Ford Dealer ‘Gates’ shows support for Air Ambulance

Tuesday 17 December, 2019

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December 2019

Local Ford Dealer, ‘Gates’ shows support for Air Ambulance

Gates, which has locations across Essex and Hertfordshire, is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a family-owned and operated Company during 2020 by supporting Essex & Herts Air Ambulance’s (EHAAT) life-saving work.

Founded in 1920, leading car retailer Gates has dealerships in **Bishop’s Stortford**, **Enfield**, **Harlow**, **Hertford**, **Potter’s Bar**, **St Albans**, **Stevenage** and **Woodford Green**.

To mark their centenary milestone Gates have not only generously offered EHAAT the use of a Ford Mondeo throughout 2020, it has also helped to future-proof the Charity’s `blood on board’ initiative by supplying a Ford Kuga to Essex Voluntary Blood Service (EVBS).

The Ford Mondeo Estate will carry EHAAT’s distinctive branding and enable staff to travel between the Charity’s two airbases, fundraising offices, shops and events across Essex and Hertfordshire.

Gates have also worked closely with EVBS to supply the Ford Kuga which EVBS have purchased at cost with a grant awarded by The Henry Surtees Foundation.

Each day a volunteer from EVBS travels between Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow and the EHAAT bases at North Weald and Earls Colne to deliver blood products that are replaced daily and replenished as required.

Having access to a car to help with this work will mean that the EVBS volunteers do not need to take to the roads by motorbike in bad weather. It will also help reduce the risk of blood products freezing or overheating whilst on board motorcycles therefore reducing wastage of this vital material.

The vehicle will greatly support EVBS’s infrastructure in helping meet its commitment to the region’s hospitals and EHAAT’s Critical Care teams thereby safeguarding the future delivery of pre-hospital blood transfusions and giving the most seriously injured the chance of survival and a good recovery.

As well as carrying blood supplies for EHAAT, EVBS transports blood products and milk for premature babies between hospitals across the East of England.

Pam Withrington, Fundraising and Marketing Director at EHAAT said: “As a charity which receives only limited support from Government, we depend on the generosity of individuals and businesses such as Gates. We are extremely grateful to the company for these generous gestures. We look forward to being part of their centenary celebrations.

“The blood bikers are an amazing group of volunteers, and without their hard work and dedication we would not have been able to carry blood supplies. Since March we have given blood to well over thirty patients, who would not have received it without their efforts. As winter closes in, anything which makes their work a little easier is very much welcomed and appreciated.”

Mr Heath Greenall, Chairman and fifth generation of the Gates family, said: “We are delighted to support both Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust and Essex Voluntary Blood Service, and thereby the local communities in this our 100th year”.

Carol Weller, Chair of EVBS said: “Having access to a car to help with our work will mean that hospitals can be served a lot better in the cold harsh weather. As well as carrying blood supplies for EHAAT, EVBS transports blood products to all the hospitals of Essex and East London as well as donor milk for the Herts milk bank and the Rosie unit at Addenbrooke’s. The Ford Kuga that Gates has supplied is going to help a large number of patients across Essex and we are all extremely grateful to Gates for making this possible.

-ENDS-

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Essex :: Hertfordshire :: Air Ambulance :: Emergency Medicine :: Blood :: Helicopter :: Ford Mondeo :: Earls Colne :: North Weald ::

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Photograph: Sam Tompkins (Pilot), Carol Weller (Chair, EVBS), Scott Wallman (Critical Care Paramedic, EHAAT), Pam Withrington (Director of Fundraising and Marketing, EHAAT), Heath Greenall (Chairman, Gates), Aderyn Gillett (Trusts & Special Projects Officer, EHAAT), Jim Moonie (Pre-hospital Care Doctor, EHAAT) and Martin Edmunds-Jones (Co-Pilot).

For more information please contact Gavin Sherriff, PR Officer, on 0345 2417 690.

Notes to Editor:

- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is a Charity that provides a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (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 limited direct funding from the Government and none from the National Lottery. It costs in excess of £750,000 every month to keep the service operational and cover all charitable costs, 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 1,491 patients in 2018 and are the backbone of your local life-saving Charity.
- The fleet consists of two Air Ambulances, and four rapid response vehicles (RRVs - cars) The RRVs are crewed by a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic and carry the same life-saving equipment as the helicopters.
- During the day, from 7am until 8.00pm, the Critical Care Team provides the service using helicopters based at Earls Colne and North Weald. An RRV is used before sunrise, after sunset or when the helicopter is unable to fly because of poor weather or maintenance.
- Overnight from 7.30pm to 7.30am the service is provided using an RRV based at North Weald.

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