**PRESS RELEASE- 8th March 2018 (for immediate release)**

**Your Hospice Lottery has raised over £250,000 for**

**Cynthia Spencer Hospice**

Hospice supporters have made a massive difference to their local community by raising over £250,000 for Cynthia Spencer Hospice, by playing Your Hospice Lottery. The exact figure raised to date is £262,116.85, which is all down to the loyal lottery players who play the fundraising lottery in support of Cynthia Spencer Hospice paying £1 per play per week, with every penny going towards hospice care.

The support from the Northamptonshire community has gone from strength to strength since Cynthia Spencer Hospice first teamed up with Your Hospice Lottery in March 2014 to bring its supporters an exciting chance to win cash prizes. There are currently over 7,000 numbers played by supporters of Cynthia Spencer Hospice in the draw each week which is making a massive difference to patients and families living with life limiting and life threatening conditions across Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

John Helm, Fundraising Manager at Cynthia Spencer commented: “*We’d like to thank everyone who has ever played Your Hospice Lottery in support of Cynthia Spencer Hospice. This fantastic sum represents a quarter of what Cynthia Spencer Hospice Charity has spent on supporting our Hospice care teams in the last year. So thank you all for the wonderful difference you have made to Hospice care in South Northamptonshire.”*

Alex Howe, Head of Lottery at ‘Your Hospice Lottery’ adds: *“We are delighted to have helped Cynthia Spencer Hospice raise over £250,000 in the past 4 years. The response from the generous community of South Northamptonshire has been overwhelming and long may it continue allowing the hospice to make every moment count for patients and their families.”*

Your Hospice Lottery is run and administered by a dedicated team at St Helena Hospice working with 9 other hospices nationwide to keep costs down and increase the amount of funds that can be given back to hospice care through a weekly lottery draw.

The Lottery is one of the easiest ways to support your local hospice and it only costs players £1 per play each week, plus they have the chance of winning one of 136 guaranteed prizes ranging from £10 to £1,000 and a rollover jackpot, which if not won increases by £250 up to a maximum of £10,000. In December 2017, after months of rolling over, the jackpot reached the maximum of £10,000 for the very first time since the lottery began where a winner was guaranteed.

Your Hospice Lottery provides a valuable, regular income for hospices to continue to offer expert palliative care and to date has raised in excess of £9.3 million and with nearly £1.3 million paid out in prizes it’s not just the hospice that wins!

**For more information on becoming a hospice partner with Your Hospice Lottery, visit www.yourhospicelottery.org.uk or telephone 0800 285 1390.**

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**Photo:** Jacqui March, Lottery Manager with Joanne Merritt, In-patient Matron at Cynthia Spencer Hospice

**Press information**

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**NOTES TO EDITOR**

**About Your Hospice Lottery:** The Lottery costs players £1 per play per week and players can select which hospice to support with their membership. Around 50,000 numbers are entered into the Your Hospice Lottery weekly draw, with each number supporting the players chosen Hospice. Hospice partners are Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, Cynthia Spencer Hospice or Cransley Hospice both in Northamptonshire, KEMP Hospice in Kidderminster, John Taylor Hospice in Birmingham, Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice in North London, Salisbury Hospice Charity in Wiltshire, St Helena Hospice in North East Essex, The Friends of the Wisdom Hospice in Rochester and The J’s Hospice for young adults across Essex, All profit minus administration costs goes to the chosen supported Hospice. St Helena Hospice also receives a small income from each membership for administering the lottery. Your Hospice Lottery is regulated and licensed by the Gambling Commission (number 000-004685-N-306842-006) under the Gambling Act 2005. Lottery members must be 16 or over and a full set of terms and conditions are available online at www.yourhospicelottery.org.uk or from the Your Hospice Lottery office by telephone 0800 285 1390.

St Helena Hospice was established in 1985 and provides specialist palliative care services for patients and their families living in North East Essex and parts of Mid Essex who have progressive, life-limiting illness. The emphasis for this charity is about quality of life and services include Community Services, Therapies and Wellbeing, an Inpatient Unit, Clinical Nurse Specialists, medical services, family support, psychological therapies, spiritual support, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, as well as complementary therapies such as acupuncture, reflexology, massage and Shiatsu. The Education Centre at St Helena Hospice educates hundreds of health and social care workers to assist them in their vital work. Each year the hospice raises a considerable sum from the local community to maintain the specialist care offered.