

Press Release

FROM CENTS TO POUNDS – RARE COIN GIVES BOOST TO CORNISH CHARITY

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An eagle-eyed volunteer spotted an unusual American cent amongst a collection of old coins donated to the charity he works for and was delighted when it raised more than £1500.

The tin of coins had been donated anonymously to Cornwall Hospice Care's Redruth pound shop, and the manager sent it on to the eBay team for evaluation and listings. Volunteer Steve Rowse, realised that the 18th Century large one cent coin would probably be even more valuable because it had a die error. Having researched it he put the coin on the charity's eBay site and watched in anticipation as the bids started to increase.

The starting bid was £200, but over a seven day period it gradually increased to £1550, the winning bid was from an American buyer. Four other coins given by the anonymous donor - all Indian head five cent coins- had already raised £110.

Steve, who lives near St. Austell has been a volunteer for the past 18 months, said: "I was delighted that the coins raised so much for the charity. I had an idea that it would be worth quite a bit, after doing the research, but it is always difficult to judge with auctions."

Income from the sale of donated goods both in the network of retail outlets and through eBay is incredibly important to Cornwall Hospice Care, which provides specialist clinical care and support to people in the county with life-limiting conditions at its two adult hospices and in other healthcare settings in the county.

The eBay team is always looking for volunteers and if anyone is interested, please contact Janet Chaffe on 01726 66868. If people use eBay, they can chose to donate all or part of the auction value to Cornwall Hospice Care. The charity's site can be visited from eBay at cornwallhospicecare1

It costs nearly £6 million annually to run the services, equivalent to just £11.40 a minute - with limited funding from the Government the charity relies on the support of the Cornish community to help fund its services.

Ends

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(Pictures The American Cent with die error and from lft to rt eBay volunteers Steve Rowse, Pat Rowe and Graham Rowe examining the coin)