

Appeal on behalf of Hope for Tomorrow

Fellow Lions,

Before I go any further, I should declare the fact that I am **both** a Charity Ambassador and Volunteer with Hope for Tomorrow and have been so for a number of years.

There will be many of you who will be familiar with Hope for Tomorrow. However, for those who may not be, the charity was founded by the late Christine Mills, MBE, in 2003 for the purpose of providing **Mobile Chemotherapy Units** for the NHS. These units have since been re-branded as **Mobile Cancer Care Units**. There are now **12** in existence giving Cancer treatment across various parts of the UK. In simple terms, their core remit is to deliver mobile cancer treatment to those living the furthest away from their nearest Oncology Centres.

Since the Covid-19 Pandemic began, these units have been in great demand by NHS Trusts. Indeed, a good number of the Trusts who do **not** currently operate a Unit, estimated to be 22 Trusts in total, have been trying to source one. However, with only 12 units in existence, it simply is not possible for the units to service all these Trusts. I should point out also that I am very much aware that there will be some Cancer sufferers who, for clinical reasons related to their susceptibility to Covid-19, will **not** be able to undergo Cancer treatment until we reach a situation where they will **not** be adversely affected by the virus.

The biggest challenge the charity faces during this health emergency is the fact that it has lost 85% of its income by virtue of the fact that it cannot hold its normal fundraising events and also because many of the organisations who support it have not been able to function normally due to the lockdown. It is estimated by Hope for Tomorrow that they will need **£217,000** just to cover costs and keep the wheels of the Units turning for the next three months, after which we can only hope that things can get back to some degree of normality and fundraising events can re-commence.

The one thing I am very acutely aware of is that all of our clubs are experiencing very straightened times because of the limitations the lockdown has placed upon us and this is, understandably, having a very profound effect on the amount of funds we can raise for good causes. However, I would like to issue this appeal to our clubs to ask if you can make a donation to Hope for Tomorrow so that the charity and the NHS Trusts who operate the Mobile Cancer Care Units can continue to provide Cancer treatment to those in need of it at this time. There has been a considerable amount of publicity in the media regarding the subject of Cancer care and I cannot emphasise too strongly how important it is for Hope for Tomorrow to be able to continue their good work. I also feel I should advise that the gravity of the charity's situation is such that there is a very real risk that without the funds needed, they would **not** be able to continue functioning. Therefore, if there is anything your club can do to help Hope for Tomorrow, this would be more than appreciated. I do appreciate that there are a number of charities seeking urgent help at this time.

The address for donations is:-

**Hope for Tomorrow,
Kingscote,
Priory Park,
London Road,
Tetbury,
Gloucestershire.
GL8 8HZ**

I would like to thank you all, in advance, for all your help with this great charity.

Lion Tony Buchan
The Lions Club of Frome