



Ashgate Hospicecare

Ashgate Hospicecare provides specialist palliative and end of life care to the people of North Derbyshire. Our belief is that every person matters and that they matter until the end of their life. Our aim is to not only help them to die peacefully, but also to help them to live until they die; adding quality to their lives when every single day is so important. Enabling them to experience a 'good' death; one without pain, with those they love around them in a place where they feel cared for and comfortable, whether that is at home or at the Hospice.

In the past 12 months, Ashgate Hospicecare has given compassionate and dignified care and support to over 2,500 people with life limiting illnesses, and their loved ones, across an area of approximately 800 square miles and a population of over 420,000 people.

It has delivered outstanding care on the IPU which now has 21 private bedrooms. Enabled hundreds of patients to stay at home when it mattered most and given emotional support to pre and post bereaved children and adults.

Pre and post bereavement support

Our Supportive Care Team give emotional, therapeutic and spiritual support to anyone in our community struggling with the loss of someone they love. This is given by our 16 staff who include specialist bereavement counsellors, chaplains and an art therapist who are supported by our 20 trained volunteer counsellors. The Hospice doesn't receive any statutory funding for this vital service, which is entirely funded by voluntary donations.

The Supportive Care Team are working tirelessly to respond to the impact of the Coronavirus crisis so that they can continue to give bereavement counselling support. They have done this by delivering one to one support over the telephone and virtually; and through group support in the community. They are seeing an increase in the demand for bereavement support because of the Covid-19 crisis. This is partly due to the sad increase in deaths and because people in our community who have lost a loved one have not been able to say goodbye or spend precious time with their loved one.

However, like many hospices and charities across the country we are now experiencing a very difficult time as we strive to continue to give our care and support during the Coronavirus crisis. The virus is also having a significant impact on our fundraising income as we had to close our 15 shops for 3 months (and now again, during another period of lockdown) and cancel our fundraising events. Because of this, and the lack of statutory funding for end of life care, the Hospice is now facing a significant deficit which has led to the Hospice asking staff to take voluntary redundancies and now sadly, possibly compulsory redundancies to continue to deliver its services. This is devastating, as it will have a direct impact on the level of support the Hospice can give on the Inpatient Unit and in the community.

Therefore, we sincerely hope that you will consider supporting us to reach as many people as we can through the most difficult time in their lives. We can also arrange for your donation to be allocated to the work of our Supportive Care Service which will support local families who are bereaved or facing the loss of a loved one.

Thank you from us all at the Hospice for your kind consideration of our application. If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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