

CHICAGO'S STAFF AND CUSTOMERS RAISE RECORD HIGH FOR BRISTOL'S GRAND APPEAL

Staff and customers at Bristol night-spot Chicago Rock Cafe have helped donate £10,000 towards the Grand Appeal's 'Cots for Tots' campaign to raise £150,000 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St Michael's Hospital.

The donation has been made to the Appeal by the Echo Trust, the charity of leisure and entertainment company The 3D Entertainment Group and brings the amount raised so far by 'Cots for Tots' to over £100,000.

The money will help boost life-saving equipment for NICU, providing additional cots, incubators and ventilators for the treatment of premature and critically-ill newborn babies. It will also provide a makeover for the ward's play room as well as enhancing the breast feeding area and facilities for parents.

The Echo Trust is a long-term supporter of Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal, having raised over £70,000 for the charity in the past 4 years, as part of its nation-wide fundraising programme for a range of deserving children's causes throughout the UK.

Ian King, general manager at Bristol's Chicago Rock Cafe, explains; "As a community venue we are delighted to raise money for such an important local cause. We would like to thank our staff and customers for all their fundraising efforts including charity collections and donations made for record requests."

Laura Densem, fundraising manager at the Grand Appeal, adds; "Thanks to the Echo Trust donation we are now two-thirds of the way to reaching our £150,000 target for 'Cots for Tots'. We are hugely grateful to the Chicago Rock Café for giving the campaign such a great boost and also for Echo Trust's continued and valued support."

People can make a donation to 'Cots for Tots' by emailing info-grandappeal.org.uk, going on-line at www.justgiving.com/cotsfortots or calling freephone 0800 919 649.

For more information about the work of the Echo Trust, visit www.echotrust.org.

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For further information please contact:

Grand Appeal:

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Notes to editor

The 'Cots for Tots' fundraising campaign, launched by Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal in October 2007, is aiming to raise £150,000 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St Michael's Hospital. NICU is the region's specialist centre for the treatment of premature and critically-ill newborn babies.

Money raised will help boost life-saving equipment on the ward, providing two additional incubators and surrounding equipment such as ventilators, that will help save babies lives. It will also provide a makeover for the ward's play room as well as enhancing the breast feeding area and facilities for parents.

NICU currently treats around 600 babies a year and the new cots will enable up to a hundred more babies a year from across the region to be admitted.

To find out more about The Echo Trust, visit www.echotrust.org