

## PRESS RELEASE

### OPERATION DESERT CLASSROOM

**July 21 2008**

Cornwall Hospice Care took the classroom to the 'desert' this week to launch 'Trek and Teach Namibia', its latest overseas fundraising event, which uniquely combines a physical and community challenge.

Cornish Pirates Lock Heino Senekal, originally of Namibia, supported the charity by taking charge of the classroom, which was set up in the sand dunes at Hayle Towans and gave the interested 'students' an insight into his home country.

"We were thrilled to get the support of the Cornish Pirates to launch our exciting challenge. Heino described the stunning landscape of the Namib Desert and explained how schools in remote areas need help to bring them up to an acceptable standard," said Karen Holman, Charity Challenge Officer for Cornwall Hospice Care.

The Cornish charity is seeking participants for 'Trek and Teach Namibia', which involves a personal *physical* challenge, with a three day trek across the Namib Desert, past the country's iconic red granite peaks, to reach Katora School. There, participants will embark on a refurbishment project to complete the *community* element of the challenge. Whilst at the school there will also be many opportunities to interact with the students and teachers.

"Teaching English to a Namibian class or challenging the school football team to a match are truly eye-opening experiences which are sure to give our challengers lasting and precious memories," said Karen

"Trek and Teach Namibia is unique in that it benefits the Namibian community, raises much needed funds for a local Cornish charity **and** offers an unforgettable experience to the participants. We are keen to ensure that our involvement in Namibia makes a sustainable and significant difference to the lives of the host community," she added

Cornwall Hospice Care provides specialist medical care for people who are living with a life-limiting illness, and supports their families and carers. Every year around 500 patients receive treatment to alleviate pain and control symptoms at the in-patient units of the Charity's two hospices - St Julia's in Hayle and Mount Edgcumbe in St Austell and there are more than 2000 admissions for day treatments and therapies. The organisation also provides medical input at the county's hospitals.

The care is provided free of charge but costs over £5.3 million annually, equivalent to £11 a minute. Only 13% of this is funded by the government, which means that the charity relies heavily on the generous support of the general public, through donations, fundraising events and challenges such as this.

The challenge is taking place in August 2009, but participants are needed to sign up well in advance. Anyone interested in taking part in 'Trek and Teach Namibia' should contact Karen Holman for an information pack, phone 01726 66869 or email [kholman@cornwallhospice.co.uk](mailto:kholman@cornwallhospice.co.uk).

**ENDS**

For more information please contact Karen Holman on 01726 66869 or [kholman@cornwallhospice.co.uk](mailto:kholman@cornwallhospice.co.uk)