23rd October 2018

**Festive Fundraising for Air Ambulance**

With Christmas approaching Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is encouraging supporters to think about Festive Fundraising on behalf of their local life-saving Charity.

Natasha Robertson, Hertfordshire Fundraising Manager at EHAAT said, “One of the great things about Christmas is the way so many supporters get involved with raising funds on our behalf.

“One popular way of raising money over the festive season is `Lights for Flights’. If you are planning to decorate your home, work place or school with festive lights, we can let you have a collection tin for admiring visitors to drop a donation in. Last year we had some amazing creations!

“By taking part you’ll add some Christmas cheer and community spirit to your local area as well as raising vital funds for your local life-saving Charity.”

You can see some of the wonderful light displays from last year by visiting ehaat.org/christmaslights

For those unable to light up their home, there are plenty of ways to support EHAAT and get in the Christmas spirit:

* Make a donation in lieu of sending cards
* Hold a Christmas jumper day
* Have a Christmas raffle
* Join a festive bucket collection
* Host a mulled wine evening or a coffee and mince pie morning
* Organise a Carol Concert
* Organise or take part in a Santa run

Whatever the fundraising idea, it doesn’t take much to give it a festive twist and help keep your local Air Ambulance operational!

**For more information on getting involved, visit ehaat.org/fundraise/festive-fundraising where you’ll find ideas and details of festive fundraising events and collections.**

-ENDS-

**Photograph:** `Lights for Flights’ in aid of EHAAT 2017

**For more information please contact the Communications Team on 0345 2417 690.**

**Notes to Editor:**

* Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is a Charity that provides a Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) for the critically ill and injured of Essex, Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas.
* The service is provided free of charge but, unlike NHS emergency services, the Charity receives no direct funding from the Government or National Lottery. It costs £500,000 every month to keep the service operational and saving lives, and this would not be possible without the generosity and goodwill of people and businesses of Essex, Hertfordshire and beyond.
* Each of the Charity’s HEMS teams consist of two Pilots, a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic.
* These teams, made up of highly-skilled individuals, tended to 1077 patients in 2016 and are the backbone of your local life-saving Charity.
* The fleet, consisting of two Air Ambulances, and four Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs - cars) operates seven days a week from 7am to 9pm. After sunset, the Critical Care Team continues to provide the service using Rapid Response Vehicles.
* In addition, a Rapid Response Vehicle is operational on a Friday and Saturday evening from 6pm until 2am with a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and Critical Care Paramedic.