

Lucy delivers 100 care kits to wards in memory of mum

ESSENTIALS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY VISITING POORLY PATIENTS

By EVA MILLETT

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A LEICESTERSHIRE woman has delivered 100 care kits to the oncology ward to support families at loved ones' bedsides.

Lucy Simpson-Brooks, from Groby, delivered the care kits to Leicester Royal Infirmary as part of her By Your Side project - providing essentials to keep those vigil with loved ones during end-of-life care.

The initiative was founded by Lucy, 44, in memory of her mum, Christine Simpson, who died earlier this year after a battle with cancer.

"She'd always been so extremely proud of her appearance," said Lucy. "She was so smart and elegant. Right up until the end, we asked the nurses if they could do her hair."

"She was hospitalised on my son's birthday, January 6. She didn't come home for two weeks during her end-of-life care."

"Myself, my dad and my sister were essentially in the same clothes we went in wearing."

While caring for her mum, Lucy's husband was able to use the hospital shop for essentials for the family, opening hours dependant.

After the loss of her mum and mother-in-law, Lucy decided to create the care kits, inspired by those who might not have the same access to essentials like her own family.



CARE PACKAGES: Lucy delivering the care kits to Leicester Royal Infirmary. Left, Christine Simpson and the essentials in each kit

Each kit contains a toothbrush, toothpaste, composite mouthwash, a comb, body wipes, and deodorant and lip balm.

The toiletries have been donated

by local people, businesses and national brands, as well as a PayPal fundraiser. Lucy said: "The idea came together after my mum passed, when we were going through

some of her belongings. She was big into make-up and toiletries. She had a trove of unused new products, and the idea started formulating in my head that we had needed some of these toiletries earlier.

"It was thinking about what we would have needed at that time."

Contributions have included dental packs from her local surgery, deodorants from Tesco and Wild, and toiletries from individuals and medical centres.

By Your Side is welcoming more

product donations, company charity partnerships, however is not accepting cash donations.

"My mum would be so proud of me," said Lucy.

"To other families caring for loved ones, I'd say try and take a break. There was a courtyard I used to go to a lot for a breather at the hospital."

"Don't lose sight of the fact you've got to stay strong and healthy too, do lots of self care."

For more information:

facebook.com/byoursideorganisation

Teen arrested after cyclist badly injured

A CYCLIST was seriously injured after being assaulted.

An arrest has been made in connection with the incident.

The victim, a man in his 40s, was cycling along Mantle Lane, in Coalville when the attack happened at around 3.15pm on Monday, August 4.

The cyclist was pushed off his bicycle by the rider of a moped or motorcycle.

Police said the cyclist suffered serious injuries that required hospital treatment.

In a statement, police said that following further enquiries, an 18-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He was later released

on bail. Investigations are ongoing into the incident and in a statement issued yesterday, police called on any witnesses to come forward.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Beth Marsh said: "While someone has been arrested in connection with this incident, I'm continuing to appeal for anyone who can help to get in touch."

"I'm keen to speak to anyone who has not yet contacted police and would ask for any motorists with dashcam footage or who witnessed the incident to come forward. Anything you're able to provide could help."

Call Leicestershire Police on 101, quoting reference 25*457377.

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