



October 5th, 2016

Nurse's shortcut to fundraising success

Nurse Andrea Leonard chose a hair-raising way of supporting St Benedict's Hospice and Centre for Specialist Palliative Care in Sunderland.

The mum-of-one, of Houghton-le-Spring, raised about £800 by having her long hair shaved off by daughter Kimberley, a 22-year-old student veterinary nurse. The majority of her locks will go to a charity which provides real hair wigs for children who suffer hair loss due to cancer treatment.

Andrea, 45, a South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust district nursing sister working in Sunderland, had not had her hair cut, or even trimmed, for three or four years.

She said: "I was nervous so I had it shaved off gradually over the course of the day but my hair will grow back; unfortunately, some people with cancer don't have that privilege. My wonderful auntie, Anne Baker, was cared for in St Benedict's and I have nursed many patients over the years whom the hospice has helped and supported. I also did it in memory of my co-worker and friend, Jane Clark, who was a community staff nurse and who kept smiling right to the end.

"I can't thank everyone – family, friends and work colleagues - enough for their donations. I have been amazed and honoured at the response to this fundraiser. St Benedict's has touched the hearts of so many people in the Sunderland area, including those living with cancer, and also supports we district nurses when it comes to complex situations in managing care."
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Pictured above: Sunderland district nursing sister Andrea Leonard before and after having her hair shaved off

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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