

Every day, Heart of Kent Hospice nurses, doctors and specialist teams continue to offer their expert care and compassion to people with a terminal illness and their families in our community. Their smiles cannot be seen behind the masks they must now wear, but they continue to smile with their eyes.

Most of the 870 people we support are living at home. Many currently feel isolated from their families and friends and scared about what the future holds. We're keeping in touch by phone and video conferencing and encouraging virtual visits to the Hospice. Our online arts and crafts and Pilates Zoom classes are busier than ever! We've also made a series of videos with practical tips and coping strategies which patients and their families can access through our website including a video to support those caring for someone living with dementia.

We're working closely with our fellow healthcare workers in the NHS and sharing our expertise with local care homes to support them with caring for residents who are struggling with symptoms or dying from coronavirus.

Sadly, in the next few months we expect many more people will need our services. These will be people who've not had their serious illness diagnosed or treated in good time. We are committed to continuing to provide our outstanding care to everyone who needs it.

We want to be there for you - so right now, we need you to be there for us.

We launched our urgent fundraising appeal at the beginning of April when our future was very uncertain. Since then we've been inspired by the many donations and messages of support we've received.

Since then, over 3,700 wonderful people have made a donation. This, together with some welcome support from the Government,

has eased our immediate cashflow concerns.

However, despite the imminent threat of closure easing, for now, we are still facing a significant gap in the funds we will need to raise this year to care for our patients and their families. We know times are hard for many, but ask you to please give what you can so Heart of Kent Hospice can stay strong too.

<https://www.hokh.org/donation-appeal/>

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I am pleased you are all doing well at the club and more members is always brilliant too!

We have an event that has been running all summer but next week is taking a sporty turn, it is our Summer of Fun so would you also be happy to push that for us? It is for families so may appeal to some of your cyclists to keep the kids entertained while they head out on their bikes! Website link is -

<https://www.hokh.org/support-us/events/summer-of-fun/>

Erica and little baby Jacob are doing very well and of course I will pass on your wishes.