

Derriford Children's Cancer Service

Your *local* children's cancer charity

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31st October 2008

Dear Bob + friends.

Once again, may I personally, and on behalf of Derriford Children's Cancer Service, thank you most sincerely for your latest, very kind and extremely generous donation of **£7000.00** which you and the other supporters of the Robert Johns Leukaemia Fund presented to Helen, last week. We are most grateful to you for your loyal and continued support of our work here at Derriford and for the very special relationship that has existed and continues to exist between yourselves and members of the children's oncology team. Congratulations on your magnificent achievements. Please would you convey our gratitude to all those who organise, and those who support, the various events and thereby contribute to the above total.

It is always a pleasure to welcome you all to the unit and to give those of you who have not seen the unit before, a tour. It is helpful to enable us to give an insight into the care that is provided for the children and their families and I hope that this re-enforces how much we value your support and explains how the funds that you raise each year are being spent.

I am very pleased that, as well as meeting Helen, you were able to meet Lisa (Clinical Psychologist) and Petra and Tanya (Lead Paediatric Oncology Nurses) and Sandy (Play Specialist), as, this year, I particularly wanted you to be aware of how we have been able to extend the service we provide by funding the two new posts of Clinical Psychologist and Lead Nurse. Naturally, we are delighted and very proud of this new development and the subsequent extension of provision of care. We would not have been in a position to consider undertaking funding of important staff posts in this way without knowing that we have sustainable funding each year and we very much acknowledge your very important and significant contribution to our annual income.

The role of the clinical psychologist is now well established, helping children to cope with some of the most difficult emotional problems that they face. This is bringing enormous benefits for the children and their families. Petra and Tanya share the role of "Lead Nurse" in paediatric oncology to further enhance the service. This role has many wide-ranging functions in relation to overall provision of care including patient treatment, teaching, training, updating treatment protocols, peer review, but one of the many important aspects of this role is to oversee the extension of palliative care provision for the children under our care. This, again, is already bringing enormous benefit and DCCS has been instrumental in its initial development.

Once again, please accept our very sincere thanks on behalf of DCCS but more importantly on behalf of the many children and their families who will benefit from your very kind and extremely generous donation.

With all good wishes.
Graham

Graham Parkinson
Fundraiser - Children and Young People's Health Directorate

Trustees

Dr Paul S Ward, BSc MBChB DCH FRCP FRCPCH Consultant Paediatrician
Mrs Shirley A Mumford, RGN RSCN Dip.N BSc (Hons) Paediatric Matron and Clinical Facilitator in Paediatric Oncology

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