

PAT/12/486

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Bumper donation by Woman of Oldham to In Your Hands Appeal

THE Pennine Acute Trust's In Your Hands Appeal is celebrating after receiving a bumper cheque for £8000 from the Woman of Oldham Committee.

The formidable charity fundraisers each year look to raise as much money as possible for a local Oldham charity. The In Your Hands Appeal was chosen as the 2011 charity and the ladies from the Committee managed to raise a fantastic £8,000 for the appeal by organising a charity luncheon, silent auction and tapas evenings.

With a new women and children's development due to open at The Royal Oldham Hospital in December 2012, the In Your Hands Appeal is seeking to raise £200,000 to go towards additional equipment to enhance the unit.

The money from the Committee will support the provision of two comfortable and well equipped breastfeeding rooms for new mothers and their babies and also for mothers and babies visiting the hospital.



Accepting the cheque on behalf of the appeal, Dr Val Finigan, MBE, consultant midwife at the Trust, said: "This funding will make such a huge difference. It will mean that we can furnish the breastfeeding rooms in the best possible way, making them homely, beautiful and comfortable."

Janet Larton, chairman of the Woman of Oldham committee, said: "We are delighted to have been able to support this appeal and are especially pleased that this contribution will be directed to an identifiable purpose in creating the new breastfeeding facilities at the hospital.

"We have been amazed how generous the public have continued to be in times of recession and we would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising events during 2011."

Once the new development is complete in December 2012, The Royal Oldham will be one of three regional centres providing the highest level of intensive care to the smallest and most vulnerable babies.

The new unit will house 37 neonatal cots and 110 expert staff will treat around 550 babies each year from Oldham, Rochdale and the surrounding areas. There will also be five en-suite bedrooms for parents to stay overnight.

To find out more about how you can help raise money for the In Your Hands Appeal, or to make a donation, go online at www.pat.nhs.uk/inyourhands text 'Hand12' to 70070 or ring Jan Bolton on 0161 918 4497.

Picture courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.