

Friday, December 30th 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Inspirational Cleveleys youngster hands over £2,400 cheque to hospital haematology unit

AN inspirational 11-year-old Cleveleys boy has handed over a cheque for almost £2,500 to help local cancer patients.

Lucas Fletcher, a pupil at Anchorsholme Primary School, presented staff on Ward E at Blackpool Victoria with a cheque for just over £2,400 after a summer family fun day event in memory of his guitar teacher Phil Roberts, raised more than £5,000.

Lucas was the inspiration behind the event held at the Golden Eagle pub with the money raised being split between Blackpool and Christie's who looked after Phil who unfortunately died in 2011 from lymphoma at the age of just 48.

Mum Sarah Fletcher said: "Phil was a great guitar teacher and when he was ill Lucas wanted to do something to help him. He watched Comic Relief Day on TV and wanted to do something similar. But unfortunately Phil died and what was going to be a pretty small fundraiser turned into this massive fun day with Lucas and his dad, Ian, putting everything together.

"We had never done anything like this before but it turned out to be a magical day and we were amazed at how much money was raised. Everyone who knew Phil loved him. He was such a cheery person who loved his music and everyone wanted to do their bit to help. The support we had from friends, family and local businesses was wonderful and we cannot thank people enough for their generosity."

Lucas, who played two guitar sets on the day himself, said: "It was a really good day and we definitely want to do it again this year."

Anne Donovan, a Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialist from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said everyone on the ward was grateful for Lucas and his family's fundraising efforts.

She said: "Phil would often play his guitar in hospital when he was having his treatment and he was a lovely person.

"It is lovely to see an event like this in his memory raise so much money and I am sure Phil would be very proud of Lucas and everyone else who helped out.

“We are really grateful to everyone who helped raise such a magnificent amount. The money will definitely be put to good use to help patients who spend time on the ward.”

Football legend Jimmy Armfield was a special guest on the day and some of the memorabilia auctioned included a pair of Charlie Adams boots and a D J Campbell match shirt.



Caption: Lucas Fletcher, 11, from Cleveleys, meets staff from Ward E at Blackpool Victoria Hospital after donating a cheque for almost £2,500 in memory of his former guitar teacher Phil Roberts.

Notes to Editors

For further information about this Press Release, please call Derek Quinn, Communications Manager, on 01253 306941 or email derek.quinn@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk