

Corporate Giving in Action

by Dawsongroup



At a local networking lunch some years ago, Kevin Wills, Managing Director of Dawsongroup, found himself deeply moved by a talk from Forest Holme Hospice Charity CEO, Hannah O'Hare. Her words, filled with compassion and purpose, resonated with Kevin in a way that he knew immediately would echo across his team.

"The presentation was incredibly moving," Kevin recalls. "I knew straight away that my colleagues would want to support this fabulous organisation."

That emotional spark soon turned into action. After a visit to the hospice, a partnership began, built on care, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to making a difference. Since then, Dawsongroup has become one of Forest Holme's most dedicated and actively involved corporate supporters.

This year, they once again serve as headline sponsors for the hospice's annual Light Up a Life memorial service, and for the first time, they are also supporting the Forest Holme Christmas Party at Compton Acres.

"There was some initial trepidation, mostly around how well we could represent Forest Holme," Kevin admits. "But the moment we experienced the warmth of the hospice community, we knew we were in the right place."

That first Light Up a Life event became more than a sponsorship, it became a cherished tradition. "The sense of reward and achievement we took from the event was incredible. It's now a firm favourite every year."

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Dawsongroup's involvement quickly extended beyond donations.

"Many of the team volunteer at the Tree of Remembrance stall in the Dolphin Centre, offering their time to connect with members of the public and listen to heartfelt stories.", Kevin reflects.

"So many people stop to share their deeply personal experiences of Forest Holme. Everyone we meet speaks so highly of the hospice and the wonderful people who have treated them and their loved ones with such kindness and compassion,"

These face-to-face encounters made a profound impact. "Experiencing this for the first time took our desire to

support Forest Holme to an even higher level. And all the volunteer supporters are fabulous and it's like we all become friends instantly!"

From helping at events to tackling the Jurassic Coast Ultra Challenge, the Dawsongroup team hasn't shied away from physical fundraising either. "Cancer doesn't discriminate," Kevin says. "Helping Forest Holme in our own way is highly motivating."

The passion of the hospice team only added fuel to their efforts. "Seeing the love and dedication the staff have for their purpose, and hearing directly from the community about the care they've received, took our inspiration to a whole new level."

That inspiration hasn't just shaped how they support Forest Holme, it's changed the company culture too. "Working for a charity, even for a short time, shows a different side of people. It strengthens our friendships and brings us closer as a team."

As for what's next? Kevin has big hopes. "Wouldn't it be wonderful to reach a 10 or 20-year anniversary with Forest Holme? That's our hope. As for new ways to offer support, well, that's a really exciting challenge. I'll be putting that to my colleagues to create something local and innovative!"

Dawsongroup's story is proof that when business values align with community compassion, remarkable things happen. In Kevin's words, they may be a corporate partner on paper but in spirit, they are family.