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PRESS RELEASE

Local man's legacy lives on

A Dudley hospital has ensured the memory of a patient who gave his heart and soul to the Dudley community will live on after purchasing furniture for a day room for other patients who have suffered a stroke.

Family and friends of Mr Holder and local businesses donated over £4,500 after his death to develop a day room for stroke rehabilitation at Russells Hall Hospital. The room has been kitted out with table, chairs, pictures, a TV, and a radio/CD player. Bird feeders have been put up outside for patients watch the birds feed.

Mr Michael Holder, a former police chief superintendent, suffered a stroke in 2008 and, although he was recovering in hospital, unfortunately suffered another one leaving behind wife Lillian and a son Andrew and a daughter Nicola.

"After my husband had died, the family decided we wanted to give something back to other patients who were in a similar position to Michael," said Mrs Lillian Holder.

"Lots of friends and local businesses were very kind with their donations and I would like to thank them for the generosity.

"This day room will hopefully give patients somewhere to go where they can talk to other patients, give them a place to eat their meals rather than in bed, and generally lift their spirits while in hospital. Although my husband is missed greatly, this will help other stroke survivors," she said.

Lead nurse Heather Wakefield has been working with the family to get the room completed.

"I would like to thank the family very much, it was a generous donation that will enable us to utilise the day room for the benefit of our patients," said Heather.

"The room has been developed into a welcoming and friendly environment."

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For more information please contact Sally Lavender, Communications Assistant, The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (01384) 244403.