



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 23rd November 2018

Business Returns to Lend a Hand!

Pfizer, a large company based in Havant, have been volunteering their time for the local community in conjunction with Community First for 5 years. Their commitment to community projects has helped many organisations, by taking time out of their working day to help in any way they can.

November saw a group of six volunteers return to help one of their favourite projects, sorting at the Rowans Hospice sorting depot in Farlington. Rowans Hospice provides the highest quality specialist care, guiding and supporting patients and those closest to them through the journey of their illness at every step of the way. The Rowans have two warehouses where they organise and sort charity donations to be delivered to their 22 charity shops around Hampshire.

Pfizer spent a morning at the Farlington warehouse where they split into two teams. One sorted through hundreds of bags of donated clothes making sure they were in the right places ready to be delivered to the shops. The other team sorted through many piles of games, books, and general bric a brac.

Scania a volunteer from Pfizer said "I really enjoy being part of the Pfizer volunteer scheme. This is my chance to give something back to the Rowans for all the help they have given to us, all of the team here today have been touched by the Rowans in some way with the help they have given our friends and family in the past". The team from Pfizer were in awe of the dedication of the regular volunteers that give their time on a regular basis and wanted to thank them for making the group feel so welcome.

Vanessa Gilding, Health and Safety Manager at the Rowans said "Thank you to the Pfizer team for their support and hard work today. We rely on the support of all of our volunteers to help turn donated goods into saleable items which helps fund the work at Rowans Hospice."

Without the support of local businesses, many charity and community groups would struggle. For more information about how you can get involved with the Employee Volunteering Scheme contact Rachel Taylor at rachel.taylor@cfirst.org.uk or telephone 01730 774057.

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Photos:



Notes for Editors

1. Communities First Wessex (known as Community First) provides support and advice to local voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises in order to build their capacity and ensure a thriving and successful voluntary sector across East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant and Winchester. We also provide a one stop shop for all aspects of volunteering; helping recruit and place volunteers throughout our local communities and providing specialist training for voluntary organisations.
2. Communities First Wessex also delivers critical community services including:
 - a. Community Transport and Dial a Ride in East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Winchester and Basingstoke
 - b. Shopmobility in Fareham, Havant and Chichester, and Winchester

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- c. Health and wellbeing services including surgery signposting with GP surgeries in Bordon, Fareham and Waterlooville, Walking 4 Health in Fareham, and a Home Help and a Gardening Service for vulnerable people in Fareham.
 - d. Support for Community Buildings and managing agents for Leigh Park Community Centre in Havant
 - e. Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling services
 - f. Specialist youth work including support for young people's mental health
 - g. Work and skills based training and support for unemployed people
 - h. Supported volunteering for people with a range of needs including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and those with a physical or mild learning disability.
3. Communities First Wessex employs 116 staff, has more than 80 regular volunteers and has a turnover of £2.6m. Its main sources of income are local authority and government grants and contracts, Big Lottery Fund and a range of charitable trusts.
4. For further information contact:
Tim Houghton, Chief Executive, Communities First Wessex
07467 941018 or email tim.houghton@cfirst.org.uk

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