

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Date 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008



## Light Up a Life Ceremony

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December the Victoria Hall in Hanley Stoke on Trent hosted the Hospices 14<sup>th</sup> Light up a Life Ceremony. Over 2,000 people took part in a very moving ceremony to dedicate lights on the Christmas tree that stands in the grounds of the Hospice in Blurton, in memory and honor of their loved ones.

This years theme for the ceremony was "Life's Journey". And contributors who took to the stage sang, read and played pieces that helped the audience to pay tribute to the roles those being remembered had played during their life's journey together.

Karen Rose Director of Fundraising said "The ceremony is an important event in the Hospice calendar of fundraising activities, it enables our supporters to come together and remember their loved ones but it also raises a substantial amount of money to ensure the Hospice continues to provide the high quality care that local people have come to depend on when facing a terminal illness. Despite the worrying economic climate we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters, who have astounded us by breaking all records, a testament to the big hearts that local people have. Donations to date total over £138,000 and over 11,000 people have been remembered and honored in the books of memories. This income is vital to the Hospice and we never take for granted the continuing support we receive from so many people - we thank each and every person for making a donation to help the Hospice."

Anyone can make a donation for a light to shine on the Hospice Christmas tree in memory of someone and it is not too late to take part this year, telephone Liz Clarke on 01782 344304 for more information or visit our web site [www.dmhospice.org.uk](http://www.dmhospice.org.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Douglas Macmillan Hospice provides specialist palliative care for adults across North Staffordshire who face cancer and other life-limiting illnesses
2. Care is provided at the Hospice and in people's homes across the community.
3. The Hospice is independent, it receives no funding from any national charity
4. It costs over £7 million each year to run and develop the full range of services from the Hospice. More than two thirds of money comes from local voluntary donations.