

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to September's edition of the Milton Keynes Hospital Charity newsletter.

This time last year we were reflecting on the success of our first Gala Ball that raised £28,000 for our Cancer Centre Appeal. It was a wonderful evening that brought together so many of our amazing supporters.

In the space of a year the cancer centre has opened and almost £1,000,000 has been raised. These funds have contributed towards special items for patients, visitors and staff - including kitting-out patient bedrooms, funding artwork and gardens, and supporting equipment such as ECG machines. Now the centre is up and running, we're continuing to support its ongoing needs - most recently with TVs on wheels for patients.

We also continue to support other areas across the hospital. As you'll know from last month's newsletter, one of the areas we're focusing on is the neonatal unit; raising funds to fund four BabyLeo incubators. We're thrilled to announce that thanks for your generosity we've already funded two!

This year's Be Seen in Green is raising funds to purchase a third BabyLeo and there is information in this newsletter on how you can get involved.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Project Update

Last month we included how some of the money we received from NHS Charities Together funded a new hospital staff hub and mobile phones.

This month we can tell you about other ways in which funds are being used - including 20 iPads to enable virtual visiting with loved ones of older patients and 10

iPads with keyboards to help deaf patients communicate with staff wearing face masks.

Recognising the enormous pressure that staff have been working under during Covid-19, we're also funding a 3-day virtual staff wellbeing event called Event in the Tent, focusing on themes of Rest, Resilience and Recovery.



Keep donating



Classic Cars raise thousands for little lives

For many years now, Alison and the team behind MK Classic Car Tours have raised thousands of pounds for our neonatal unit, helping us purchase items of equipment, drop down beds and a parent's kitchen area. Sadly the Classic Car Tour couldn't go ahead as planned in April, but we've still been the lucky recipient of an incredible donation of £12,000 towards our BabyLeo appeal! This certainly brings us one step closer to our goal of funding four of these fantastic machines for the unit by the end of the year.

"There are so many positive things about the BabyLeo! Parents can get much closer to their baby because it has legs that stretch further apart, meaning a chair or wheelchair can be pushed right underneath. It also has a glow bar underneath for use at night time. This means that we can care for the babies without turning on the ward lights and they can have a more restful night". Sara, Neonatal Sister

If you'd like to help us fund these special items of equipment then perhaps you'd like to...

Be Seen In Green!

Be Seen In Green is now only days away - but it's not too late to get involved! You can help us make a difference to little lives by doing anything green-themed; whether that's a virtual quiz with a green-themed round; organising a sponsored knit-a-thon; you could eBay your clutter away or hold an online treasure hunt! Big or small, everything you do will help make a difference.

We'll send you lots of resources to help your activity go well, and we'll share your stories on social media too!

Of course, if green is not your colour, you can support in other ways - whether that's sharing our campaign posts on social media (our tag is @mkhcharity), taking on a challenge or donating via our website www.mkhcharity.org.uk. With Covid-19 having a direct impact on our fundraising events, your help is more important than ever.



Ward 3 Garden opens

Thanks to charitable donations, this month we opened a courtyard garden for Ward 3.

For many years the courtyard, which is overlooked by the ward, was an unusable space. But with help of grant funding and volunteers, two years ago it was transformed into a beautiful area within the hospital.

We've now been able to go a step further and provide access to the space directly from the ward.

Tracy Davis, Senior Sister on Ward 3 said:

"A lot of patients on the ward have dementia or delirium and can get restless, so having a courtyard to access for a walk, get some air and sunshine, or sit and have a chat is fantastic.

In the past, staff would take patients out for walks to other garden areas within the hospital, but having something accessible from the ward itself is positive for everyone. It's a secure space too, so patients can sit outside with a cup of tea by themselves if they want to, which gives them greater independence."



Be Seen In Green
Save the date: 1 - 31 October

Get involved

Check out our website! www.mkhcharity.org.uk

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