

26<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## HSBC STAFF TURN SUPERHEROES FOR NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOSPICE WEEK

To mark [National Children's Hospice week](#), which runs from 26<sup>th</sup> April-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, [HSBC](#) staff dressed as superheroes to entertain the remarkable children at [Bluebell Wood Hospice](#) in North Anston, Yorkshire.

In the past three years the fundraising efforts of HSBC staff have helped raise more than £183,000 for Bluebell Wood. The list of fundraising activities organised by staff across the north of England includes black-tie balls, golf tournaments and even a Zumbathon.

HSBC staff have also volunteered almost 2,500 hours of their time to help at the hospice, with activities including decorating, gardening and assisting at the children's Christmas party.

The staff met with nine year old Theo on their visit. Theo was born at 29 weeks and has bravely endured 21 surgical procedures in his short life, and survived both viral and bacterial meningitis. Theo is one of the many young children who have benefited from the support of Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, which offers care and support to children with a shortened life expectancy, both in their own homes and at the hospice.

"The amount that HSBC have raised for us over the last two and a half years is just incredible," said Julie Hampson, Corporate Fundraiser at Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. "We have to raise £3million each year to offer our services and we receive no statutory government funding so the money raised will help us to continue to support local children with a shortened life expectancy."

"It is a privilege to work alongside such outstanding charities. HSBC is proud to support the valuable work carried out in the hospices for children with shortened life expectancy," commented Mark Wake, Deputy Regional director, HSBC North Region. "In the current economic climate it is more important than ever that we can improve the lives of many children through funds raised or volunteer hours given; we are delighted to see the positive impact this has on families with a child suffering complex medical needs."

Bluebell Wood is just one of the many children's hospices across northern England which have benefited from the £635,000 raised by HSBC staff since 2010.

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For more information on National Children's Hospice week please check the website:

<http://www.childrenshospiceweek.org.uk/>

For the latest updates from HSBC, visit the **UK Press Office social media newsroom:**

<http://www.hsbc.co.uk/newsroom>

[http://twitter.com/hsbc\\_uk\\_press](http://twitter.com/hsbc_uk_press)

**About Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice**

Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice offers care and support to children and young people with a shortened life expectancy, both in their own homes and at our hospice in North Anston. There are only 43 children's hospices in the country so we care for over 160 children from across South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and parts of North Lincolnshire.

Our highly specialist care team look after children with a vast range of complex medical needs and we support the whole family on their life journey offering respite care, day care provision, community support, crisis intervention and end of life treatment and care.

It costs £3 million every year to provide this service to children in this region, and Bluebell Wood receives no statutory government funding. Without our supporters we couldn't help as many families as we do.

If you would like more information about Bluebell Wood or would like to make a donation visit [www.bluebellwood.org](http://www.bluebellwood.org)

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**HSBC Holdings plc**

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**About HSBC's community investment programme**

- HSBC's global community investment programme focuses on education and the environment. The programme operates over three areas: global and national flagship activities; employee volunteering; customer donations and support to charities.
- In the UK, the Bank provides one day's volunteering leave each year for our employees to undertake community or charitable activities, with a UK registered charity, school or faith organisation.
- In 2012, employees working in the UK raised £4.1million through their own fundraising for charities to which HSBC added £2.3million through its 'Pound for Pound' match funding scheme.
- In 2012, we provided £615,000 to support 149 local community projects and in total 17,400 employees took part in community activities, giving 62,900 hours of bank time and 105,000 of their own.