

PRESS RELEASE

Arriva The Shires

9th February 2016

Arriva pledges support for all seasons to local hospice

A dedicated team at Arriva The Shires has topped off a season of giving, by presenting a cheque for £250 to Luton-based Keech Hospice Care.

The enthusiastic volunteers from Arriva, based on Dunstable Road, undertook a series of charitable activities in the run up to Christmas last year in aid of the local charity which supports families living with terminal and life-limiting conditions.

Having worked to collect Christmas presents for children using the hospice's facilities, the Arriva team sent it's very own 'Mrs Claus' and squad of elves to pass out the gifts and entertain families, but didn't stop there. They also collected donations from across the Arriva group to ensure the goodwill could continue well into the New Year.

Rose Forde, HR Administrator for Arriva, explained: "Every year, I raise money for various local charities by organising events. But this one really did prove to be particularly special.

"It was very much a team effort, with one of our customer services representatives, Rene Allen, giving up her time to become Mrs Claus, and her colleague, Daniel Lyle, being on hand to entertain families with music, dancing and games, and by making a host of balloon animals for the delight of the youngsters. We also had a saxophonist and a singer from the Heritage Group to serenade the families, and everyone really got in the festive spirit. It was a fabulous day all-round.

"The hospice team had told us that they were not sure what they were going to do about gifts for the children this year, so they were very delighted when they heard about our plans. To be able to top this off with a cheque donation too was brilliant. It's such an incredible cause, and we are over the moon that we are able to carry on supporting them in whatever way we can."



The team from Keech Hospice Care thanked Arriva, adding: “It’s fantastic to receive such great support from Arriva and we enjoyed welcoming Rose and the team here at the Hospice.

“It costs £150 to pay for a nurse to care for a child at home for a day and Rose has raised a fantastic amount which will make a real difference to our children and their families at a time in their lives they need Keech most.

“As a charity, we rely on 70 percent of our funding to come from our community so we can continue to care and support adults and children at the end of their lives, be that at the hospice itself in Great Bramingham Lane, or out in people’s homes, schools or hospitals – wherever our support is needed most. From all staff, patients and volunteers here at Keech Hospice Care, we’d like to say a huge thank you to Rose and the team and are so grateful for their generosity.”

Keech Hospice Care offer care and support not just to the patient but the whole family. Through specialised activities, clinical appointments, in-patient care, community nursing teams, art and music therapy, one to one counselling and drop-in sessions, Keech offers a holistic approach to a patient and their family’s needs.

For more information visit www.keeche.org.uk.

For details about Arriva and its local services, please visit www.arrivabus.co.uk

Ends.

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For media enquiries outside of office hours, Arriva can be contacted via its 24-hour media pager service on 0762 392 0615.

Notes to Editors





Arriva UK Bus is part of Arriva plc, one of the largest passenger transport providers in Europe, employing some 54,500 people and delivering more than 2.2 billion passenger journeys across 14 European countries every year. It currently operates a fleet of some 5,900 vehicles in the UK alone, providing services in the North East, North West and South East of England, Yorkshire, the Midlands and Wales.

In addition to the Arriva-branded networks, it also operates locally branded bus services including Hinckleybus, Yorkshire Tiger, Network Colchester and Green Line, which provides regular coach services between central London and the Home Counties.

In 2010, Arriva was acquired by Deutsche Bahn, and is now responsible for the growth and development of all Deutsche Bahn's regional passenger transport outside of Germany.

