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Grant Thornton

## Rotherham Hospice's sixth Midnight Memory Walk launched



Local business adviser Grant Thornton has joined the organisers of Rotherham Hospice's Midnight Memory Walk to launch the annual event, now in its sixth year.

As the event's main sponsor, the Sheffield-based firm plans to enter a team of staff itself and is calling on businesses and individuals throughout South Yorkshire to join the walk and support one of the region's key charity events.

Taking place on Friday 21 June, the six or ten mile route around Rotherham starts and finishes at Magna Science Adventure Park. Setting off on the stroke of midnight, last year more than 450 local people supported the Rotherham charity's largest annual fundraiser which succeeded in raising over £33,000.

Peter Edwards, director at Grant Thornton in Sheffield, said: "It's great to be supporting such a valuable local charity and also to be working alongside some of the region's key businesses such as MTL Group which is a regular supporter of the hospice.

"The walk will help to raise crucial funds for the hospice, an independent charity which provides vital services for Rotherham and the surrounding villages. We urge others to get involved by helping the hospice raise some of the £4 million required annually to continue to deliver these services to local



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people. It's also a great way of raising awareness of the hospice's work regionally and an opportunity to take time to remember someone who has been affected by terminal illness."

As part of the pre-walk entertainment at Magna, X-Factor's Lucy Spraggan will be performing for the walkers before she counts them down to start the walk. "I am delighted to be involved with the Rotherham Hospice Midnight Memory Walk," said Lucy. "It will be a great night for everyone with a real party atmosphere, so please sign up now to support this fabulous charity."

To encourage more people to take part, the registration fee this year has been slashed to £7.50 for adults and entry is free for under 18s. Instead, the hospice is asking supporters to raise as much as possible through sponsorship. Each walker will be given a Midnight Memory Walk T-shirt when they register which many people decorate in memory of their loved one.

Whether you are a returning participant of the Midnight Memory Walk or you have never taken part before, the event is open to all. Register now at <http://www.rotherhamhospice.org.uk/how-can-you-help/fundraising/events-diary/midnight-memory-walk-2013/> or call the fundraising team on 01709 308 917 to find out more.

- Ends -

**Picture shows (L to R):** Lisa Woolhouse, Magna corporate events manager; Anna Gott, fundraiser for Rotherham Hospice; Colin Cawood-Campbell, Hospice fundraising manager;

Paula Figueira, Hospice fundraising administrator; Peter Edwards, director of Grant Thornton; David Jones of Grant Thornton; Oli Budgen of Grant Thornton; Anne Giblin, Hospice fundraiser; and Hector the Hospice mascot (please credit the Rotherham Advertiser if using the photo)

**For further press information, please contact:**

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**Note to Editors:**

- Rotherham Hospice is an independent charity commissioned by NHS Rotherham to deliver care through a range of services to people affected by a terminal illness. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers work together to provide high quality care that includes physical, psychological, social and spiritual support. This care helps patients, their families, and carers achieve the very best quality of life and personal experience, both at home and in the Hospice.

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- Rotherham Hospice needs £4.2 million a year to provide all these services and the NHS funding provides less than 50% of this money. We need to raise over £2 million a year through voluntary support. That is £5,500 a day! Every day of the year! Rotherham Hospice is therefore dependent upon the generous support of people, businesses, and organisations in Rotherham for this support and to whom we are very grateful. The Rotherham Hospice provides specialist care for people living with cancer and other life threatening illnesses and support for their families and carers.

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