

ACT dinner renews support for WellChild

The ACT's 2010 annual dinner on 10 November plans to build further on the success of last year's event, which raised more than £30,000 for good causes. For the second year the designated non-profit organisation to be supported by the ACT is WellChild, a national charity working to support children and young people across the UK with serious illnesses and complex conditions.

Having a seriously ill child is every parent's worst nightmare, and caring for them is a major part of WellChild's work. The charity does not limit its work to any single illness, but aims to offer help whatever the child is suffering from and provides support in dealing with the consequences of serious illness and complex conditions. Its eventual aim is that any child in the UK who needs help receives it.

WellChild focuses its efforts in three key areas of care, support and research. Working with teams of volunteers, nurses and top medical researchers, it aims to make a positive difference to the lives of sick children and their families.

As part of these efforts, the charity has developed and launched a children's nurse programme to provide a service previously unavailable to families of children and young people with long-term complex care needs.

WellChild is extending the programme to create a countrywide network of skilled professionals, who are helping to ensure that children with complex needs can leave hospital and return home wherever possible. WellChild nurses are vital in preventing frequent readmissions to hospital, and by working closely with a wide range of other professionals and local services in the community they ensure that families receive the support they need. Proceeds from the fundraising at this year's ACT annual dinner will be used for developing this network.

As well as its many volunteers, WellChild



WellChild 
the national charity for sick children

has such high-profile supporters as Prince Harry, the charity's patron, who will be guest of honour at the annual WellChild Awards ceremony, when seriously ill children from across the UK are honoured for their bravery. Other prominent WellChild supporters include members of the England football team, who donated their match fees to WellChild during the World Cup campaign and made personal appearances to offer sick children hope and encouragement.

The ACT hopes that members will again give generously to this worthy cause. Of the

funds raised at the annual dinner, 10% will be allocated to the ACT's educational trust bursary scheme, and the remainder to WellChild. Anyone who is not attending but would like to support the charity with a donation or by volunteering can contact WellChild by post at 16 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3DA, by phone on 0845 458 8171 or by visiting its website at www.wellchild.org.uk