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## **Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal thanks its supporters at a spectacular event attended by HRH The Princess Royal**

Patricia Moberly, Chairman of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and Chief Executive, Sir Jonathan Michael welcomed The Princess Royal and guests to the Evelina Children's Hospital yesterday.

Major donors, individual fundraisers and company representatives that have supported The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal were formally thanked for their contribution to a successful £10 million fundraising campaign.

The funds helped equip the Evelina Children's Hospital at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust to the very highest standard. Key pieces of equipment include a £1.7 million MRI suite which enables clinicians to diagnose a range of disorders; as well as equipping the intensive care unit and a multi sensory room.

Over 100 guests met HRH Princess Royal, who is Patron of The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal, before Sir Jonathan Michael thanked the Appeal and its fundraisers and donors for their invaluable support.

Sir Jonathan said: "We were delighted to once again welcome HRH The Princess Royal to the Evelina Children's Hospital. The support she has given to the hospital and The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal has been amazing.

"I would like to thank all the people and organisations that supported The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal, from the big companies and businesses to local people and hospital staff. I must also thank Guy's and St Thomas' Charity for their generous support of the new Evelina Children's Hospital."

HRH The Princess Royal said: “Thanks go to all those who have taken part in a wide range of activities to raise funds to support the Evelina Children’s Hospital Appeal. Together with the many generous donations, it has enabled us to provide not only the latest technology, but help make the hospital more child-friendly.

There will always be items that need to be improved and updated, and the work of the Appeal is very much ongoing to support this remarkable hospital.”

Stanley Fink, who chaired the fundraising committee during the £10 million campaign and who is now a Trustee of Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity said: “The health of our children is the most important thing and we are so grateful to all those who have helped us to ensure that the new hospital has the very best and most modern medical equipment and facilities and who continue to support the Appeal with its work.”

Fundraisers were treated to a spectacular performance by Viva – the aerial gymnasts that have appeared on the BBC1 ident (the short sequence in between programmes). Musical entertainment was provided by students from the Royal College of Musicians and jazz maestro, Phil Peskett. The National Theatre provided the lighting. The entertainments showcased the Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity performing arts programme, which provides performances, poetry and drama workshops for patients in the Evelina Children’s Hospital on a weekly basis.

The Appeal is continuing to raise funds to support the needs of the hospital, initially focussing on purchasing equipment for the eye department, including an ultrasound biomicroscope. This will be used to examine patients with glaucoma, which can lead to blindness. It will provide detailed images which will help to guide surgeons during operations to alleviate the problem. The Appeal is supported by Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity which awarded £50 million towards the cost of building the £60 million hospital.

Ends

## Notes to News Editors

1. The Evelina Children's Hospital, which has cost £60 million, is London's first new children's hospital for more than 100 years. The 140-bed hospital, which is based on the St Thomas' Hospital site, brings the majority of Guy's and St Thomas' children's services together under one roof. The new hospital, which was designed by Hopkins Architects, has been funded by a grant of £50 million from Guy's and St Thomas' Charity and £10 million from the NHS.

The original Evelina Children's Hospital was founded in Southwark in 1869 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild following the death of his wife Evelina in childbirth. It was amalgamated with the children's hospital at Guy's Hospital in 1948 and the building closed its doors in 1973 when children's services were moved to the newly built Guy's Tower. Over succeeding years, the Evelina's services for children at Guy's and St Thomas' were spread to locations at both sites.

2. Guy's and St Thomas' Charity is the largest NHS-related Charity in the UK. It provides funding to support health services in Lambeth and Southwark and to benefit the wider NHS. The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal, run by Guy's and St. Thomas' Charity, has been in existence since 1983. For more information contact Kate Dawson, Head of Communications as above or visit: [www.evelinaappeal.org.uk](http://www.evelinaappeal.org.uk)

3. Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust provides ¾ million patient contacts in acute and specialist hospital services every year. As one of the biggest NHS Trusts in the UK, it employs over 9,000 staff. The Trust also works in partnership with the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences of King's College London and other Higher Education Institutes to deliver high quality education and research. For more information call Antony Tiernan, Deputy Director of Communications on Tel: 020 7188 1551 or visit: [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk)

4. The Evelina Children's Hospital recently won Channel 4 People's Choice award for the building the public felt should win the RIBA Stirling Prize. To win the prize, the hospital beat off stiff competition from five other European Union buildings. The announcement was made live on Channel 4 on Saturday October 14.

A full press pack about the new Evelina Children's Hospital, as well as background DVD, interviews and photos available are available on request.