



**With your help we can provide access to courses for healthcare professionals through educational funding...**

Several years ago a national marathon runner wanted to do more to support healthcare professionals treating patients with long term conditions. She tackled her fourth marathon in aid of our charity, raised £5000 and asked if we could ensure the funds went towards sponsoring Masters Education for nurses.

One of the health professionals lucky enough to receive sponsorship from this fund is now in her second year of study. Having previously completed respiratory diploma modules with us she was keen to drive wider service improvement in her role as COPD Specialist Nurse: *“As part of my clinical role I am developing a one stop clinic to assist general practice insuring more appropriate referrals to multidisciplinary and secondary care. The MSc education is giving me knowledge and research skills, the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and areas and the opportunity to develop ideas that will enable me to take our specialist service into the future”.*

The money raised by this marathon runner was the birth of the Education for Health Charitable Fund, which still exists today, and as well as working with individual donors we have since gone on to team up with multinational organisations and the UK Government.

For example, in 2009 we received a donation of funds from the Department of Health. This meant we were able to offer cardiovascular education to a total of 18 projects in some of the most deprived areas of the country including Bradford, NE Essex, Luton, Lewisham, North Birmingham and Tower Hamlets.

One of these projects is in Lewisham, south-east London, where the coordination of vascular checks (NHS Health Checks) is particularly important as there is a high incidence of premature mortality from cardiovascular disease (CVD). Premature deaths in Lewisham from CVD are about 31% higher than the national average for both males and females (2004-2006); and deaths from cardiovascular disease account for around 32% of all deaths in the borough. These statistics make CVD a high priority for the local NHS.

Carolina Perez Ferrer is the vascular checks programme coordinator. Carolina and her team need to ensure that health providers are able to deliver 62,500 NHS Health Checks over the next 5 years. Carolina was delighted to receive support from our funds in order to execute her plan, which includes training at least one person from each of the 52 GP practices in Lewisham to ensure staff they can effectively carry out both the assessment and management components of the checks.

If you would like to donate to the Education for Health Charitable Fund and help improve patient care please contact **Monica Fletcher** on **01926 836841**.