

## **Press Release**

19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

### **St Peter & St James Hospice Celebrate Hardship Fund Grant**

St Peter & St James Hospice are celebrating after receiving the news that they have been awarded a grant of £188,914 from the Government's Hardship Fund towards the cost of providing their specialist community nursing services for the next twelve months.

Colin Burgess, Chief Executive of the Hospice in North Chailey said: "We were absolutely delighted to learn that our application was successful. We are currently caring for more than 170 people in their own homes, a growth of 45% in the last year alone. Our team of five Clinical Nurse Specialists enables many patients to remain in their own homes by assisting them with symptom control and emotional support, as well as ensuring that they have access to other support services such as counselling and complementary therapies. We know that the people and organisations within our communities continue to support our vital work but inevitably we have experienced a decline in some sources of charitable income as a result of the recession. This grant will therefore help to ensure that the current level of this vital service is maintained during these difficult economic times."

Regional Minister for the South East, Jonathan Shaw, said: "The value of the work done by Third Sector organisations to help drive the South East out of the recession and on the road to recovery cannot be underestimated. They provide vital services where they are most needed and are able to reach out to the heart of local communities and parts of our society that others find difficult to reach. These grant offers are further examples of the Government's support for communities during these challenging economic times."

In total 13 voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises across the South East have received grant offers worth between £50,000 and £250,000 to help them provide vital services to their communities. The £16.7 million Hardship Fund, which is managed by the Community Development Foundation, was announced by the Chancellor in his Budget in April 2009. The Hardship Fund is still open for applications from Third Sector organisations delivering front-line services who are suffering a reduction in income which is impacting on their ability to deliver those services. To apply, organisations must have an income of £200,000 a year or more.

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**For further information:** Karen Lambert or Colin Burgess 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 15% 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](http://www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk).

**Website:** [www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk](http://www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk)

**Email:** [fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk)

**Registered Charity Number:** 1056114

**Images:** For logos and photographs please contact Karen Lambert on 01444 471598 or email [karen.lambert@stpeter-stjames.org.uk](mailto:karen.lambert@stpeter-stjames.org.uk)

#### **Notes to Editors: About The Hardship Fund**

1. The Hardship Fund is funded by Office of the Third Sector and administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF). More information about how to apply can be found on the CDF website [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk).
2. As part of the Cabinet Office, the Office of the Third Sector leads work across government to support the environment for a thriving third sector (voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals), enabling the sector to campaign for change, deliver public services, promote social enterprise and strengthen communities. For more information please go to: [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/)
3. Community Development Foundation (CDF) is the leading source of community development expertise and delivery. As a public body and a charity we bridge government, communities and the voluntary sector. We help local people lead. Our aim is for an inclusive and just society. Our mission is to lead community development analysis and strategy in order to empower people to influence decisions that affect their lives. For info, visit [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk)