



For Immediate Release

PM awards outstanding Newcastle volunteer

The Prime Minister has today, 19 July, recognised Brian Burnie, from Newcastle, for supporting cancer patients through his free ambulance service.

Brian has created an organisation to provide free ambulance transport for outpatients undergoing cancer treatment. Brian started his work in 2010 and now has a volunteer force of 350 drivers and a fleet of 25 ambulances. The service carries out 30,000 journeys each year and drivers are on hand to stay with patients throughout their treatment for company if needed. Brian, who has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, is currently on a mission to replicate his ambulance service elsewhere in the country. He is undertaking a two year 7,000 mile trek around the coasts of Britain and Ireland, to spread the word about the charity and offer financial and administrative support to those who wish to establish the service in new areas.

Brian is the latest recipient of the Points of Light award, which recognises outstanding volunteers who are making a change in their community and inspiring others. Each day, someone, somewhere in the country is selected to receive the award to celebrate their remarkable achievements.

In a personal letter to Brian, Prime Minister Theresa May said:

"Your work is improving the lives of thousands of cancer patients undergoing treatment in the North East. By helping patients travel to and from hospital, your team of hundreds of volunteers are providing them with comfort and companionship at a very challenging time. I wish you the very best of luck with your current efforts to expand your successful model to new areas of the country."

Brian said:

"I am both delighted and honoured to receive this award and do so on behalf of the 300 volunteers we have working so tirelessly from 'Daft as a Brush House' in Newcastle. With their hard work and commitment to the charity, we achieve some 40,000 cancer patient journeys each year. It is very touching for the volunteers and the charity to be recognised."

"By visiting Cancer Centres throughout Great Britain and Ireland, my goal is to take the charity nationwide by walking 7,000 miles around the coastal path of Great Britain and Ireland. Together we can create 1,000,000 cancer patient journeys."

Jean Ross, Trust Secretary for 'Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care':

"Brian's passion for the Charity is infectious, he has incredible drive and determination in everything he does. We are so proud to have such amazing



volunteers and Brian is part of that team. We are genuinely thrilled that he has won this award."

Brian is the 958th winner of the Points of Light award, which has been developed in partnership with the hugely successful Points of Light programme in the USA. Over 6,000 Points of Light have been awarded in the USA, and former Presidents have publicly supported the partnership with Points of Light UK. There is a similar cross-party approach to the UK programme and MPs from different parties often present their constituents with their Points of Light awards.

Regardless of whether it's a doctor restoring local monuments in her free time, a father teaching young people life skills, or a local musician giving a voice to lonely people, the Points of Light award honours shining examples of volunteering across the UK.

Notes to Editors

1. The Points of Light awards recognise outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.
2. The Prime Minister makes daily announcements of the winners to celebrate, encourage and promote volunteering and the value that it brings to the country.
3. If people know someone who could be a Point of Light they should write to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.
4. Website: www.pointsoflight.gov.uk