

Learning from each other

HOSPICE welcomes nurses from Philadelphia

The differences in hospice care between Britain and the United States has been shown to a group of American healthcare students during a visit to St Nicholas Hospice Care.

The Hospice's Education Team welcomed the students from Drexel University in Philadelphia who are in England on a three-month secondment.

The Bury St Edmunds organisation is the only hospice the students are visiting during their educational stay – and is a glowing indictment of its thriving Education Department led by Madeline Bass and Education and Development Administrator, Rachel Brown.

Madeline, Head of Education, said: "We view education at the hospice as of paramount importance – whether to our own staff and volunteers or those coming in from the outside.

"We were delighted to welcome the students from Philadelphia and we were very impressed with their enthusiasm and knowledge of palliative care.

"They all seemed very capable and very keen to learn about how we operate. We hope they left us understanding a little more about the differences in hospice care between our two countries."

The students were given a tour of the Hospice and heard talks from a number of key staff members, learning about

such things as the Nicky's Way young person's bereavement service, Orchard Day Therapy and the role of the Hospice in the community.

Sam Pluy, 21, who combines her studies with working in a hospital oncology unit in Philadelphia, admitted she was surprised by the depth of services offered by hospices in the UK.

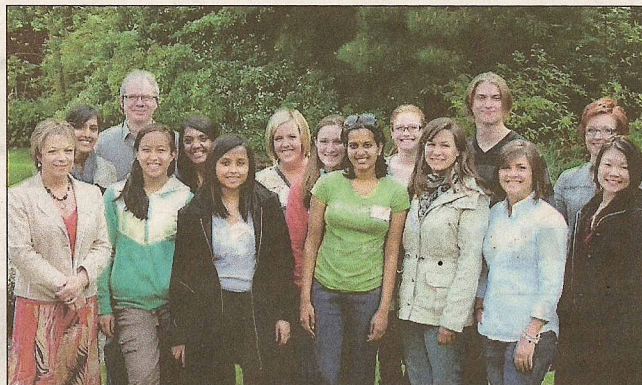
While fellow student Jess Mateu, 22, said: "In the States, palliative care is mainly about making a patient feel comfortable, whereas at St Nicholas Hospice Care there is a lot more services about helping patients to live with a terminal illness."

The students were accompanied by Paul McIntosh, who is working with the Hospice on a research project in palliative care.

Paul, who is an independent lecturer at London's Foundation for International Education, said: "The visit was set up as part of the students' courses on ethics and health policy.

"I wanted them to see first-hand hospice services in the UK where they are run by voluntary organisations compared to America where they are usually connected to an insurance company.

"It was also a good part of the ethics course with the issues around end of life care. The students are primarily classroom-based at their university and this was a great opportunity to see health practice in action."



VISIT: St Nicholas Hospice Care staff with their guests from the United States.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE: Visit www.stnicholashospice.org.uk and click on the Donate Now link (found on the top right corner of the homepage) which takes you to our Just Giving page. You can also call the donations line on 01284 715582.

FUNDRAISE:

- Organise your own great fundraising event in support of the campaign. Contact our Fundraising Team on 01284 747624 for help and information.
- Community support from the likes of schools, groups and organisations through sponsored activities.
- Take part in our annual challenges or events such as the Girls Night Out in September.
- Get your workplace involved! We

already have fantastic support from local businesses which are featured on the Corporate page of our website as well as substantial local media coverage.

- Leave a legacy in your will.
- Visit the hospice town centre shops in Bury St Edmunds or Sudbury or retail centre on the Moreton Hall Estate, Bury.

■ **LOTTERY:** You can join the Hospice lottery for just £1 per week to stand a chance of winning the £1,000 weekly top prize as well as other numerous cash awards. Call 01284 755000 for more details. If you would like more information on the appeal or help with organising a fundraising event, please call 01284 747624.

Still time to pick up draw tickets

Time is running out for one lucky winner to pick up a cool £1,000 for the summer by taking part in St Nicholas Hospice Care's annual spring draw. Tickets can be bought from any of our nine hospice shops, including our Retail Centre on the Moreton Hall estate in Bury St Edmunds, as well the Hospice itself. You can also purchase your tickets, priced £1 each, by contacting the Hospice Lottery office on 01284 755000. The top prize is £1,000 while there are also five prizes of £100 and a dozen prizes of £25. The draw date is Monday, 21 June.

Celebrate your summer sizzle

A special Facebook group has been set up to celebrate the hospice's newest fundraiser, Summer Sizzle. Over the next few months, the Hospice is calling on people across West Suffolk and Thetford to hold a summer party and ask those attending to give a small donation to the charity. Maybe you are holding a World Cup barbecue or serving strawberries and cream in time for Wimbledon? Whatever the occasion, Community Fundraiser Ian Norris would like you to capture the event, with photos and video, and upload them on to the Facebook page. More details on the event can be found on our website www.stnicholashospicecare.org.uk, by calling Ian on 01284 747613 while you can join the special Facebook group by searching for Summer Sizzle in the search bar.