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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FUNDING CRISIS FOR CORNISH HOSPICE CHARITY**

October 6 2008

A Cornish charity, which cares for thousands of terminally ill adults in Cornwall every year, has been forced to launch an appeal due to a major funding crisis.

Cornwall Hospice Care relies on donations and support for almost 85 pence in every pound, but with rising operational costs together with a dramatic drop in voluntary income, it is facing a £1 million shortfall this year. Annual running costs now stand at more than £5 million annually – equivalent to £11 a minute

The charity offers specialist medical care as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support to many thousands of patients at its hospices – Mount Edgcumbe in St. Austell and St. Julia's in Hayle. Cornwall has had an adult hospice service in the county for nearly 30 years.

The **Make Moments Matter Appeal** was launched in the charity's Autumn/Winter Newsletter, which is being distributed to supporters this week, in a direct mail campaign and in the local media.

The charity is also being forced to consider a small number of staff redundancies as a result of the current funding crisis.

Nursing Director Rhona Ewing said: "It is not just the specialist medical care giving relief from pain and other symptoms, that is so important to our patients. When a loved one is ill it can have a huge impact on all family members – often a wife or husband is left to cope alone with young children when their partner is very ill. They may also have given up work to care for their partner, which can be a real financial as well as emotional and practical struggle. This is why the services we provide can help in so many ways.

"Sadly, however, these services are at risk. We simply haven't enough funds to meet our annual running costs and without the support of the local community the future of the charity is in jeopardy," she added.

More than 500 in-patients are treated every year plus there are more than 2000 outpatient appointments for treatments at the two hospice units.

If anyone wishes to support the **Make Moments Matter Appeal** please send donations to Cornwall Hospice Care, Porthpean Road, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6AB or call 01726 65711 and ask about making a regular monthly contribution, holding your own event, or joining in one the charity has organised.

Ends

For more information contact Sarah Snell PR Manager on 01726 874516 or 01726 65711.