



Press Release

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Father's £10k donation to RUH Critical Care in son's memory

People needing critical care at the Bath Royal United Hospital are to benefit from the generosity and gratitude of the father of a former patient.

Adrian Hunter, who was 39 years old, spent eleven weeks in the Critical Care Unit earlier this year, having been found unconscious at his flat in central Bath in January.

He had type 1 diabetes and while in hospital, the doctors discovered he had a rare bone marrow virus that proved, in conjunction with other complications, to be incurable.

Today, (Friday 29 Sept) on what would have been Adrian's 40th birthday, his father Rik presented the unit with a cheque for £10,000 in thanks for his son's great care and to honour his memory.

Mr Hunter, a retired Royal Air Force officer from Wroughton, near Swindon, said:

"Adrian was given unbelievable care and attention from a dedicated nursing team looking after him 24 hours a day. The doctors went to enormous lengths to try to find out what was wrong with him. Everyone put in so much time and effort to try to save him and, as far as I could tell, no stone was left unturned.

"What the staff do in intensive and critical care is absolutely brilliant, I want to make this donation in memory of Adrian through the hospital's charity, the Forever Friends Appeal, which will purchase specialist equipment for the unit to help support the amazing work they do."

Gavin Hitchman, Critical Care and Outreach Matron, said:

"This is an extremely generous donation that will be used for the benefit of future patients we care for. Adrian was an amazingly brave and likable young man, one who staff recall as a pleasure to care for. His father too is a considerate, kind gentleman which I'm sure many people would agree with. We are deeply grateful for this gift in Adrian's memory."

Adrian Hunter was a former pupil at Ridgeway School in Wroughton and gained a degree in materials engineering at Loughborough University. When he fell ill he was working for Novia Financial plc and was dealing in a broad range of investment funds in Bath.

He died at the Prospect Hospice in Wroughton on 30 March, with his father by his side. It was where he had asked to spend his final days, as it where his mother had passed away a few months earlier.

Ends

For more information contact Rebecca Hedges, Marketing and Communications Officer on 01225 826282 or email: Rebecca.hedges@nhs.net

Notes to Editor:

About The Forever Friends Appeal

- The Forever Friends Appeal is the principal fundraising charity for the Royal United Hospitals, Bath. As well as fundraising for major campaigns, we raise funds for the hospital's wards and departments to pay for state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilities, research and innovations, staff training and the creation of welcoming and highly beneficial healing environments for our patients and their families. Each year we invest in projects that go above and beyond what the NHS can provide
- For more information about the Appeal visit: www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk

Cancer Care Campaign

- The Appeal's current major fundraising Campaign is raising a minimum of £8.5million towards the cost of a pioneering new Cancer Centre at the RUH - taking a holistic approach that is designed to produce a highly beneficial healing environment for patients and their families.
- The new Cancer Centre will house a number of cancer services including; outpatient department and waiting areas, radiotherapy with a CT Simulator, oncology ward, chemotherapy and a day care unit, nuclear medicine and medical physics, research and development for clinical research and trials as well as a wellbeing and information support hub which will be a dedicated area to provide support to cancer patients receiving treatment across the RUH site.
- Through support from the public and major donations from The James Dyson Foundation & Medlock Charitable Trust, the Appeal has currently raised £8.236 million for the new Cancer Centre and it is very much hoped that with the help of our donors we will be able to sustain the campaign into 2018 and generate over £9m towards the building.
- Construction of the Cancer Centre is planned to commence in 2019.
- The Centre will be jointly funded NHS / Charitable Funds partnership with the parties contributing c66% / 33% respectively.
- For more information about the campaign visit: www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/ruhcancercentre

RNHRD & Therapies Centre Campaign

- The Forever Friends Appeal is raising a minimum of £2 million towards this £16 million project in association with the RNHRD Charitable Fund – with the Brownsword Charitable Foundation challenging the public to back the appeal by generously promising to match every pound donated up to the level of £1 million. For more information about the RNHRD and Therapies Centre campaign visit: www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/rnhrd-therapies-centre
- The RNHRD and Therapies Centre will bring together the RUH's rheumatology, therapies and a number of pain management services which are currently provided at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases' (RNHRD) Mineral Water Hospital site – also known as The Min. The new RNHRD and Therapies Centre will be a purpose-built outpatient facility and will include a new hydrotherapy pool, a gym, a therapeutic garden and clinical areas to improve patient experience, providing the treatment, care and education for patients to recover from episodes of illness or injury, or to manage their long-term condition.