

Saint Coughs Up

Mrs. Jane Williams, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, will present a cheque for £4,000 to the Young Carers' Project in Kent on the morning of Wednesday, April 12th at 11.15 in the Young Carers Forum in Christ Church Hall, Underdown Road, Herne Bay. Mrs. Williams is Patron of the Saint Nicholas Festival, which is a charity set up last year to distribute the money raised by the Saint Nicholas events in the Canterbury district, most notably the Parade through the City of Canterbury to the Cathedral each December. An additional £500 has already been presented to Saint Nicholas' School in Canterbury to go towards a tracked mobility system for its severely disabled pupils.

The Festival's 2006 charities are the Mary Sheridan Centre, which helps support disabled children, mostly pre-school; and Kent Kids Miles of Smiles, who already provide accommodation for disabled children but intend to expand the service they can provide for young adults.

The Saint Nicholas Festival charity has a target of £6,000 for this year. Events already planned are a supper and dance in Lower Hardres Hall on Friday 22nd September and the Parade followed by the Gala Dinner on Saturday 9th December. The Festival Treasurer, Mrs. Jane Maple, who will join Mrs Williams at the presentation, said earlier today "Despite the dreadful weather last December, the Parade with St Nicholas was very popular with all who were part of it or saw it go past. We have raised this money from collections during the Parade and some associated charity social events, including a dance evening and a gala dinner. We are very grateful to everyone who supported us. The money we have raised will enable 120 young carers to have a fun day out in the summer at Mount Ephraim near Boughton as well as a visit to the Enchanted Forest at Groombridge. It is the tenth anniversary of the Young Carers so we are really pleased to be able to help these children in the spirit that Saint Nicholas himself showed."

E N D S

Notes to Editors

1 For more information, please contact-

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2 Donations from previous years' collections have helped Saint Nicholas' School, Canterbury, Demelza House and the victims of Beslan.