PRESS RELEASE FOR 2020 HATS ON FOR CHILDREN’S PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Show how much you care – wear a hat and mask for children needing palliative care

The International Children’s Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) has chosen the second Friday in October as a day for raising funds and international awareness of the work of children’s palliative care services worldwide. Anyone can join this awareness campaign by following these 3 simple steps:

1. Wear a hat and mask to work, college or school on Friday 9 October 2020.
2. Upload a photo of you or you and your friends/colleagues to social media using #HatsOn4CPC and tagging ICPCN
3. Donate online to ICPCN or your nearest children’s palliative care service

Children’s palliative care (CPC) is holistic care that responds to the unique physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of a child with a life-threatening or life-limiting illness and that of the child’s family. The child’s pain and symptoms are relieved and they are helped to enjoy the best possible quality of life, for however long or short a time that may be. It also supports the child and family at the end of a child’s life with bereavement care which is provided for as long as it is needed. This specialised care is delivered by a dedicated team of people, many of whom wear diverse and many different hats.

Hats (and Masks) on 4 CPC will be held on Friday 9 October 2020. It aims to raise awareness of the rights of very sick children to receive palliative care. We know that over 21 million children in the world live with a life-threatening or life-limiting illness or condition. At present less than 5% of these children have access to children’s palliative care services.
Now into our seventh year of holding the Hats on 4 CPC day, ICPCN expects to have an even greater reach than in previous years. This year, due to the Global COVID-19 pandemic, we have amended the campaign slightly to include ‘Hats and Masks’ as many of us around the world are wearing masks to school, work, shopping etc. depending on age and health status. Thus ICPCN thought it would be fun to include masks in our campaign this year – hence ‘Hats and Masks on for Children’s Palliative Care’ although we are keeping the hashtag the same as #HatsOn4CPC.

Learn how you can get involved in Hats on 4 CPC by visiting www.icpcn.org or contact us at communications@icpcn.org and we will send you further details.

Those motivated to do more to raise awareness for these children can encourage your workplace, school or business to get involved. Alternatively get creative and host your own ‘Mad Hatter’s Tea Party’, or luncheon. Be sure to take photos and tag us using #HatsOn4CPC.

ENDS

Notes for Editors
ICPCN
The International Children’s Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) is a network of organisations and individuals working in children’s palliative care and believes that the total needs of life-limited children and their families should be met to encompass physical, social, spiritual and developmental aspects of care. To find out more about children’s palliative care worldwide please go to www.icpcn.org

ICPCN’s Vision
That all children living with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, and their families, will have seamless access to palliative care in order to alleviate serious health-related suffering and enhance their quality of life.

ICPCN’s Mission
ICPCN is the global umbrella organisation for children’s palliative care. Our mission is to achieve the best quality of life and care for children and young people with life-threatening or life-limiting conditions, their families and carers worldwide, by raising awareness of children’s palliative care among the public, health professionals and policy makers; advocating to governments and international organisations for the global development of children’s palliative care services; expanding the evidence-base for children’s palliative care; and sharing expertise, skills and knowledge with our global network of members.

ICPCN’s Goals
1. To help services across the world to develop and meet the total care and support needs of life-limited children and their families.
2. To create a step-change in global awareness of ICPCN messages and access to ICPCN resources by reinforcing ICPCN’s position as the global authority on children’s
palliative care and as a hub of information and resources, and by using a strategic combination of “pull” and “push” communications strategies to achieve a wider reach.

3. To work towards inclusion of CPC in UHC worldwide by carrying out targeted strategic advocacy with world leaders at both a global, regional and national level; use of a suite of WHO-approved advocacy resources which are adaptable at country level; and by harnessing the network to use these resources to advocate in their own localities.

4. To expand the evidence-base for CPC through initiating research, collaborating on research in strategic areas, supporting other organisations with resources and signposting to carry out their own research and disseminating research for maximum impact.

5. To support strategic development of children’s palliative care services worldwide through equipping and empowering the network with resources, training and mentorship and facilitating the development of centres of excellence in strategic locations.

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