



Press release

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Foundation funds reading service

Around 100 stroke patients at Moseley Hall Hospital are set to be entertained and stimulated by an innovative reading service directly supported from funds presented by the Birmingham Foundation.

InterAct Reading Service is a registered charity that provides a reading service to hospitals throughout the UK for patients recovering from strokes which improves mood, stimulates neural pathways and so speeds recovery.

The recent £2000 funding, granted from the Foundation managed Charles Henry Foyle Trust Fund, will enable the charity to organise more than 250 one to one readings to patients over the next twelve months. A number of actors will visit the hospital 2-3 times a week for two hours each visit.

Group reading sessions will also be held on Saturdays which provides patients with the chance to interact and form relationships with the other patients.

Julien Ball, development committee chair of InterAct Reading Service which was launched in Birmingham in 2005 comments: "We use professional actors who have the skills required to get through to people who have lost their powers of concentration and often are reluctant to be drawn out of themselves. Our readers also include cast members from the Archers!

"Stimulation is required and this is where we come in. The sooner the patients recover, the sooner they get back to being a valuable member of the community."

Derek Inman, chief executive of the Birmingham Foundation added: "People who have a stroke become isolated by their condition, both in terms of the reduction in their communication skills and the depression that often accompanies the stroke.

"Hospital staff cannot always spend as much time as they would like to with these patients and intervention is needed early if the patient is going to avoid a very long period of rehabilitation. The Birmingham Foundation is delighted to help support this service"

Ends

Pictured: Actor Edward De Souza reading to patients

For further information please contact Jennifer Chatham (m) 07775 912818

Note to editors

- The Birmingham & Black Country Foundation is a charitable trust set up by the Charity Commission in 1995 and officially launched in 1997, raising funds from businesses and individuals to promote and support local voluntary / community groups and projects within the area of Greater Birmingham.
- It serves as a conduit between the region's donors and do-ers and provides support through a programme of constructive grant making for people living within deprived and disadvantaged areas of Birmingham and the Black Country, reaching individuals through small grass-roots groups.
- During the last 12 months The Birmingham & Black Country Foundation has awarded more than £3.2 million in grants to over 900 local voluntary and community projects. The average grant was about £4,000 and the quickest award was made in 24 hours from one of our donor advised funds.
- The Foundation address is Suite 2A, St Georges Court, 1 Albion Street, Birmingham B1 3AH 0121 214 2080 team@bhamfoundation.co.uk www.bhamfoundation.co.uk