

**From rags come riches for Forget Me Not Children's Hospice  
with charity fashion show**



A GLITZY charity fashion show held at the Galpharm Stadium on was a complete sell-out.

But the spectacular event, organised by Charity Angels in aid of the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice, was no ordinary catwalk parade of skimpy models dressed in designs costing thousands of pounds. What made this fashion show unique was the fact that the clothes on show were all cast-offs!

They had been donated by the public to the hospice's 10 shops – and for the 250 who attended, charity shop clothing will never be the same again.

Some of the outfits were simply stunning – as were the models who came in all shapes and sizes and ranged in age from two to 72.

The event also showcased the work of local designer Hardy Punglia, who specialises in restyling second-hand items to create cutting-edge clothing. Hardy has a range for sale at the hospice's Hebden Bridge shop and splits the proceeds with the charity

Forget Me Not's Mick Prescott said: "It was fantastic, an unbelievable event. Everybody has been tweeting about how good it was.

"Charity Angels organised the event so well and the show was a real partnership between them and the hospice.

“For some of our models it was a once-in-a-lifetime dream of being on the catwalk and for others – including some well-known faces – it is something they had never done before, but agreed to do it to support such a worthy cause.

“It also gave us a fantastic opportunity for us to raise awareness of our shops and products and raise money to support the care of children and their families.”

Everyone who attended was encouraged to donate at least one item of clothing on the night and, as well as raising a four-figure sum for the children's hospice, the fashion show also generated numerous bags full of items to be sold in its shops.

The Charity Angels is a group of people and organisations offering free support and advice to charities. The Forget Me Not Children's Hospice is their first beneficiary.

Founder Mandy Barwick said: “In the current economic climate businesses and individuals cannot necessarily give money to worthy causes, but each has an abundance of talent and resource which can benefit charities.”

The children's hospice is scheduled to open its 11th shop in Kirklees and Calderdale at Swallow Lane, Golcar, by the end of summer.

*Lighting & Starcloths kindly lent By Wedding Venue Lighting in aid of Forget Me Not's Children's Hospice.*