18 May 2018

**Air Ambulance opens donation drop-off point in Stevenage**

Supporters of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) can now donate goods to the Charity’s shops via its new drop-off point in **Stevenage**.

The facility in Gunnalswood Road was opened on Wednesday 16th May by Pam Stuart, Mayor of Stevenage.

She said: “It’s a very worthy cause, I’m really pleased you are in Stevenage to bring the Charity to our attention. I would like to wish you all well”

Stevenage MP Stephen McPartland, who paid the premises a visit, said: “I am really proud we have this new facility here in Stevenage, as it is such a vital service.

“Local people are incredibly generous and this will make it much easier to donate items in support of our Air Ambulance. The staff are certainly excited and I look forward to popping back soon to see it in action.”

Pam Withrington, Director of Marketing and Fundraising at EHAAT said: “This is a milestone in the development of our shops. At present we have six outlets across Essex and Hertfordshire, with more planned. They all play a vital part in supporting our life-saving work.

“We really appreciate the donations we get from supporters, and having premises where they can be checked and sorted will allow us to make the best use of them.”

**The warehouse and drop-off point will receive donations of items to be sold through the Charity’s shops across Hertfordshire and Essex.**

**It is located at Unit 2/3 Access Business Park, Gunnalswood Road, Stevenage, SG1, 2GR. Opening times: 9am to 4pm on weekdays, and closed at weekends and on bank holidays.**

**Anyone interested in volunteering at the warehouse or in one of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance’s shops can contact the Volunteer team via ehaat.org or by calling 0345 2417 690**

-ENDS-

**Photographs:**

1. **Matt Seccombe (Head of Retail, EHAAT) , Stephen McPartland MP, Jane Gurney (CEO of EHAAT), Cliff Gale (Operations Director of EHAAT)**
2. **EHAAT Warehouse Manager Kerie Lovelock and MP Stephen McPartland**
3. **Jane Gurney CEO of EHAAT, Mayor of Stevenage Pam Stuart and her consort Tony Turner**

**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.