Martlets Hospice, "Hike 4 Hospices is now an established event in the Martlets' annual programme of fundraising activities. The event is always well organised and enjoyed by those who take part and our thanks go to all the many people involved in its organization. As well as raising much-needed funds for patient care at the Martlets, Hike 4 Hospices has introduced us to new supporters and has helped raise the profile of work of hospices and their funding needs. We are sure that the event will go from strength to strength".

Online registration opens on 1st April 2010, so put your best foot forward and be a part of this sponsored walk with a difference - 4 hospices, 6 legs, 42 miles, 600 people, 1 goal, to support hospice care in Sussex!

www.hike4hospices.com

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4 hospices, 6 legs, 42 miles, 600 people – One Goal!
To support hospice care in Sussex

For further information: Gill Cronin on 01444 471598

Notes to Editors: About St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre

Our mission as a registered charity is to provide specialist care, love and support for those living with progressive, life limiting illnesses from East and West Sussex. We will endeavour to meet the needs of each patient, their family and friends. We aim to encourage and enable all patients to live their lives to their full potential despite their illnesses.

We care for patients from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. Last year we provided care for more than 400 patients and their families. All of our Hospice services are free of charge and we receive less than 20% of our funding from the Government. This means we have to raise more than £1.4 million every year through fundraising. That's £4,000 every single day.

If you are interested in working or volunteering at St Peter & St James please contact Human Resources on 01444 471598 or visit www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk.

Website: www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk

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Registered Charity Number: 1056114

Images: For logos and photographs please contact Hayley Bradbury on 01444 471598 or email Hayley.bradbury@stpeter-stjames.org.uk