Dear Mr Robson

It is with sincere thanks that today myself and two colleagues collected the cheque from staff at the Peterborough Crematorium, for the sum of £4,000.

Here in Peterborough, all our volunteers are unpaid and give their time freely to support children and adults who are grieving. We currently have 26 volunteers covering the whole of Peterborough and are constantly under pressure to train more volunteers to deal with the demand we have for our bereavement services. We also have a volunteer management committee who are equally as dedicated to support the charity and offer their time freely.

All our volunteers are trained to a high standard to be able to support those bereaved and can undertake further specialist training to undergo specific roles should they wish to specialize (e.g. children, prison work, working with military families, becoming a trainer, becoming a supervisor).

Our latest projects are to develop our group work (both adult groups and children’s groups). This will help reduce our waiting list. The children’s groups are currently being run in unison with our local hospice (Sue Ryder) and the outcomes have been phenomenal with parents/carers receiving support in adjoining rooms at the same time as their children. These are continuing to develop and we have just had a reunion for the families of those groups. Obviously the training and providing travelling expenses and buying specific tools to offer the support come at a cost and your money will be used to train up new volunteers and to purchase art materials, grief/loss work books and other play materials to enable children to process their thoughts, feelings and behaviours.

Peterborough Crematorium staff have always been supportive of us as an organization by offering training and “behind the scenes” education to enhance the volunteer’s work with their clients. This latest donation is extremely generous. We
are fortunate that we can make a small amount of money go a very long way (and have done so for many years).... so with this large donation we can use the funds not just to survive but develop and grow and offer more services to those bereaved and to those who also assist those grieving through training and support by our specialist volunteers (eg recently involved with the local council in “grief matters” and educating staff to support children within schools).

I sincerely thank you for supporting us at this difficult time with funding being reduced and with ourselves receiving no statutory funding and relying on coffee mornings etc to raise funds. £4,000 is therefore a huge amount of money and is gratefully received.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Paula Cash
Chair Peterborough Cruse