



Press release

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Generous Lauren's birthday bonanza boosts charity coffers

A generous hairdresser has given a £1,030 boost to a charity campaign after celebrating her 21st birthday with a 1950s rock 'n' roll themed fundraiser.

Lauren Friend held the party for her landmark birthday to raise money for Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund (HCNCF), after her mum Karen received treatment for breast cancer four years ago.

The money raised from the evening, which took place at the Triple Plea Inn in Halesworth on 19 December, will go towards HCNCF's information and support centre (ISC) appeal, taking the current total to just over £552,000 of the £714,000 target.

Lauren, who lives and works in Halesworth, said: "My mum and dad asked if I'd like a party for my birthday, and I decided to do it for charity as it's so important to me to get the information and support centre up and running.

"My mum was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012 so our family really appreciates the difference the centre will make. It would have been a massive help to us when she was ill, especially when she wasn't feeling well and had to travel to Gorleston and Norwich for support. We really need something closer to home for people who live in Halesworth and the surrounding area.

"I really love the 1950s and 60s, so we decided on the 50s rock 'n' roll theme and opened the evening to everyone. We were really pleased that we raised so much and it was definitely a birthday to remember."

The ISC aims to bring a full range of holistic services closer to home for patients with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers. This includes benefits advice, wig-fitting, lymphoedema services, children and family support, complementary therapies, help understanding a diagnosis, counselling and bereavement support.

It will be built on land adjacent to Cutlers Hill Surgery in Halesworth, and will serve an estimated 50,000 people from east Suffolk and south Norfolk who live in a 15-mile radius of the town.

Ted Edwards, ISC chairman, said: "We are so grateful to Lauren and her mum Karen for organising this fantastic fundraiser to mark Lauren's milestone birthday, and to everyone who went to the party and donated so generously.

“We have been really lucky to have received such great support from our local community throughout the project, with everyone pulling together to raise the money we need to start work on this important facility.

“We are now putting all of our efforts into the final push to get us to the £714,00 mark so that local people can start benefiting from the facilities the centre will offer as soon as possible.”

For more information about the ISC project, or to make a donation, visit www.halesworthhealth.org/information-and-support-centre

Ends

Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund is a local charity (charity number 1155419) which was set up 25 years ago to support people with life-limiting illnesses who wish to die in the comfort and security of their own homes.

It works alongside the NHS and social services to provide extra equipment and 24 hour care in the last days of life along with emotional, physical and practical support at the time when people need it the most.

For more information, please visit www.halesworthhealth.org/nursing-care-fund, 'like' us on Facebook at "information and support centre fundraising campaign" or follow us on Twitter @Suffolk_ISC

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