

£84,000 LIONS CHEQUE PRESENTATION TO CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST

Children's Hospice South West opened the doors of their first hospice, Little Bridge House in Barnstaple, in 1995. As the only children's hospice in the South West this was to provide support for 200 children and their families.

Eleven years ago, Lions Clubs immediately rallied their support for this facility and provided the funds to create a sensory/activity room at the centre, which was affectionately named 'The Lions Den'.

The demands increased and there was a vital need to establish a second children's hospice to serve South West England. It took well over a year to find a new site, mainly because of the requirements to have at least five acres of land in a tranquil location.

So Charlton Farm was born, perfectly surrounded by a green belt area of historic parkland which is part of the Tyntesfield Estate, North Somerset, just outside Bristol. This new hospice is at least double the residential capacity of Little Bridge House and all buildings will be ready to receive the first occupants in the Autumn of 2006, with the extensive landscaping of the grounds due for completion in Spring 2007.

It will follow the same principles upon which the Barnstaple Hospice was built and became so successful, with both hospices being run as one organisation with similar aims and objectives for care.

Families visiting Charlton Farm will soon be able to enjoy spending time in the four spacious sitting rooms, multi-sensory room and a bubbling jacuzzi. There will be large gardens to explore with plenty of space for activities.

Once again, Lions Clubs in the area have seized the opportunity to get involved to provide support for this project and 42 Clubs in 105SW and 105W districts have raised in excess of £84,000 to furnish a multi-sensory room, a soft playroom and provide portable shower trolleys and an adjustable bathing system.

On Wednesday 16th August 2006 at Charlton Farm, District Governor 105SW Lion Graham Marshall and our own DG Lion Adrian Hicks, joined with supporting Club Presidents whose Clubs had contributed and presented a cheque for £84,128 to co-founder Eddie Farwell of Children's Hospice South West.

Eddie congratulated the Lions in the area for all of their fund raising achievements which had made this generous donation possible. He thanked the Lions for their enthusiasm in their support of Charlton Farm, as they had shown for the first hospice at Little Bridge House plus all of their ongoing efforts and donations over the ensuing years which CHSW has reported topping £300k since 1995 from Lions contributions.



DG 105W Lion Adrian (2nd left) and DG 105SW Lion Graham (2nd right) present the cheque to Eddie Farwell