

Press release

17 December 2009

Melin staff dig into their pockets for Children's ward at Royal Gwent Hospital



Staff from Melin Homes are helping to give diabetic children at the Royal Gwent Hospital a festive treat.

The housing association's staff raised over £360 recently by donating the money they would have spent on colleagues' Christmas cards to their annual 'Humbug' charity appeal instead. Abby and Mike from Melin Homes went to visit children at their Christmas Party to give them a cheque to boost their special unit fund.

Grace Parfitt, Paediatric diabetes specialist nurse at the Royal Gwent Hospital said: "We are so grateful to Melin for their donation. It will help towards activities for children with diabetes. Not only are these activities fun, but they also give children an opportunity to meet others with a similar condition. Both staff and children on the ward can't thank Melin staff enough for their generous gift."

Melin's Howard Jones, the 'Humbug' campaign organiser, said: "We set up our 'Humbug' charity appeal five years ago after we realised that the vast amount of money we spent annually on colleagues' Christmas cards would be much better going toward good causes. Everyone at Melin was only too pleased that their money was going toward providing enjoyment to children with diabetes at the Royal Gwent Hospital. This appeal also fits in with Melin's green agenda, by cutting down on the amount of paper we use. A win, win situation."

The money raised will go to the special unit children's fund of the Royal Gwent Hospital. This fund is used to provide diabetic children with activities outside the hospital environment such as parties and outward bound weekends. These weekends' are not only fun, but help children meet others who are in a similar situation to themselves.

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Photo caption: Melin's Abby Adams (end left) and Mike Watkins (end right) present staff and children from Royal Gwent Hospital paediatric diabetic ward with a cheque for £361.65 for the special children's unit fund.

Notes to editors:

Melin Homes is a not for profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk