Staff from transport operator First Group, recently entered a competition at Rother Valley Country Park in support of the Rotherham Hospital Charity’s Dr Ted’s Children’s Appeal, to raise money for equipment and toys for the Trust’s Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) and Children’s Ward.

Cristina Alcantara, Bus Driver and a member of the First Group Charity and Sponsorship Committee and 11 of her colleagues, family and friends, competed with 25 other teams in a Dragon Boat Race and finished in 17th place! The team raised an amazing £2200 for Dr Ted’s Children’s Appeal, which was achieved through sponsorship totalling £600 and a very generous donation of £1600 from the First Group Charity and Sponsorship Committee.

The money raised from the event has enabled the charity to purchase two new breast pumps for the Trust’s Special Care Baby Unit and a play area for the Childrens Ward, complete with a play kitchenette and sitting area.

Tracy Williams, Charity Development Officer at TRFT said: “We are extremely grateful to Cristina and First Group for supporting us. The equipment and toys we have purchased as a result of the fundraising, will really make a difference to mothers, babies and children who are cared for at the Trust.”

Kathryn Parke, Senior Nurse on SCBU said: “Babies who are born prematurely are not able to breastfeed initially as they are not strong enough and cannot co-ordinate breathing and feeding well. These electric breast pumps will help mothers to express their breast milk more effectively so that the baby can be given the milk by tube. Some mothers need to do this up to eight times a day for several weeks until the baby is well enough to learn how to feed naturally and with these new pumps we can loan more pumps to mothers for use at home and on the unit.”

“TRFT’s Dr Ted, Zoe Woodhead, Fundraising Administrator for Rotherham Hospital Charity, Cristina Alcantara, Bus Driver and member of First Group Charity and Sponsorship Committee and the First Group’s Robot mascot. The equipment and toys we have been able to purchase, as a result of the money they have raised, will really make a difference to mothers, babies and children who are cared for at the Trust.”

Tracy Williams, Charity Development Officer
Festive fundraising at the annual Charity Christmas Fair

The Hospital Charity has been helping visitors and patients to get into the festive spirit with Christmas music and mince pies at its annual Charity Christmas Fair.

The fair took place in Rotherham Hospital’s main entrance and had something for all the family including tombolas, book sales, Christmas card sales, a cake bake in aid of the Trust’s Special Care Baby Unit and a Santa’s Grotto! The Grotto was kindly donated by marquee and gazebo manufacturer, Gala Tent and was enjoyed by everyone, including the children who had the opportunity to meet Father Christmas and collect a Christmas gift. With the support of the Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, three players from the Rotherham United Football Club (RUFC) also helped to spread the festive cheer by delivering presents to the Children on the Childrens Ward and Special Care Baby Unit. It is with thanks to Gala Tent, RUFC and the support of staff, volunteers, and the local community, that the fair was a huge success, raising approximately £1300 for the Rotherham Hospital Charity.

Tracy Williams, Charity Development Officer, said: “This year’s Christmas Fair was better than ever. Thanks to the support of Gala Tent, we were able to provide an extra special treat for the children, which made this year’s event even more festive. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and helped to raise money for our charity this year.”

Trust Volunteers help raise over £3000 for Hospital Charity

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Trust’s Volunteers have dedicated their time selling charity Christmas cards and other Christmas merchandise in the hospital main entrance and other Trust venues, raising over £3000 for the Rotherham Health Foundation (Rotherham Hospital Charity).

Many of the Volunteers, who have supported the sale of charity Christmas cards and merchandise, have given up their time in addition to their normal volunteering hours, helping to raise thousands for the benefit of patients of the Trust.

Tracy Williams, Charity Development Officer, said: “Support from Volunteers this Christmas has been tremendous and they have been instrumental in raising such a significant amount of money for the charity, through the sale of charity Christmas cards. The effort and dedication they have put into this has been amazing. A big thank you to all of the Volunteers who have supported us, your continued help and support for the charity is very much appreciated.”
The charity would like to say a festive thank you to Robert Lumby, a member of staff at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and a true charity champion.

Robert, also known as Bob, has been fundraising since 2005 and has dedicated his time to collecting donations for both Macmillan and the Rotherham Hospital Charity, every Christmas, in a festive fancy dress outfit; examples of these include a Christmas tree, Rudolf, a Christmas turkey and a penguin! Each year, Bob has collected up to £600 for charity but last year collected donations totalling over £800 for the benefit of the Dr Ted’s Children’s appeal which supports the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU).

This year was no exception. Bob again spent his own time collecting donations in his Elf outfit and raised over £500 in support of SCBU.

Angela Griffiths, Ward Manager on SCBU, said: “Bob has collected donations for SCBU for the past four years and we would like to thank and recognise him for his hard work and dedication to fundraising each year. Thank you also to all the staff who have given contributions, the money raised goes to really good causes and is really appreciated.”

The fun and fundraising does not stop there and still to come are a number of events and activities in the run up to Christmas. Details of these events are as follows;

- Maltby Brass Band: The morning of Monday 16 December, in the hospital’s main entrance (time to be confirmed)
- Busy Bee’s Nursery singing Christmas carols: Wednesday 18 December, 9.30am in the hospital’s main entrance
- Postman Pat delivering presents for children (donated from Red Road radio station’s children’s toy appeal): Wednesday 18 December at approximately 12pm on the Children’s Ward
- Venus Appeal Cake Bake: Wednesday 18 December, 9am in the hospital’s main entrance
- Kimberworth Male Voice Choir: Thursday 19 December, 11am in the hospital’s main entrance
- The 11th Rotherham Guides singing Christmas carols: Monday 23 December, 6pm in the hospital’s main entrance

For more information on forthcoming events, the Rotherham Hospital Charity or any of the charitable appeals, please contact Tracy Williams on 01709 427589 or by email: tracy.williams@rothgen.nhs.uk